



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA

NINETEENTH SESSION

New Delhi, India, 12 – 14 May 2010

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE PRESENT AND FUTURE ROLES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

I. ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

1. The basic task for the working group is to review the roles and functioning of the IGGs and on the basis of this review to recommend measures to ensure their continuing relevance and effectiveness in meeting the changing needs of the international commodity economy. Such measures may relate both to the terms of reference of the IGGs and to their operating procedures and the resource implications of any measures proposed should be considered.

2. While the working group is obviously free to determine the scope of its work, some major issues to consider have been highlighted by the Secretariats' recent experience of IGG activities and by the previous evaluations of the IGGs reviewed above. These are listed below for the guidance of the working group. A number of the suggestions made have resource implications which the working group would need to consider in its recommendations.

- The perceived usefulness of the IGGs to Member Nations, the perceived quality of the papers presented and the relevance of the topics addressed in IGG agendas could be surveyed to identify what the IGGs do well and is useful to members and what important needs of Members they fail to meet.
- The need to enhance participation of the private sector in IGG activities, including their formal meetings. This might include an assessment of the initiatives taken to date, such as the linking of IGG meetings to major international commodity conferences. It might also include a review of the recent experience in the FAO Trade and Markets Division in establishing a multi-stakeholder forum for bananas and its current exploration of a multi-stakeholder forum for fibres. These more inclusive fora might provide an organizational model for broadening IGG participation.

- Measures to promote continuing activity of the IGGs between formal meetings, such as theme-based working groups to analyse particular economic, policy or technical issues and to report back to the formal meetings.
- Measures to forge a closer relationship between the different IGGs to exploit synergies in their respective work and to better address cross-commodity issues such as trade policy developments or standards and certification.
- Measures to forge a closer relationship between the IGGs and the CCP so that discussion and consensus building on cross-commodity issues benefit from specific commodity expertise. Discussion of this issue might include consideration of the suggestion that IGG meetings might be held in conjunction with the sessions of the CCP in an FAO “commodity week”. Such an inclusive event could also include the participation of the international commodity organizations, the CFC, UNCTAD and the WTO to become the major international commodity event.
- The appropriate frequency of IGG meetings, and in particular the suggestion of the IEE that IGGs should meet “as required” rather than on a routine biennial cycle. The working group may wish to review and if appropriate endorse the Secretariats’ moves in this direction in pursuit of efficiency savings but also consider the implications for the topicality of meeting agendas. The current rules of procedure may constrain the scope for calling IGG meetings at short notice in response to emerging issues for the commodity concerned.
- The appropriate location for IGG meetings whether in FAO headquarters or in major producing or consuming countries for the commodity concerned. This issue also has implications for the resource costs of meetings and for the interest they generate.