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Organización de las
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

JOINT MEETING OF THE FORTIETH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON HARD FIBRES; THE FORTY- SECOND SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBRES; AND THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE SUB-GROUP OF SISAL AND HENEQUEN PRODUCING COUNTRIES

Beijing, the People's Republic of China, 22-24 October 2019

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND AGENDA NOTES

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

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- B. Price trends for sisal, abaca, jute and kenaf
- C. Report on subsidiary activities
 - i) Report of the 21st Session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries
 - ii) Report of the Consultation on Innovation Research and Development Agenda for Hard Fibres (Abaca, Coir and Sisal) and Jute, Kenaf and Allied fibres
- D. Review of statistical issues

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- A. Trends and impact of the emerging anti-conventional plastic bags policy: harnessing opportunities for Hard fibres and Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres.
- B. Session of the Working Groups



IV. WORK PROGRAMME

- A. Report on the Indian jute industry and its linkages with the Global Value Chain (GVC)
- B. The future action plan for the Intergovernmental Groups on Hard Fibres and on Jute, Kenaf and Allied fibres

V. OTHER MATTERS

- A. Any other business
- B. Date and place of the next session of the Joint Meeting of the IGG on Hard Fibres and the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres

AGENDA NOTES

1. The Joint Meeting (JM) of the 40th Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres and the 42nd Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres (IGG HF/JU) will be held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China, from 22 to 24 October 2019, preceded by the 21st Session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries. A half-day dialogue on promoting Research and Development in the fibre industry will also precede the Joint Meeting and is scheduled on 21 October 2019.

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 the 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 HF/JU, which took place in Tanga, Tanzania, Mr Salum Shamte (United Republic of Tanzania) was elected as Chairperson, Mr Oliver Reimer-Wollenweber (Germany) as First Vice-Chairperson and Mr Sushil R. Gaikwad (India) as Second Vice-Chairperson.

B. REPORTING PROCEDURES

4. During the course of the JM, the Secretariat will 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 Session, the JM agreed to improve the provision of data to the Secretariat. The JM also encouraged the Secretariat to provide more analyses that help identify key drivers behind changes in markets, notably changes in production, trade, prices and use. Members recommended to extend such analysis to the medium-term outlook with an attempt to gauge the impact of sector-specific and macro-economic changes.

6. The JM noted that regular assessment of the current market situation and medium-term projections were necessary in identifying potential growing markets and expanding demand for 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 19/CRS 1 and CCP:HF/JU 19/CRS 2).

7. Delegates will be requested to update market information pertaining to their countries, as this would help in reconciling any apparent differences, add to market transparency and assist the discussion on possible strategies for sustainable development of the JACKS fibres economy.

B. PRICE TRENDS FOR SISAL, ABACA, JUTE AND KENAF

8. The last JM reiterated the relevance of the Sub-Group for assisting producing countries arrive at a common position on expected price levels. The membership encouraged the Sub-Group to continue facilitating discussions on indicative price trends.

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

C. REPORT ON SUBSIDIARY ACTIVITIES

i) Report of the 21st Session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries

10. The Sub-Group is scheduled to meet on 22 October 2019. Its report will be attached as Annex I to the Report of the JM of the IGG HF/JU, which will be adopted during the afternoon of 24 October 2019.

ii) Report on the Consultation on Research and Development in the Natural Fibres Industry

11. The JM will be updated on the major findings of the Consultation on Research and Development (R&D) in the natural fibres industry, for the benefit of those who did not attend.

D. REVIEW OF STATISTICAL ISSUES

12. 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 input and cooperation are critical for timely and credible data provision.

13. During the last JM, delegates recognized the specificity and importance of obtaining up-to-date data for evidence-based policy making, which is unique to the work of the Secretariat. Through its discussions on the risks of shifting to alternative data sources, the membership suggested to supplement official information with up-to-date market intelligence and other sources and systematically validate trade data and the underlying codes of the harmonized system (HS).

14. 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 further strengthen the cooperation with the Members towards effective and efficient data collection.

III. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION

A. TRENDS AND IMPACTS OF THE EMERGING ANTI-CONVENTIONAL PLASTIC BAGS POLICY: HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATURAL FIBRES DEVELOPMENT

15. The last JM encouraged Members to build on the wealth of information from different FAO Departments and initiatives to inform project development and foster new partnerships, particularly with a view to harnessing the potential of natural fibres for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

16. The Secretariat will present a summary document (CCP:HF/JU 19/2) assessing trends and impact of the rising anti-conventional plastic bag policies and underscoring opportunities they offer for natural fibres, including JACKS and allied fibres, to respond to a booming demand for eco-friendly bags. It is expected that the document will culminate in calling for a holistic approach in promoting

credible alternatives to conventional plastic bags and encourage Members to explore project opportunities around the growing market of biodegradable plastic bags.

B. SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUPS

17. The last JM assessed the progress made in implementing the Working Groups' Agenda and decided, based on past experience, to assign countries as champions of the various Working Groups, as opposed to individuals, who would be responsible for reporting on progress. The membership encouraged the Working Groups to hold regular meetings and recommended that they embark on their work as soon as possible.

18. The Working Groups on (1) Life-Cycle Analysis and Sustainable Management (LCA/SM), (2) Foresight and Capacity Development (Foresight/CD) and (3) Research and Development (R&D), put in place by the 39th Session of the IGG on Hard Fibres and the 41st Session of the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres, 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 INDIAN JUTE INDUSTRY AND ITS LINKAGES WITH THE GLOBAL VALUE CHAIN (GVC)

19. The last JM underlined the need to conduct value chain analysis for different hard fibres. As part of such a global exercise, the Secretariat will present a report (document CCP:HF/JU 19/3) analysing the jute value chain in India, mapping its actors from the farmers to manufacturers of jute products, along with other service providers. It will discuss the current position of India in the jute GVC, highlight challenges facing domestic jute textile industry and make recommendations towards enhancing integration of the Indian jute in the GVC.

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

20. The Secretariat will make a presentation on progress on the major recommendations made in past IGG Sessions and on opportunities arising from the current development context. The presentation will lead to the JM brainstorming exercise on different constraints affecting the implementation of the IGG Action Plan.

21. The chairperson will recall the objectives of the JM and lead the discussions on strategies aimed at strengthening its Working Groups (WGs) in order to effectively meet the objectives of the Group. Delegates will identify a set of projects that will crystallise the attention of the IGG for the coming two years.

V. OTHER MATTERS

A. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

B. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION