Committee on Commodity Problems

JOINT MEETING OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON HARD FIBRES; THE   
FORTIETH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBRES; AND THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE SUB-GROUP OF SISAL AND HENEQUEN PRODUCING COUNTRIES

Bogota, Colombia, 25 - 27 November 2015

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# AGENDA NOTES

1. The Joint Meeting of the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Hard Fibres (Thirty-eighth session) and of the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres (Fortieth session) will be held in Bogota, Colombia, from 25 to 27 November 2015, preceded by the Nineteenth Session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries. A Consultation on Natural Fibres, which will be open to the private sector and all stakeholders, will take place on 24 November 2015.
2. While this Provisional Agenda comprises the traditional aspects of the work of the Groups, new elements have been introduced to take account of the priorities expressed by members through the respective Working Groups. Members and observers are urged to take an active part in discussions and other aspects of planning and implementation so as to shape meaningful and useful initiatives for fibre producing and consuming countries.

# ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

## ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

1. The Joint Meeting (JM) will elect a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons. The Joint Meeting of the Thirty-seventh session of the IGG on Hard Fibres and the Thirty-ninth session of the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres in 2013 elected Mr Nihal Somaweena (Sri Lanka) as Chairperson; Mr Wang Chaoyun (China) as First Vice-Chairperson; and Mr Eduardo B. Holoyohoy (Philippines) as Second Vice‑Chairperson.

## REPORTING PROCEDURES

1. During the course of the JM, the Secretariat proposes to draft a record of the major conclusions, based on the Chairperson’s concluding comments for each item discussed, for adoption by the Meeting at its final working session.

# ECONOMIC AND POLICY ISSUES

## CURRENT MARKET SITUATION AND MEDIUM TERM OUTLOOK

1. The last JM agreed that the regular assessment of the current market situation and medium term projections were necessary in identifying potential growth markets and expanding demand of these fibres. Hence, the Secretariat will provide background documentation to assist the membership in assessing the current market situation and medium term outlook, including a statistical compendium on production, imports, exports, consumption and prices (documents CCP:HF/JU 15/Inf.2 and CCP:HF/JU 15/CRS 1).

## PRICE TRENDS FOR SISAL, ABACA, JUTE AND KENAF

1. The JM will examine recent supply and demand developments in the sisal, abaca, jute and kenaf markets and their impact on prices of these fibres.

## REPORT ON SUBSIDIARY ACTIVITIES

### i) Report of the Nineteenth Session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries

1. The Sub-Group is scheduled to meet on 24 November 2015. Its report will be attached as Annex I to the Report of the Joint Meeting of the IGG on Hard Fibres and the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres, which will be adopted during the afternoon of 27 November 2015.

## POLICY REVIEW

1. At the JM held in Brazil in 2011, the Secretariat was requested to actively engage in monitoring policy developments in trade and market developments, including their impact on countries and regions. To this end, the Secretariat produced a document on production and trade policies at the JM in Sri Lanka in 2013 (CCP:HF/JU 13/2) and modified its annual questionnaire to include a comprehensive listing of tariff and non-tariff barriers, as well as of subsidies and domestic supports, affecting fibres and their products so as to have a better understanding of the policy environment influencing international trade. Unfortunately, the response rate to these questions was extremely low, including the direct follow up by the Secretariat to members of the Groups in April 2015. Hence, a discussion paper has been prepared by the Secretariat.
2. Document CCP:HF/JU 15/2 has been prepared by the Secretariat to outline the importance of routine policy reviews in the context of development objectives of the fibres sub-sectors and facilitate relevant discussion. Delegates are invited to consider the recommendations contained therein and suggest the best way forward.

## THE FIQUE VALUE CHAIN IN COLOMBIA

1. The last JM emphasized that value chain analysis was a valuable tool that could provide better understanding of the characteristics of the value chain to assist in improving the economic viability of jute and hard fibres and enhancing the participation of smallholders. However, the Secretariat was advised that value chain analyses had to be done on each fibre rather than collectively. As a first step, the Secretariat prepared a value chain mapping of the sisal industry in Tanzania, the issues affecting the chain as well as programmes designed to integrate smallholders in the value chain and the impact of these integration programmes.
2. For this JM the Secretariat has prepared document CCP:HF/JU 15/3 on the value chain analysis of fique in Colombia for consideration by delegates.

# INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION

## POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES

1. At its last session, the JM highlighted the need for funding for the Working Groups to execute their action plans. Document CCP:HF/JU 15/Inf. 3 was prepared by the Secretariat to help identify potential funding sources other than those provided by governments.

## REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, CERTIFICATION AND HARMONIZATION

1. At the last JM in Sri Lanka, the Working Group on Research and Development, Certification and Harmonization presented a road map for international standardization, certification and accreditation (SCA) for each fibre to delegates. As a follow up to this development, document CCP:HF/JU 15/CRS 3 has been prepared by the Working Group on the way forward for discussion by the Joint Meeting.

## REPORT OF OTHER WORKING GROUPS

1. Opportunity will be given to the Chairpersons of the other Working Groups to present developments that have occurred since the last Joint Meeting, namely the Working Group on Policy, Analysis and Value Chains; and the Working Group on Promotion.

# WORK PROGRAMME AND OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

## TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE IGG ON HARD FIBRES AND THE IGG ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBRES AND THEIR RELEVANCE TO THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FRAMEWORK OF FAO

1. The implementation of FAO’s strategic objectives for the next biennium (2016-2017) will begin on 1 January 2016. Member countries of the IGGs on Hard Fibres and on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres should use the Joint Meeting as an opportunity to be fully involved in the planning and implementation of their programmes by prioritising their needs and developing achievable targets and work plans in line with the strategic objectives (SOs) of the organization. In particular, the Groups need to review their terms of reference and rules of procedures with respect to their relevance in achieving objectives contained in the SOs. Copies of the terms of reference and rules of procedure are available in document CCP:HF/JU 15/CRS4.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION PLAN

1. The agreed work plan for the next joint meeting will be prioritised by delegates and implemented by the Secretariat in collaboration with the Working Groups.

# OTHER MATTERS

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

## DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE IGG ON HARD FIBRES AND THE IGG ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBRES