



COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Seventy-fourth Session

10-12 March 2021

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW)

Executive Summary

This document provides the progress report of the CCP Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2018-21 and presents the draft MYPOW 2021-23. The development of multi-year programmes of work by FAO's Governing Bodies is meant to serve as an instrument to improve the governance and accountability of their work.

The document is prepared as a rolling plan, presenting the method of work of the Committee and it follows the format considered and approved by the Committee in 2012.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- Review the progress report on the implementation of the MYPOW 2018-21, in accordance with its overall objectives and mandate.
- Approve the proposed MYPOW 2021-23, as set out in the Annex to this document.

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

Secretariat of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP)
Markets and Trade Division
Email: FAO-CCP@fao.org
Tel. (+39) 06 570 52723

I. Background

1. At its 72nd Session in September 2018, the Committee received a progress report on the implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2016-19, and reviewed and approved the proposed MYPOW for the period 2018-21.

2. As with the previous versions, the new MYPOW 2021-23 was developed based on the terms of reference of the Committee, as outlined in Rule XXIX of the General Rules of the Organization.

II. Progress report on the MYPOW 2016-19

3. In line with the approved MYPOW 2018-21, regular meetings of the CCP Bureau and other related activities were organized by the Chairperson and the Bureau members, with the support of the Secretariat.

4. Until the end of January 2021, a total of 15 Bureau meetings were held since the last Session of the CCP to address relevant matters, plan inter-sessional activities and prepare for the 73rd and 74th sessions of the Committee.

5. The Bureau has contributed to improving the governance of the Committee by facilitating consultations with the Regional Groups, through the regional representatives in the Bureau. This has proved useful for the work of the CCP and for the preparation of the provisional agendas of the 73rd and 74th sessions of the Committee, as well as the organization of the 31st Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats.

A. Strategy, priority setting and budget planning

6. The 72nd Session of the Committee reviewed the state of world commodity markets, the short- and medium-term outlook, and related policy developments. The Committee also discussed the findings of the 2018 edition of *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets* (SOCO) on the theme of agricultural trade, climate change and food security, and provided guidance on FAO's work priorities under its mandate. The Committee's recommendations have contributed to setting the work priorities and developing the Organization's work programme in commodity markets and trade in the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2018-21 and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2020-21.

7. The Chairperson presented the report of the 72nd Session of the CCP to the 160th Session of the Council in December 2018, highlighting the Committee's recommendations regarding technical priorities to be considered in the Strategic Framework and action plans and programmes for future work of the Organization. The report was endorsed by the Council and the recommendations were included in the report of the Council.¹

B. Global policy and regulatory matters

8. The report of the 72nd Session of the Committee was subsequently considered and endorsed by the Conference at its 41st Session, held on 22-29 July 2019.²

9. In 2019, the CCP Secretariat actively participated in the preparation and organization of the International Forum on Food Safety and Trade, held in Geneva on 23-24 April 2019. The Forum, organized by the World Trade Organization (WTO) with the support of FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), was attended by 600 participants from around the world. Following the Forum, the three organizations issued a Joint Statement, providing a summary of the discussions and confirming their continued commitment to supporting Members in the areas of food safety and trade.

¹ Report of the Council of FAO, Hundred and Sixtieth Session, Rome, 3-7 December 2018

² Report of the Conference of FAO, Forty-first Session, Rome, 22-29 July 2019

10. On 15 May 2019, the Chairperson of the CCP participated in an Informal Interactive Dialogue on Commodity Markets that took place at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The event was hosted by the President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Her Excellency Ms María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés of Ecuador, following the UNGA resolution A/RES/72/205, calling “to hold a one-off one-day informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on commodity markets during the first half of 2019 to review world commodity trends and prospects, particularly in commodity-dependent countries”. The interactive dialogue was organized jointly by FAO and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

11. On 23 September 2020, the 2020 edition of *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets* (SOCO) was launched through a virtual event, with the participation of FAO Director-General and the CCP Chairperson. SOCO 2020 focussed on agricultural markets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda. In addition to offering a detailed study of global trends in agri-food markets and their drivers, the report covered a number of topical issues, including the emergence of global value chains in food and agriculture, the participation of smallholder farmers in markets, and the transformative impact of digital technologies on food and agricultural markets.

12. On 7 December 2020, under the auspices of the CCP, a virtual event was held on the theme "Trade and Sustainable Development Goal 2", with the participation of FAO Director-General, Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, and the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to FAO, Her Excellency Mrs. Esti Andayani, representing the CCP Bureau. The event provided a nice platform to discuss the trade-offs between different policy options and possible ways to address them.

13. At the request of the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the CCP submitted contributions to the High-level Political Platform on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2019 and 2020. The Committee's contribution for the HLPF 2021 is under preparation at the time of writing of this document.

14. As mandated by the 72nd Session, the Bureau reviewed the proposal by the Government of Indonesia to convene the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats to formulate voluntary guidelines on vegetable oils in support of the SDGs. The proposal was debated in several Bureau meetings, leading to the agreement to convene the 31st Session of the IGG on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats virtually on 4-5 March 2021, to be hosted by Indonesia.

C. Work planning and working methods

15. CCP Report: the documents and the quality of the deliberations of the 72nd Session of the Committee enabled the preparation and adoption of a concise report, focussing on specific action-oriented recommendations, for presentation to the FAO Council and Conference.

16. During its 72nd Session, the Committee received a progress report on the MYPOW 2016-19 and endorsed its MYPOW for the period 2018-21.

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

18. The draft provisional agendas of the 73rd and 74th sessions of the CCP were prepared through close consultation between the Bureau and the Secretariat and subsequently approved by the Director-General. The regional representation in the Bureau has facilitated interaction and consultation with the different Regional Groups.

ANNEX

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Seventy-fourth Session
Rome, 10-12 March 2021

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) 2021-23 OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

I. Objectives of the Committee on Commodity Problems

1. As outlined in Rule XXIX.6 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee shall:
 - a) keep under review commodity problems of an international character affecting production, trade, distribution, consumption and related economic matters;
 - b) prepare a factual and interpretative survey of the world commodity situation, which may be made available directly to Member Nations;
 - c) report and submit suggestions to the Council on policy issues arising out of its deliberations. The reports of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies shall be made available to Member Nations for their information.
2. The Committee reports to FAO Council and Conference, as appropriate, on relevant matters under its competence.

II. Results for 2021-23

A. Strategy, priority setting and budget planning

3. Result:

The Organization has a clear strategy, well-defined priorities, and relevant programmes and budget for the issues under the competence of the Committee.

4. Indicators and targets:

- World commodity market situation and outlook, policy developments, and work priorities in commodity markets and trade reviewed and discussed by the Committee.
- The flagship report *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets* (SOCO) discussed by the Committee.
- The guidance and recommendations on work priorities are taken into account in the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25 and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2022-23.

5. Output:

Reports of the Committee and clear and consensual recommendations based on updated information and evidence are presented to the Council, providing a solid basis for guidance and decision.

6. Activities:

- Review the current situation and developments in its areas of mandate, including issues of topical significance to the international community.
- Review decisions and recommendations from other global and regional fora relevant to commodities and trade and their implications for Members and FAO.
- Review decisions and recommendations from other FAO governing and statutory bodies and sub-committees.

- Formulate clear, consensual and actionable recommendations in commodity markets and trade for setting work priorities, strategies, programmes and budget under the Strategic Framework.

B. Advice on global policy and regulatory matters

7. Result:

The Committee's decisions and recommendations provide a solid basis to inform the decisions and recommendations taken by the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters.

8. Indicators and targets:

- Members obtain value from the deliberations of the Committee, using the resulting advice and recommendations to guide actions and policies.
- Clear and specific recommendations made by the Committee to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate.
- The Committee's recommendations made on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Report of the Conference.

9. Output:

The reports of the Committee with clear and consensual recommendations for FAO Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments.

10. Activities:

- Report to Conference on global policy and regulatory issues arising out of the Committee's deliberations.
- Review the status of relevant international agreements, instruments and processes in the 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.
- Organize events, as appropriate, in the areas of the Committee's competence.

III. Effective work planning of CCP

11. Result:

The Committee works efficiently and effectively, in an action-oriented and inclusive way.

12. Indicators and targets:

- The agendas are prepared in close consultation with the Regional Groups and are focused and responsive to emerging needs.
- The documents are made available in all FAO languages four weeks before the sessions.
- The sessions are conducted in an efficient and effective manner.
- Reports of the sessions are concise, contain action-oriented recommendations and are made available to Members, Council and Conference in a timely manner.
- Inter-sessional activities led and organized by the CCP Bureau on issues of topical and emerging importance within the mandate of the Committee.

13. Outputs:

- Focused agendas and concise reports containing specific action-oriented recommendations to both the Council and the Conference.
- Reports published electronically soon after conclusion of the sessions.
- Progress report on current MYPOW and draft new MYPOW approved by the Members.

14. Activities:

- Formulate focussed agendas in close consultation with the Regional Groups.
- Prepare documents of the sessions that are concise and informative and make them available in a timely manner.
- Organize side events to the sessions, in consultation with the Members as appropriate.

IV. Working methods

15. The work of the Committee is based on regular review and analysis of global trends and developments in agricultural 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, as required.
- Interaction with other global fora active in areas of relevance to the Committee, including through the possible participation of Bureau members in international meetings and events.
- Regular inter-sessional activities facilitated by the Committee's Chairperson and the Bureau, with 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.

16. The Committee shall have the following standing items in its sessions:

- Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable
- Designation of the Drafting Committee
- World commodity market situation and outlook: short- and medium-terms
- The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)
- Update on WTO agricultural negotiations and Regional Trade Agreements
- Reports of the Intergovernmental Groups (IGGs)
- FAO's programme of work in commodity markets and trade
- Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW)
- Election of the new Bureau Members
- Arrangements for the next Session of the Committee
- Adoption of the Report

17. Specific issues for the agenda of the 75th Session will be identified by the Bureau, in consultation with Regional Groups and the Secretariat, with due consideration of relevant decisions by other FAO Governing Bodies, as well as developments in relevant international and regional processes related to food and agricultural commodity markets and trade.