

February 2011



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольствен
ная и
сельскохозяйств
енная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Agricultura y la
Alimentación

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Hundred and Sixth Session

Rome, 21 - 25 March 2011

**ACCESS TO THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (TCP)
ON A GRANT BASIS: ELIGIBILITY CRITERION**

Queries on this document may be addressed to:

Mr Luc Guyau

Independent Chairperson of the Council

Tel. +3906 5705 7045

Mr Richard China

Director, Policy and Programme Development Support Division

Tel. +3906 5705 5242

Guidance sought from the Programme Committee

The Programme Committee is requested to take note of the information contained in this document and to provide any guidance on the way forward.

This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at www.fao.org

Introduction

1. The Programme Committee at its 104th Session October 2010 considered the matter of Access to the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) on a Grant Basis: Eligibility Criterion.
2. The Committee recommended that regional consultations be carried out in order to have regional views and refinements (such as progressive reimbursement solutions) for the next regular session of the Committee, concerning two possible options:
 - Option 1: any country that falls into the "special attention" category may receive TCP assistance on a full grant basis, even if the same country is also included on the list of high-income developing and developed countries; and
 - Option 2: any country that falls in the high-income category can receive national non-emergency TCP assistance on a full cost-recovery basis only, even if it is also included on the list of "special attention" countries.
3. In considering the report of the Programme Committee, the 140th Session of the Council:

10.d) requested that the Independent Chairperson of the Council convene a meeting of the Regional Group Chairpersons to be informed of the outcome of the regional consultations on eligibility criterion for access to TCP on a grant basis for national development projects, and that he facilitate a consensus on the preferred option.

Report on Progress by the Independent Chairperson of the Council

4. The Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) convened an informal meeting of the Chairpersons of the Regional Groups on 7 February 2011 concerning access to TCP on a grant basis: eligibility criterion.
5. The topic was introduced by the ICC and the Director, Policy and Programme Development Support Division (TCS).
6. The Chairpersons of the Near East, North America, South West Pacific, and Europe Regional Groups considered that countries that are categorized both as special attention (and thus eligible for TCP assistance on a grant basis) and high-income (and thus eligible for TCP assistance on a full cost-recovery basis only) should be considered as high-income. The Chairperson of the Asia Group indicated that his Group has no strong views and would join any consensus, while the Chairpersons of the Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean Groups informed the meeting that the matter was still under review within their Groups.
7. The ICC recommended that:
 - the Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean Groups seek to reach agreement on their respective positions;
 - the Programme Committee revisit the eligibility criterion to seek to eliminate the inconsistency;
 - the Secretariat monitor the development in the classification of countries undertaken by other UN bodies;
 - consideration be given to the Programme Committee or the ICC communicating formally with the countries affected by the inconsistency, encouraging them to refrain from requesting TCP assistance.