



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

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

منظمة
الغذية
والزراعة
للأمم
المتحدة

Closing remarks

by

Oloche A. Edache

Assistant Director-General/

Regional Representative for Africa

On the occasion of

FAO Regional Clarification Workshop on the WTO Framework Agreement and Related Regional Trade

14-17 February 2005, Accra, Ghana

*Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

We have come to the end of a useful workshop, whose impact will take time to appreciate fully. I believe, however, that everyone has gained considerable knowledge on WTO Negotiations. The workshop covered a wide ground which I will attempt to summarize.

- You were given an overview of the July framework agreement and the developments at the WTO Negotiations on agriculture;
- You have looked at the experience with the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture (UR AoA) in the region and an overview of implementation experience at the global and regional levels, including some country experiences;
- You covered legal issues in the implementation of the agreement on agriculture and the Doha Round;
- You looked in depth at key market access issues focusing on tariff reduction and, in particular, the tiered formula and covered tariff cutting issues vis-à-vis types of tariffs, tariff lines and tariff profiles;
- You discussed technical information and analytical tools for negotiations;
- You dealt with market access covering special and differential treatment, special products and safeguards as well as preferences;
- You looked at Domestic support issues and Export competition and how Domestic support can be modeled;
- You covered issues relating to fish and fish products;
- You looked at Accession issues, Intellectual Property Rights and other Legal Instruments such as the plant genetic resources;
- You dealt with special issues such as cotton and sugar;
- You looked at the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and WTO compatibility; EU and trade agreements and closed with regional integration.

The panel discussions allowed open debates on the linkages between the various subjects, trade negotiations, regional integration strategies and priority policy actions for the region.

I will not attempt to summarize the outcome of the workshop. As I said earlier, the impact will take time to determine. I do wish to make a couple of observations. The main objective of the workshop was to contribute to capacity building, and to equip those of you who are involved in the complex trade issues in international economic and domestic policy formulation, with technical tools to assess the relationship between multilateral and bilateral trading systems.

We all recognize that capacity building is not an event but a complex process that requires time, commitment and enormous financial and human resources. This process involves numerous elements which include but are not limited to: technical expertise, the right attitudes, priority setting, availability of human resources, strategic international partnerships and the correct domestic environment. Paramount in the domestic environment is the presence of a proper national institutional mechanism for co-ordination to receive and utilize appropriately the building blocks of the capacity building initiative.

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

This address will not be complete without a few words of appreciation. On behalf of FAO, and on my own behalf, I would like first to thank the Government of Ghana for displaying a high level of interest in the workshop which the Commodity and Trade Division of the FAO Headquarters organized in collaboration with the FAO Regional Office for Africa here in Accra. The presence of the Minister of Trade and Industry at the opening session testifies to the interest and commitment of the Government of Ghana to the exercise.

The resource persons deserve special thanks. I express warm appreciation to Mr Baba Dioum, Mr Jean Louis Billon and Ambassador Samuel Amehou. I would also like to thank the team from FAO Headquarters, Rome, led by Mr. Deep Ford.

I thank all of you who have been present throughout the sessions, and also those who had to leave early due to good cause. We were deeply encouraged by the keen interest you collectively displayed through active participation, as shown by the questions asked and of the constructive contributions made.

I would also like to thank the staff and management of Novotel for their co-operation.

The deliberations were made possible and facilitated because of the excellent support provided by the interpreters and the translators. Their contribution to the success of the workshop is greatly appreciated.

It is our hope that delegates from the workshop will go back to their respective capitals much better equipped to contribute to Negotiations, and to share with their colleagues information and documentation from the workshop. It is, indeed, our hope that the workshop has provided information that will help you and your countries participate more in agricultural trade negotiations and, influence the outcome of the Negotiations to the advantage of developing countries in general, and yours in particular.

As indicated during the workshop, FAO stands ready to continue its assistance within its mandate and limited resources.

We wish you a safe trip back to your home countries and to your families.

Thank you and God bless you all.