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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Guwahati (Assam), India, 31 January–2 February 2024

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON TEA TRADE AND QUALITY

The Progress of Tea Trade and Quality Working Group

The FAO Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea initiated the “Tea Trade & Quality – Working Group” chaired by the Sri Lanka Tea Board.

Members who responded: Sri Lanka, India, China, Kenya, Japan, Argentina and Indonesia

Work Plan and response by member states

- **ISO 3720 - self-regulating code of conduct**: compliant Members shared data on their standards and non-compliant members shared practices in their countries to maintain the quality standards.
- **Collect all existing literature**: propose to establish a database of the findings to share among the Members.
- **Formulation of a road map**: the health-related beneficial characteristics of black tea (antioxidants activity, immune boosting action, cancer prevention, cardiovascular disease protective action, etc.) to be collated and identified as marketing tool to promote black tea. Accordingly, members propose to undertake collaborative research.
- **Harness synergies between the working group and the ISO tea committee**: propose closer collaboration between the member countries of the working group and ISO committee representatives to enrich data and information sharing.
- **Propose to arrange a workshop among ISO 3720 compliant and non-compliant members**. Detailed feasibility assessment is required to conduct the workshop. Response is awaited from the Chairman of the ISO Tea Technical Sub-Committee.
- **Initiate a pragmatic programme with the governments of consuming countries as well as tea trades and consumer associations/groups to encourage the purchase of teas that are compliant with ISO 3720 standards**: Members agree with the proposal in principle.
 - **Identifying and securing donor funding/technical assistance for countries requiring support in the implementation of ISO 3720 Standard**: members propose consulting FAO and the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) on funding sources to obtain financial assistance for data collection, assessment, inter-laboratory comparisons (ILCs), proficiency testing (PTs), and technical workshops etc for countries requiring support for implementation.
- **ISO 11287 (Green Tea) - self-regulating code of conduct**: All Members are encouraged to report on the progress of implementation and to share practical difficulties encountered, if any.
- **There is a need to define a uniform global sustainability standard governing the tea value chain**: In this regard, the working group proposes to obtain assistance from the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) to develop global sustainability ensuring uniform standards.

Sri Lanka, India, China, Kenya, Japan and Argentina principally agreed to support the above initiatives for the wellbeing of the global tea industry.

Expected target:

Offer quality tea products to consumers, while adhering to the international food safety standards.