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COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

Naivasha, Kenya, 25-27 May 2016

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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The Twenty-second Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea will be hosted by the Government of Kenya and will be held in Naivasha from 25 to 27 May 2016.

A. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

2. The Group will elect a Chairperson and two Vice-chairpersons. At the Twenty-first Session, the Group elected Ms Yusni Emilia Harahap (Indonesia) as Chairperson, Ms Bianca Keilbach (Germany) as First Vice-chairperson and Mr Sangwani Hara (Malawi) as Second Vice-chairperson.

B. ADOPTION OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

3. Under this item, the Group will adopt the Provisional Agenda for the Session (CCP:TE 16/1).

II. MARKET DEVELOPMENTS AND OUTLOOK

A. CURRENT MARKET SITUATION AND MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

4. Document CCP:TE 16/Inf.2 examines both the current and longer term prospects for the production, consumption, trade and prices of tea in the world market and their likely impact on the sustainability of the global tea economy. 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 tea economy.

B. MARKET DEVELOPMENTS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

5. As established by the Group at its Twentieth Session in Sri Lanka in 2012, Tea Boards and Tea Councils in major producing and importing countries have been requested to prepare and present market developments (production, consumption, trade and prices) in their countries, for consideration by the Group. As highlighted at the last Session, presentations should include :

- Market demand and supply balance and its influence on prices;
- Consumption in producing countries themselves as well as share experiences on promoting consumption more effectively to achieve better prices;
- Consumption targets (e.g. 400 gr per capita) set for promotional campaigns;
- Maximum residue levels (MRLs) for exports and cost of compliance; and
- Demographics and consumption patterns.

III. FACTORS AFFECTING DEMAND AND SUPPLY

A. IMPACT OF DEMAND SIDE FACTORS ON THE GLOBAL TEA ECONOMY

6. At its last Session, the Group examined the implications of MRLs on tea trade. The Group agreed that MRL standards have different effects on consumption and trade flows and that they could be a deterring factor on trade when exporters are unable to comply with them. The Group noted that some studies indicated that MRL standards had a much larger effect on trade than import tariffs and that any cost-related disruption in supply could increase prices and lead to increased price volatility, reducing consumer welfare. In response to the Group's request for further detailed studies examining the impact of MRLs on trade flow, the Secretariat has produced document CCP:TE 16/2 comparing the impact of MRLs with the impact of import tariffs on tea trade in selected markets.

B. IMPACT OF SUPPLY SIDE FACTORS ON THE GLOBAL TEA ECONOMY

7. At its last Session, the Group tasked the Working Group (WG) on Climate Change to review the methods of climate change impact assessment, evaluate the analyses carried out on the impact of climate change on the tea sub-sector in selected countries. The Group requested the WG to identify/suggest the mitigation and adaptation strategies required to develop appropriate long term technologies for mitigation/adaptation. The findings of the WG, together with the WG's publication "Research Report on Adaptation to Climate Change" will be presented to the Group. To complement this initiative, the Secretariat has produced document CCP:TE 16/3, which examines the possible strategies to address socio-economic adaptation policies.

C. FACTORS DRIVING THE GROWTH OF THE SMALLHOLDER TEA SUB-SECTOR

8. At its Twenty-first Session and subsequent intersessional meeting in October 2015, the Group noted that the situation of tea smallholders continued to face a number of challenges because of the high cost of production associated with this farming system in some countries. Members agreed to provide the data requested in the household survey questionnaire to improve the quality of the analysis; and improve survey sample size to achieve statistical significance. Document CCP:TE 16/4 examines the contribution of tea production and exports to smallholder welfare in the major producing countries, using the household survey methodology developed and accepted by the WG on Smallholders at the intersessional meeting that was held at FAO headquarters on 5-6 May 2014. This methodology examines the effectiveness of the smallholder value chain in selected tea-producing countries.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION

A. WORKING GROUPS ON MAXIMUM RESIDUE LEVELS AND ON MAXIMUM RESIDUE LEVELS IN THE BREW

9. The Group will examine this agenda item with the assistance of a presentation delivered by the Chairpersons of the Working Groups.

B. WORKING GROUP ON TEA TRADE AND QUALITY

10. With the assistance of a presentation by the Chairperson of the WG, the Group will be briefed on the achievements to date and the proposed future action plan to be adopted by the Group.

C. WORKING GROUP ON ORGANIC TEA

11. At its last Session, the WG noted the limitations with regard to conversion of non-organic tea plantations to organic gardens, due to the apparent decline in crop production and high cost of cultivation. The intersessional meeting in October 2015 agreed that the WG on Organic Tea should expand its mandate to encompass green farming methods and gradual reduction of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, rather than be restricted to organic tea. The Group will examine this item following a presentation that will be delivered by the Chairperson of this WG.

D. WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE

12. The Group will be updated of the decisions taken at the intersessional meeting in October 2015 by the Chairperson of the WG. A publication entitled: "Research Report of Adaptation to Climate Change" will also be tabled.

E. WORKING GROUP ON SMALLHOLDERS

13. At its Twenty-first Session, the Group endorsed the formation of a confederation of tea smallholders. An organized international set up was necessary to strengthen the participation of small growers in the tea value chain. Hence, the formation of the Confederation of International Tea Smallholders (CITS) was mooted with the following establishment structure and goals:

- To provide a forum for the development of policies and solutions to strengthen the global tea smallholder sector by acting as a convener, catalyst and source of reference, so as to improve the consistency of tea policy-making on a global level;
- To enhance market access by providing statistics, research results, studies and other information on the world tea economy;
- To encourage communication, public outreach and disseminate knowledge on the world tea economy, through project activities, microcredit programmes, workshops, training and other fora of knowledge sharing; and seeking finance for these activities; and
- To promote the development of a sustainable global tea smallholder sector, thereby contributing to its environmental sustainability, as well as generating increased income and employment, and improved living standards and working conditions in member countries.

14. The Chairperson of this WG will brief the membership on progress made.

F. TASK FORCE ON PROJECTIONS AND STATISTICS

15. The Group will examine this agenda item with the assistance of a presentation by the Secretariat.

G. UPDATE ON THE TEA WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

16. Given the lack of progress in developing the website, at its previous Session, the Group agreed to use the electronic forum that had been developed by the Secretariat to more effectively develop the website. In addition, this should facilitate the achievements of the Working Groups' plans of action. It was agreed that the Chairpersons of each WG would coordinate their "private rooms".

17. While the Secretariat continued to administer the forum, the Communication Focal Point coordinated the inputs from members in a logical manner. The Communication Focal Point will inform the Group on progress made since its last Session.

H. INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED ACTIONS ON TEA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

18. The Group will review the results of the final Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) funded project that was completed in 2015: Development of smallholder tea cultivation in Bangladesh and Indonesia, with the assistance of reports from the Project Executing Agency (PEA) and the Project Implementing Agency (PIA).

V. ACTIVITIES IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

19. Observer organizations are invited to inform the Group of their activities on tea.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

A. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

B. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

C. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT