



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON HARD
FIBRES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP
ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBRES**

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING

**FAO Headquarters
Rome, Italy
13-14 November 2018
*Lebanon Room (D209)***

Provisional Agenda

Introduction and Objectives

The Joint Meeting (JM) of the Thirty-ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Hard Fibres and the Forty-first Session of the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres held on 15-17 November 2017 in Tanga, United Republic of Tanzania, assessed progress made in implementing the Working Groups' (WGs) Agenda. The JM encouraged the WGs to hold regular meetings and recommended that they commence their work as soon as possible.

The above mentioned decisions constitute the elements of the agenda of the intersessional meeting of the IGG/HFJU, scheduled to take place on 13 and 14 November 2018 in Rome, Italy. The meeting offers an opportunity for the WGs to update the JM on the progress made so far. Delegates will also be participating in an exchange of information on selected Strategic Programmes and initiatives in FAO and opportunities they can offer in supporting the natural fibres value chains. The Intersessional meeting will culminate in a brainstorming session on the future work of the IGG/HFJU and the WGs.

Update on Statistics and Communication

At its last session, the JM formed a dedicated WG to suggest a way forward on statistical matters. The WG recommended to: (1) create a dedicated, interactive website for the member countries to provide, consult and share on a real-time basis updates on statistical information; (2) systematically validate trade data and the underlying codes of the harmonized system (HS); (3) provide monthly data and analysis, where possible and (4) provide, where necessary, information and analysis on a crop year basis in addition to calendar year data. The website would also serve as a basis for peer review of data, consistency checks and provision of market information.

The Secretariat will update the meeting on progress made in collecting data on the industry and report on the development of the interactive website as an online fibre forum.

Update on the Working Groups

The JM identified three WGs: (1) The Working Group on Life-Cycle Analysis and Sustainable Management (LCA/SM), to be led by India, (2) the Working Group on Foresight and Capacity Development (Foresight/CD), to be led by the International Natural Fibres Organization (INFO) and (3) the Working Group on Research and Development (R&D), under the leadership of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The WGs were encouraged to prepare their own terms of reference and plans of action, while the Secretariat committed itself to providing quality assurance and consistency. The JM recommended that the Working Groups pursue their efforts with a view to informing future project proposals. New opportunities for such projects may arise from the need to prepare the global fibre economy to challenges stemming from climate change.

Exploring and Consolidating Strategic Partnerships with FAO

The JM has regularly discussed issues and challenges related to fostering strategic partnerships and strengthening sustainable financing for the natural fibres industry. The need for the Group to identify and understand how potential partners operate has been raised by successive Sessions. The JM of the Thirty-eighth Session of the IGG on Hard Fibres and the Fortieth Session of the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres held on 25-27 November 2015 in Bogota, Colombia, emphasized the need to understand how members and the JM can leverage on existing initiatives and strategic partnerships within FAO towards strengthening their activities.

The Intersessional meeting will provide an opportunity for the JM to understand how FAO's strategic objectives operate. Selected FAO initiatives with potential linkages with natural fibres development will be discussed with Members and potential entry points for partnerships highlighted.

Future Action Plan

In order to guide the Secretariat on the future work programme, a brainstorming session will be organized.

Other Matters

- A. Any other business

- B. Proposal to host the 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/HFJU) scheduled in 2019 will be tabled during the intersessional meeting.