



# **INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA**

**INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**

**EXPO Milan 2015**

**Milan, Italy**

**15-16 October 2015**

## **Provisional Agenda and Timetable**

## INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Intergovernmental Group on Tea (IGG/Tea) at its 21<sup>st</sup> Session in Bandung, Indonesia, from 5-7 November 2014, reviewed the progress of each Working Group (WG) and considered their proposed work plans. The decisions of the IGG constitute the elements of the agenda of the intersessional meeting of the IGG/Tea scheduled for 15 and 16 October on the Milan Expo 2015 premises. The objective is to act on the decisions of the Group as annotated below.

### I. Working Group on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)/MRLs in the Brew

- The IGG/Tea decided that the Working Group on MRLs in the Brew be dissolved after the submission and endorsement of the policy document by CCPR. Hence, the WG needs to prepare a policy document outlining the methodology and other technical requirements to enable regulators of the CCPR to accept residues in the brew as the basis for risk assessment. This document would need to be discussed and endorsed for submission to the CCPR;
- Assess the status of field trials required for setting Codex MRLs and submit the list for advance notification to FAO-IGG and the National Codex Points;
- Update the priority list based on new information on risk assessment, replacements, or potential use in tea;
- Assess the status and development of required infrastructure and new methods to cope with changing situations and costs;
- Devise a communication plan for quick information exchange and advance notification for simultaneous data submission by members and seek manufacturers' support;
- Data submission to include brew factor based risk assessment for all teas traded globally except Matcha tea; and
- To share available information on anthraquinone and risk assessment in tea and tea brew.

### II. Working Group Tea Trade and Quality

- Introduce a self-regulating code of conduct to continue compliance of ISO 3720 minimum quality standard;
- Collate all existing literature on additional quality benefits on tea if conforming to ISO 3720 or above;
- Formulate a road-map to undertake further research on ISO 3720 compliant vis-a-vis non-compliant teas on the connectivity to quality and food safety parameters (establish a business model for higher safety levels);
- Develop a closer synergy between the Working Group on Tea Trade and Quality and ISO for a combined collation of information and data;
- Arrange a workshop among ISO 3720 compliant and non-compliant member countries;
- Initiate a pragmatic programme to prevail upon the governments of consumer countries, tea trade and consumers of importing countries to demand tea complying with ISO 3720 parameters or above in view of better quality and safety extended to producer countries;
- Identify donor funding/technical assistance for countries requiring support in the implementation of ISO 3720 minimum quality standard;

- In recognition of the establishment of a minimum quality standard for green tea and the significant growth in the production and demand for green tea globally, introduce a self-regulating code of conduct conforming to ISO 11287 minimum quality standard for green tea manufacturing;
- Discuss the need for defining a uniformed global sustainability standard governing the tea value chain; and
- Add a “promotion” element as tea education, promotional events and even tea competitions are gaining increasing popularity and are incorporated in communication strategies to educate and promote tea.

### III. Working Group on Organic Tea

- Given the limitations observed 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, it might be worthwhile to encourage the non-organic gardens to adopt green farming methods as a way forward;
- Green farming would lead to the gradual reduction of chemical fertilizers through supplementing with organic manures;
- Reduction of pesticide load by adopting integrated pest management (IPM) practices so that the usage of pesticides could be phased out gradually; and
- Marketing issues could be dealt with by the WG on Tea Trade and Quality with the assistance from IGG/Tea Secretariat, and the Task Force on Statistics could monitor the world organic tea demand.

### IV. Working Group on Climate Change

- The IGG/Tea decided that members of the WG continue work to further strengthen (bridging data gaps) databases;
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) A1B scenario data will be taken for spatial trend analysis. Efforts will be made to use the IPCC AR 5 scenarios;
- Studies are to continue on locally released clones/cultivars for elevated carbon dioxide and temperature under different moisture regimes and a strategy developed and adopted to promote clones expected to produce economically
- Vulnerability analyses (regional suitability using a GIS platform) are to be performed by all WG members, including any new areas available for cultivation of tea in the respective countries;
- Agronomic adaptation strategies are to be further fine-tuned and Decision Support System (DSS) work to be linked accordingly by all members of the WG on conceptualized framework;
- A mechanism for regional weather forecast, pests and diseases and advisories based on the forecasts is to be developed; and
- The WG decided to prepare a booklet explaining country-specific adaptation strategies to combat climate change and how to use the different forecasts as well as the DSS.

### V. Working Group on Smallholders

- The WG proposed that a tea smallholders confederation be established to facilitate active communication with small tea growers in producing countries. Indonesia and India were to conceptualize and propose the structure, composition, roles and functions of the confederation, as well as its terms of reference;

- The confederation should work with established brands in consuming countries to market smallholder tea; and
- The WG should appoint a strong international business consultant to establish a road map towards its achievement, involving institutions such as the World Bank, as well as the media to promote it.

## **VI. Task Force on Statistics**

- The IGG/Tea decided that focal points were to be designated to work with the Secretariat for matters of statistics, analysis and projections;
- Each institution or ministry is to allocate a budget for the participation of focal points in the various fora organized by the Secretariat, namely the: capacity building workshops; inter-sessional meetings; and main sessions of the IGG/Tea;
- To the extent possible, the focal points would need to be part of the official delegation attending the IGG/Tea meetings;
- Focal points should be more active in providing data and inputs to the Secretariat, as agreed at the 20th Session of the IGG/Tea; and
- The Secretariat is ready to organize training for focal points during the period when the medium-term outlook for tea is developed, provided the cost is covered by the respective Member countries.

## **VII. Developments in the Tea Forum/Website**

- Given the lack of progress in developing the website, the IGG agreed to use the electronic forum that had been developed by the Secretariat to more effectively develop the website. In addition, this would facilitate the achievements of the Working Groups' plans of action. It was agreed that the Chairpersons of each Working Group would coordinate their "private rooms". While the Secretariat would continue to administer the forum, Canada, in its new role as Communication Focal Point, would coordinate the inputs from members in a logical manner.
- The Communication Focal Point and Chairpersons will provide an update of the state of play to date.

## **VIII. The Common Fund for Commodities Partner in Commodity Development**

The CFC will give an institutional presentation on the CFC, with a brief analysis on the financed projects and the eligibility criteria for CFC financing.

## **IX. The Role of Tea Export Earnings in Food Security**

The IGG/Tea has had an on-going concern on the role of tea export earnings in food security, particularly how they impact smallholders. While smallholder tea production is growing worldwide, their situation is problematic because the prices they are paid for fresh tea leaves, more often than not, tend to be below the cost of production, if labour cost is factored in. To better understand the situation, the Secretariat will provide the meeting with an analysis of: the historical and current trends in tea production; the role of tea in the national economy; the current food security situation; tea exports and the role of tea export earnings in food security needs to be computed. The socio-economic situation of tea smallholders is not well understood and needs to be studied at the sub-national level, focusing on topics including: holding structure, household structure, holding production, costs of production, small-holder income, value chain structure and margins, etc.

**Thursday, 15 October 2015**

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### **Morning Session – Breakout sessions**

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- 10:30 Registration
- 11:00 Welcome and opening: Kaison Chang, Secretary Intergovernmental Group on Tea (IGG/Tea)
- 11:05 Statement from Mr Sangwani Hara, Third Vice-Chairperson of the IGG/Tea
- 11:10 The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) Partner in Commodity Development: Alessandra Marrocco
- 11:20 Discussion
- 11:40 Developments in the Tea Forum/Website: Louise Roberge
- 12:00 Discussion
- 12:20 Lunch

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### **Afternoon Session**

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- 14:00 The Role of Tea Export Earnings in Food Security: Kaison Chang/Margarita Brattlof
- 14:30 Discussion
- 15:00 Issues on Statistical Information Faced by the Secretariat: Julie Claro
- 15:20 Discussion
- 15:40 Tea break
- 16:00 Presentation of each Working Group: Relative Chairpersons of each Working Group (10 minutes each)
- 16:50 Breakout sessions of the Working Groups  
Each Working Group will be assigned to an area in the meeting room where they can discuss their issues, work and action plans and terms of reference. The Chairperson of each Working Group will report to the plenary.
- 18:00 End of session

**Friday, 16 October 2015**

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### **Morning Session**

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- 10:30 Chair address:  
Mr Sangwani Hara
- 10:05 Breakout sessions of the Working Groups (continued): Consolidation of Reports
- 11:30 Report of the Working Groups on MRLs/MRLs in the Brew
- 11:50 Plenary discussion and adoption of the Decision Tree and other decisions, strategies and recommendations
- 12:10 Report of the Working Group on Tea Trade and Quality
- 12:30 Plenary discussion and adoption of a strategy to promote minimum quality and safety assurance of ISO 3720 parameters to the governments of consumer countries as well as to the tea trade and consumers
- 12:50 Lunch

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### **Afternoon Session**

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- 14:00 Report of the Working Group on Organic Tea
- 14:20 Plenary discussion and agreement on market strategies and on the certification process for organic tea production
- 14:40 Report of the Working Group on Climate Change
- 15:00 Plenary discussion and adoption of adaptation strategies and agronomic practices
- 15:20 Tea Break
- 15:40 Report of the Working Group on Smallholders
- 16:00 Plenary discussion and adoption of decisions, strategies and recommendations
- 16:20 Report of the Task Force on Statistics
- 16:40 Plenary discussion and adoption of decisions, strategies and recommendations
- 17:00 Adoption of the draft report of the Intersessional Meeting
- 17:20 Concluding remarks
- 17:40 End of session