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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
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Food
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Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
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para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES OF AFRICA

Eleventh Session

Abuja, Nigeria, 24-27 October 2000

PROPOSALS FOR THE MAJOR TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION AT THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES OF AFRICA

1. In the past, the approach adopted in choosing a theme for a session was largely influenced by the Secretariat, which usually proposed a topic or topics for the consideration of the Committee. However, in view of the recommendation of the last session of CIFA to fully involve the Committee in the elaboration of Session agendas and intersessional work programme, it is proposed, for the consideration of the Committee, that the process of selection of a theme for or major topic for discussion at a session follow the same procedure as for the elaboration of the agenda. This means that the Committee will decide on the process to be adopted in the choice of a theme or select the theme entirely on its own, through a participatory process involving members of the Committee or at least the chairperson, with the Secretariat playing a facilitating role.
2. The above suggestion notwithstanding, it is pertinent to draw the attention of the Committee to certain basic criteria, which should be taken into account in selecting a theme. Firstly, the topic to be chosen should be one that is of current importance to a large number of member countries, of priority concern and generally considered most relevant to the development and sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture in inland Africa. Furthermore, it should concern a subject matter which has not received in-depth discussion at a previous session of the Committee or which has not constituted the theme for past CIFA Sessions.
3. To help the Committee in the choice of an appropriate theme for the Twelfth Session, the table below lists topics discussed at past CIFA symposia, seminars or workshops.

MAJOR TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT PAST CIFA SESSIONS

| SESSION | VENUE | DATE | THEME |
|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| First | Fort Lamy, (N'djamena), Chad | 29 Nov – 5 Dec 1972 | Evaluation of fishery resources in the development and management of inland fisheries. |
| Second | Accra, Ghana | 3-7 October 1975 | Aquaculture |
| Third | Bujumbura, Burundi | 21-26 November 1977 | River and Flood plain fisheries. |
| Fourth | Blantyre, Malawi | 8-12 December 1980 | Problems of fishery management and development in river basins. |
| Fifth | Cairo, Egypt | 15-20 January 1983 | Prospects of extension services in African inland fisheries with particular reference to the artisanal fishery sector and professional training. |
| Sixth | Lusaka, Zambia | 7-11 October 1985 | Planning and implementation of fishery management and development programmes. |
| Seventh | Accra, Ghana | 7-11 December 1987 | Development and management of fisheries in small water bodies. |
| Eighth | Cairo, Egypt | 21-25 October 1990 | Post harvest fish technology. |
| Ninth | Harare, Zimbabwe | 5-9 December 1994 | Inland Fisheries, Aquaculture and the Environment |
| Tenth | Akosombo, Ghana | 24-27 November 1997 | Contribution of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture to Food Security and Economic Growth in Africa. |
| Eleventh | Abuja, Nigeria | 24-27 October 2000 | Inland Aquatic Resource Management and Structural Adjustment |

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| | | | Policies |
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4. Besides the themes mentioned in the table above, other subjects which had been recommended in the past but not selected as the major topic for discussion at any session include fishery statistics, fish marketing and trade, regional collaboration in inland fisheries development in Africa and integrated basin management.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

5. The Committee is requested to carefully consider and select a topic that meets the criteria suggested in paragraph 2 above, taking into account its regional relevance and importance in promoting food security.