COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Joint Meeting of the Thirty-ninth session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres; the Forty-first session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres; and the Twentieth session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries

Tanga, United Republic of Tanzania, 15-17 November 2017

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND AGENDA NOTES

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
   A. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons
   B. Reporting procedures

II. ECONOMIC AND POLICY ISSUES
   A. Current market situation and medium term outlook
   B. Price trends for sisal, abaca, jute and kenaf
   C. Report on subsidiary activities
      i) Report of the Twentieth session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries
      ii) Report of the Consultation on Sisal and Hard Fibres Social Development in Tanzania
   D. Review of statistical issues
   E. Review of the sisal industry: the market's prospects and policy

III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION
   A. A bottom-up participatory foresight approach for jute, abaca, coir, kenaf and sisal (JACKS), leading the way forward to 2030
   B. Session of the Working Groups
IV. WORK PROGRAMME
   A. Report on the future direction of jute natural fibre in India, with special reference to the agro-textiles industry
   B. The future action plan for the Intergovernmental Groups on Hard Fibres and on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres
   C. Intergovernmental Action Plan

V. OTHER MATTERS
   A. Any other business
   B. Date and place of the next session
AGENDA NOTES

1. The Joint Meeting (JM) of the 39th session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and the 41st session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres (IGG/HFJU) will be held in Tanga, United Republic of Tanzania, from 15 to 17 November 2017, preceded by the 20th session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries. A half-day consultation on sisal and hard fibres social development in Tanzania will also precede the Joint Meeting and is scheduled for 14 November 2017.

2. While this provisional agenda comprises the traditional aspects of the work of the Groups, new elements have been introduced to take account of the priorities expressed by members at the last session as well as emerging issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate change.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

3. The JM will elect a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons. At the last JM of the IGG/HFJU, which took place on 25 to 27 November 2015 in Bogota, Colombia, Ms Jennifer Castillo (Colombia) was elected as Chairperson, Mr Wilson Andrade (Brazil) was elected as First Vice-Chairperson and Mr Deogratias Ruhinda (United Republic of Tanzania) was elected as Second Vice-Chairperson.

B. REPORTING PROCEDURES

4. During the course of the JM, the Secretariat proposes to draft a record of the major conclusions, based on the Chairperson's concluding comments for each item discussed, for adoption by the JM at its final working session.

II. ECONOMIC AND POLICY ISSUES

A. CURRENT MARKET SITUATION AND MEDIUM TERM OUTLOOK

5. At the last JM, the membership noted that incomplete data provided to the Secretariat were a major concern and had impeded the Secretariat from preparing its annual statistical compendium for the hard fibres, jute, kenaf and allied fibres. The JM therefore agreed to improve the provision of data to the Secretariat.

6. The JM noted that regular assessment of the current market situation and medium term projections were necessary in identifying potential growth markets and expanding demand of these fibres. Hence, the Secretariat will provide background documentation to assist the membership in assessing the current market situation and medium term outlook, including a statistical compendium on production, imports, exports, consumption and prices (documents CCP:HF/JU 17/Inf.2 and CCP:HF/JU 17/CRS 1).

7. Delegates are requested to update market information pertaining to their country, as this would help in reconciling any apparent differences, add to market transparency and assist with the discussion of possible strategies for sustainable development of the world hard fibre, jute, kenaf and allied fibres economy.
B. PRICE TRENDS FOR SISAL, ABACA, JUTE AND KENAF

8. The JM will examine recent supply and demand developments in the sisal, abaca, jute and kenaf markets and their impact on prices of these fibres.

C. REPORT ON SUBSIDIARY ACTIVITIES

i) Report of the Twentieth Session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries

9. The Sub-Group is scheduled to meet on 15 November 2017. Its report will be attached as Annex I to the Report of the JM of the IGG/HFJU, which will be adopted during the afternoon of 17 November 2017.

ii) Report on the Consultation on Sisal and Hard Fibres Social Development in Tanzania

10. For the benefit for those who did not participate, a verbal report on the Consultation will be presented to the Joint Meeting.

D. REVIEW OF STATISTICAL ISSUES

11. In its efforts aimed at preparing the annual statistical compendium and other evidence-based policy documents, the Secretariat collects data on jute, kenaf, sisal, abaca, coir and allied fibres. Annual statistical questionnaires and other information requests are sent to members, whose cooperation is critical for timely and credible data provision. The Secretariat will make a brief presentation on issues and challenges pertaining to the current data collection process and the related cooperation. The JM will discuss how to strengthen further the cooperation with members towards efficient data collection.

E. REVIEW OF THE SISAL INDUSTRY: THE MARKET'S PROSPECTS AND POLICY

12. The Secretariat will present a summary report (document CCP:HF/JU 17/2) reviewing the status of the sisal market, including its recent historical overview, current situation and future prospects. The review will highlight major trends on sisal production and supply, uses, consumption and pricing and make recommendations towards an efficient and sustainable industry.

III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION

A. A BOTTOM-UP PARTICIPATORY FORESIGHT APPROACH FOR JUTE, ABACA, COIR, KENAF AND SISAL (JACKS), LEADING THE WAY FORWARD TO 2030

13. The Secretariat will present a summary document (CCP:HF/JU 17/3) discussing the holistic bottom-up participatory foresight approach for JACKS with the aim of building a consensus amongst key stakeholders on a comprehensive framework for status and prospects analysis in the context of a diversified and dynamic industry.

B. SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUPS

14. The JM has regularly raised concerns about the progress made in implementing Working Groups’ Agenda. Working Groups will be provided space to discuss issues and challenges affecting their activities and make recommendations on the way forward through presentations to the plenary.
IV. WORK PROGRAMME

A. REPORT ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF JUTE NATURAL FIBRE IN INDIA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE AGRO-TEXTILES INDUSTRY

15. The last JM underlined the need to conduct value chain analyses for different hard fibres. As part of such a global exercise, the Secretariat will present a report (document CCP:HF/JU 17/4) on the current situation and future directions of jute natural fibre in India, with special reference to the agro-textiles industry linkages. The report will discuss the sustainability prospects of the agro-textiles market linkages within the jute industry in India.

B. THE FUTURE ACTION PLAN FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS ON HARD FIBRES AND ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBRES

16. The Secretariat will make a presentation on major actions which have been recommended by past IGG meetings. The presentation will lead to the JM brainstorming exercise on different constraints affecting the implementation of the IGG Action plan.

C. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION PLAN

17. Delegates will define the Groups’ work plan for the next two years.

V. OTHER MATTERS

A. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

B. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION