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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twenty-fourth Session

Rome, 29 September - 3 October 2014

Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee

Executive Summary

This document provides the progress report of the COAG Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2012-2015 and the draft COAG MYPOW 2014-2017. The first MYPOW of COAG, covering the period of 2012-2015, was developed by the Bureau and adopted by the 23rd Session of the Committee in May 2012. The COAG MYPOW conforms to the recommendations embodied in Actions 2.70 to 2.72 of the Immediate Plan of Action for the Renewal (IPA). The COAG MYPOW is presented as a rolling plan, presenting the method of work of the Committee and follows the format already set out by the Committee in 2012.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- 1) Review the progress report of the implementation of the approved MYPOW 2012-15 in accordance with its overall objectives and mandate and make recommendations for further improvement;
- 2) Review and approve the proposed MYPOW 2014-2017, set out in the Annex. The Committee may wish to note the changes in the MYPOW compared to the version submitted to its last session, which are shown in underlined italics.

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

The Chairperson of COAG



I. Background

1. At its 23rd Session (Rome, May 2012), the Committee reviewed, amended and approved its draft Multi-Year Programme of Work 2012-2015. The development of the COAG MYPOW conforms to the recommendations embodied in Actions 2.70 to 2.72 of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), and adheres to the periodicity specified by the IPA in terms of the timeframe covered by the programme as well as the submission of timelines of progress reports to Governing Bodies.
2. As underscored by the Committee, the MYPOW 2012-15 was the first MYPOW of the Committee and provides an important step towards the improvement of COAG's efficiency and accountability. It was approved by the Committee during its 23rd Session in May 2012.

II. RESULTS FOR 2012-2014

A. Strategy and Priority Setting, and Budget Planning

3. The decisions and recommendations by the 23rd Session of COAG providing a solid basis for the strategy, priority setting and budget planning, were reported, reviewed and adopted by the 145th Session of Council as well as the 38th Session of Conference.
4. Specifically, during that session, the Committee reviewed the new FAO strategic framework, current issues in agriculture (sustainable production intensification, the Code of conduct on pesticide management), livestock (the Global Agenda of Action in support of sustainable livestock sector development), economic and social development (improving statistics for food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development), natural resources management (perspectives of land and water resources in a changing climate and Global Soil Partnership).
5. The Committee's recommendations are reflected in the reports of the 145th Session of Council (December 2012) and the 38th Session of Conference (June 2013).
6. The Committee organized five side events of relevance to priority or topical issues on the agenda: (1) Delivering a Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Food and Agriculture; (2) Utilizing Geothermal Energy in the Service of Food Security in Developing Countries; (3) Origin-linked quality: a tool for sustainable development- Morocco, Brazil and Guinea present their experience; (4) Prevention saves lives, saves livelihoods, saves money - Locust preventive control in west and northwest Africa - A success story; (5) Launch of the Global Agro-ecological Zones (GAEZ) Data Portal.

B. Advise on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

7. Revision of the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management: an updated version of the Code was presented to COAG at its 23rd Session in May 2012. The Committee noted its critical role in agriculture development and welcomed the draft updated text and the proposal to present a finalized version for adoption by the Governing Bodies of FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).
8. In order to ensure a broader and more inclusive consultation among all stakeholders, the Committee delegated its Bureau to launch a process with a view to offer the finalized Code for adoption by the Governing Bodies of FAO before submission to the Governing Bodies of WHO and UNEP.
9. The Bureau took immediate action to comply with the Committee's mandate, engaging all FAO member countries and stakeholders in July and August 2012. After incorporating country, organizations and experts inputs and with technical support from the joint WHO-UNEP Expert Panel on Pesticides Management, the Bureau approved a final text, renamed as International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, on 10 October 2012. The Code was endorsed by the Council at its 145th Session in December 2012, and finally, by the Conference at its 38th Session in June 2013.

C. Effective work planning of COAG

10. COAG report: the deliberations at the 23rd Session of COAG have enabled the formulation of a concise report embodying specific action-oriented recommendations to be presented to the FAO Council and Conference.
11. During that session the Committee approved its MYPOW for the period 2012-15. The Progress Report of MYPOW 2012-14 was developed during the intersession and submitted to the 24th Session of COAG for its review and further recommendation.
12. As a rolling document, the MYPOW 2014-17 was submitted to the 24th Session of COAG for its review and approval.
13. Facilitate coordination with other Technical Committees: concerning the review of Rule I – "Officers" of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee and considering that several issues were at stake and that there should be a certain degree of harmonization between Technical Committees of the Council, in particular with the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), both COAG and CCP Bureaus agreed to set up a joint working group to draft a version which could satisfy both Committees. As a result, revised COAG's Rules of procedure were finalized and submitted for adoption by the 24th Session.
14. The 20th and 21st Sessions of COFO, recalling also the discussion at the 22nd Session of COAG, called for closer cooperation of the two bodies in all relevant areas, including agro-forestry, soil and water. The Secretariat of COAG, in consultation with the Chairperson, collaborated with COFO to develop a paper presented to the 22nd Session of COFO where relevant areas of collaboration were identified as follows:
 - integrating sustainable forest management with agriculture and other land use systems on the landscape level;
 - achieving food security, rural poverty eradication, climate change adaptation and mitigation, conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources through integrated approaches;
 - combating desertification and land degradation and addressing underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation;
 - promoting agroforestry as a means of increasing and diversifying overall production of wood and non-wood components of the rural production system, while bringing added environmental benefits and enhancing ecosystem viability and resilience, and contributing to climate-smart agriculture.
15. Drafting the COAG agenda: the agenda for the 24th Session of COAG has been elaborated by the Bureau in close consultation with the Secretariat.

D. Working Methods

Enhanced intersessional activities:

16. In line with the endorsed MYPOW 2012-15, nine regular intersessional Bureau meetings have been facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau composed of representatives of all seven regional groups with support from the Secretariat.
17. On request, the Bureau received updates from FAO on the implementation of the Global Agenda of Action in support of Sustainable Livestock Sector Development, the Global Soil Partnership, and the International Rice Commission.
18. The Bureau agreed that for the sake of transparency and to ensure full participation from all regional groups, silent observers from member countries would be welcome to attend meetings of the COAG Bureau, as appropriate.

III. Suggested Action by the Committee

19. The Committee is invited to:
 - a) Review the progress report of the implementation of the approved MYPOW 2012-15 in accordance with its overall objectives and mandate and make recommendations for further improvement;
 - b) Review and approve the proposed MYPOW 2014-2017, set out in the Annex. The Committee may wish to note the changes in the MYPOW compared to the version submitted to its last session, which are shown in italic and underlined.

ANNEX 1 - Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee on Agriculture (2014 - 2017)

I. Overall Objectives for the Committee on Agriculture for 2014-2017

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) conducts periodic reviews and appraisals, on a highly selective basis, of agricultural and nutritional problems, with a view to proposing concerted action by Member Nations and the Organization. It advises the Council on the overall medium- and longer-term work programme of the Organization relating to agriculture and livestock, food, *natural resources* and nutrition, with emphasis on the integration of all social, technical, economic, institutional and structural aspects related to agricultural and rural development in general. It provides well-founded advice and action-oriented recommendations to the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, in its areas of mandate.

II. Results for 2014-2017

A. Strategy, Priority Setting, and Budget Planning

Result: The Organization has a clear strategy, well-defined priorities and programmes on issues of relevance to the Committee, *and the international community at large is provided with up to date information on the world situation in agriculture and livestock, food and nutrition and natural resources management.*

Indicators and targets:

- Summary presentation of developments in the areas of mandate is part of the regular sessions of COAG;
- Committee's recommendations made on the pertinent aspects of the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) are reflected in the Council Report.

Output: Clear, precise and consensual recommendations on strategy, priorities, programmes and budget for the Organization are favourably considered by Council and provide a solid basis for its guidance and decisions.

Activities:

- Review the current situation in its areas of mandate, including issues of topical significance to Regional Groups and the international community;
- Review implementation of the PWB in areas falling within the Committee's competence;
- Formulate clear consensual, timely and well-developed recommendations on the strategies, priorities, programmes, and budget in areas falling within the Committee's competence;
- Organize side events of relevance to priority or topical issues on the agenda;
- *Specific issues of topical significance are addressed during the scheduled sessions.*

Working methods

- *Chairperson continuously and effectively liaises with the secretariat.*
- *Intersessional work by the Bureau, supported by the secretariat to identify topics of significance for the agenda.*

B. Advise on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

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

Indicators and targets:

- Member Nations obtain value from the deliberations of COAG, using the advice and recommendations to guide domestic and regional actions and policies as reported by FAO;
- Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by COAG to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate;
- Committee's recommendations made on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Conference Report.

Output: Clear, precise and consensual recommendations for Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments.

Activities:

- Report to the Conference on global policy and regulatory issues arising out of its deliberations;
- Review the status of relevant international instruments, including codes of conduct in areas of competence for the Committee;
- Consider possible solutions with a view to support concerted action by Members themselves or collectively through FAO and other relevant bodies on issues or concerns in areas of competence for the Committee.

Working methods

- Close collaboration with relevant FAO Departments and Units through the Chairperson and the Bureau
- Participation of Member Nations facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau, through consultations during intersessions.

III. Effective Work Planning of COAG

Result: COAG works effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, transparent and inclusive way.

Indicators and targets:

- COAG agendas are focused;
- COAG reports are concise and contain specific, action-oriented recommendations to both Council and Conference;
- COAG documents are made available in all FAO languages four weeks before the session commences;
- Continuity in terms of inter-sessional work;
- Level of participation of COAG members in the planning and inter-sessional work of the Committee.

Outputs:

- Multi-Year Programme of Work 2014-2017 for COAG adopted in 2014;
- Progress report on COAG's MYPOW in 2016.

Activities:

- Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including more efficient use of the time available;
- Review committee's practice and rules of procedure
- Focus side events on key issues;
- Facilitate coordination with other Technical Committees as well as Regional Conferences;
- Work out clear modalities for the election and operation of the Bureau with a view to enhancing continuity between sessions;

- Pay continued attention to effective arrangements for the formulation of agendas and drafting of the final report;
- Enhance consultative participation of COAG members in planning and inter-sessional work of the Committee.

IV. Working Methods

The work of the Committee is based on the review of worldwide trends in sectoral policies and regulations within the areas of competence. It collaborates with statutory and other bodies under FAO auspices, liaises with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters, and with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters. It collaborates with other relevant FAO Governing Bodies, liaises with other international organizations active in the areas of agriculture, food and nutrition. It undertakes regular inter-sessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau and with proactive support from the Secretariat. It encourages and facilitates participation of farmer's, private sector's and civil society's organizations as observers.