



# **INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA**

## **INTERSESSIONAL MEETING**

### **Provisional Agenda**

**Cinnamon Grand Colombo Hotel  
Colombo, Sri Lanka  
12-13 August 2017**

## **INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES**

The Intergovernmental Group on Tea (IGG/Tea) at its 22<sup>nd</sup> Session in Naivasha, Kenya, from 25-27 May 2016, 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 to take place on 12 and 13 August 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The objective is to act on the decisions of the Group as annotated below. Delegates will also be participating in a brainstorming session on the future work of the IGG/Tea.

### **Update on Communication**

The IGG/Tea membership has been encouraged to communicate via the interactive e-Forum that was developed by the Secretariat. The Communication Focal Point (Canada) will update the meeting on developments in the tool's usage.

### **Working Group on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLS)<sup>1</sup>**

The Group endorsed the Working Group's proposal to:

- Consider creating an international tea non-governmental organization (NGO) to represent the trade at CODEX;
- Share existing research on the contaminants nicotine and anthraquinone; and
- Post information and progress against the work plan on the WG's room on the e-Forum.

The WG will inform of progress made on the activities outlined in its work plan, namely on the:

- Data generation and submission through national Codex points for MRL fixation;
- Submission of data on brew studies for brew factor based risk assessment;
- Communication plan for quick information dissemination;
- Update of the priority list;
- Assessment of the required infrastructure for data generation and conformance monitoring and possible funding;
- Sharing of available information on anthraquinone and other contaminants and on the global study on anthraquinone;
- Potential representation in CODEX for tea;
- Consideration of the WG participating in CCCR meetings; and
- Sharing of information on developments in pest resistance.

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<sup>1</sup> At the last Session of the IGG/Tea in May 2016, the Group dissolved the Working Group on Maximum Residue Levels in the Brew as it had met all of its commitments.

## **Working Group Tea Trade and Quality**

The work plan of this WG was adopted at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IGG/Tea, and the Chair will provide updates on the:

- Self-regulating code of conduct to continue compliance of ISO 3720 minimum quality standard. Non-compliant members would share data on their standards with other members and the ISO Technical Committee;
- Collation of existing literature on additional quality benefits of ISO 3720;
- Road-map for further research on ISO 3720 compliant vis-à-vis non-compliant teas on their connectivity to quality and food safety parameters, particularly those related to the health benefits of tea consumption which could be used in promoting consumption.
- Closer synergies between the WG and the ISO in collating information and data;
- Workshop for ISO 3720 compliant and non-compliant members;
- Pragmatic programme to influence governments, tea traders and consumers in importing countries to accept only tea which complied with ISO 3720;
- Identification of donors to fund the technical assistance required in those countries that required support in the implementation of ISO 3720; and
- International Tea Day.

## **Working Group on Organic Tea**

In noting the achievements of the WG on Organic Tea, at its last session, the IGG/Tea endorsed the WG's work plan. The WG will provide an update on its work on:

- Joint research and development and information-sharing among organic tea producing countries;
- Market promotion at the international level;
- The establishment of national bodies in producing countries which could obtain international accreditation, such as the NPOP (India), SLSI (Sri Lanka) and CNCA (China);
- The support to green, low input tea farming systems and their promotion to organic status;
- The social welfare of producers and communities;
- A socio-economic impact assessment of organic farming; and
- The promotion of domestic production of organic tea.

## **Working Group on Climate Change**

At the 22<sup>nd</sup> session, the membership of the IGG/Tea was informed that with the aim of easing implementation of adaptation strategies in different countries, the WG on Climate Change had decided to work on vulnerability/suitability on the micro scale. It was deemed that the trend analysis would be further strengthened by using different statistical models in order to determine the impact of climate trends and compare them with the baseline. The WG will inform the intersessional meeting on its provisional analyses.

## **Working Group on Smallholders**

At the last session of the IGG/Tea, the WG discussed the structure of the Confederation of International Tea Smallholders (CITS) and its functions and responsibilities. The WG also decided on the agenda and vision of the CITS and agreed to a timeline. The WG decided that each member would appoint a focal point to monitor the *interim* activities. The WG suggested that a pilot study be conducted in each country, aligned with the interest of the respective tea smallholders, focusing on possible micro processing factories in Assam. The WG also discussed the importance of hiring an international consultant and possible partnerships with international bodies like the World Bank and the ITC. The consultant would assist in developing a marketing arrangement with the help of producing and consuming countries' associations involved in tea matters to market the teas of the small grower sector directly, at least covering the cost of production. The WG will apprise the membership of developments in these activities.

## **Working Group on Global Tea Market Analysis and Promotion**

The WG on Global Tea Market Analysis and Promotion was established at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IGG/Tea in May 2016. The Terms of Reference will be agreed upon and a plan of action developed.

## **Task Force on Statistics**

The intersessional meeting of the IGG/Tea will review tea production forecasts of each member country of the Task Force and adjust production, consumption and trade projections for tea over the next ten years using the FAO World Tea Model.

## **Future Work**

In order to guide the Secretariat on the future work that it should address, a brainstorming session will be organized.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

- A. Any other business
  - i) Proposal from the China Sichuan International Tea Development Conference to host the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea
  - ii) Any other matters to discuss
- B. Adoption of the report of the intersessional meeting