



INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA

INTERSESSIONAL MEETING

Provisional Agenda

**Sochi, the Russian Federation
21-22 June 2019**

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Twenty-third Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea (IGG/Tea) was held on 17-20 May 2018 in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China. The meeting 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 21 and 22 June 2019 in Sochi, the Russian Federation. 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 Group has agreed, in principle, to having the Tea forum accessible through the Food Security Network platform of FAO (FSN), noting the necessity for a private room to protect the exchange of sensitive information among members.

The Communication Focal Point and the Secretariat will update the meeting on developments in the tool's usage.

Working Group on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)¹

The Group endorsed the Working Group's proposal to:

- Pursue data collection on pest resistance using the appropriate template;
- 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:

- Data generation and submission through national Codex points for MRL fixation;
- Identifying compounds where sufficient field trials exist amongst the producing countries and prepare joint dossiers for submission to JMPR;
- The list of compounds that are no longer relevant for countries and new and pertinent ones to be considered for the priority list;
- Progress report on research on environmental sources of contamination (e.g. anthraquinone) and the link to their presence in tea; and
- Support to extension services in addressing the issues of contaminants and MRLs;
- Communication strategy for quick information dissemination;
- Potential representation in CODEX for tea;

¹ At the 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.

- Consideration of the WG participating in CCPR meetings; and
- Sharing of information on developments in pest resistance.

Working Group Tea Trade and Quality

The work plan of this WG was adopted at the 23nd Session of the IGG/Tea, and the Chair will provide updates on the:

- Self-regulating code of conduct to enforce compliance with ISO 3720 minimum quality standard. Non-compliant members would share data on their standards with other members and the ISO Technical Committee;
- Preparation of a road-map for further research on ISO 3720 compliance and its relation to the health benefits of tea consumption;
- Encouraging consumption of tea that is ISO 3720 compliant and strengthening tea promotion and education;
- Proposal to arrange a workshop among ISO 3720 compliant and non-compliant member countries;
- Identification of donors to fund the technical assistance required in those countries that required support in the implementation of ISO 3720.

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:

- Expanding membership of the WG to other producing members (Nepal and Turkey) and representatives from major organic tea consuming countries (e.g. Germany and Australia), as well as other stakeholders such as certification bodies and IFOAM;
- Extending the FAO seed project on “Carbon neutral tea production in China” to other producing countries and strengthening further its organic tea component;
- Raising producing and consuming countries’ awareness of the importance of organic and carbon-neutral tea farming, involve governments in developing communication plans to popularize the organic farming and provide incentives to cope with potential crop losses and certification costs;
- Establish national bodies in producing countries which could obtain international accreditation, such as the NPOP (India), SLSI (Sri Lanka) and CNCA (China);
- Support green, low input tea farming systems and their promotion to organic status;

- The social welfare of producers and communities and a socio-economic impact assessment of organic farming; and
- The promotion of domestic production of organic tea.

Working Group on Climate Change

At the 22nd and 23rd sessions, 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 level. It was felt appropriate to further strengthen trend analyses by using different statistical models in order to determine the impact of climate trends and compare them with the baseline. In addition, the WG suggested to disseminate, best mitigation and adaptation practices that are replicable in different contexts. The WG will inform the intersessional meeting on the progress made on these commitments and the related results.

Working Group on Smallholders

At the last session of the IGG/Tea, the WG highlighted the significant contributions of smallholders to the tea industry and underscored emerging challenges facing this specific segment before outlining elements of interventions aiming at promoting its integration in the global value chain.

The WG will inform the intersessional meeting on the CITS development process and its ambitions towards promoting an inclusive tea industry.

Working Group on Global Tea Market Analysis and Promotion

The WG on Global Tea Market Analysis and Promotion was established at the 22nd Session of the IGG/Tea in May 2016. Its terms of reference and plan of action were endorsed during the 23rd Session in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China. The Group endorsed the following action plan:

- Conduct market research and analysis on the consumption behaviour of the youth with a view to promote this segment of the tea market;
- Conduct market promotion activities and events at the international level to raise the image of tea as part of a lifestyle;
- Set up an international tea day and sensitize a broader public to the benefits of tea;
- Launch joint cross-country advertising initiatives to promote tea consumption using images, symbols and influential representatives in countries with the aim of attracting more tea consumers;

- Use tea culture and education, history and legends to promote consumption.

WG will inform the intersessional meeting on the progress made in implementing the endorsed action plan.

Task Force on Statistics

During the 23rd Session of the IGG, while adopting the report of the Task Force, the meeting endorsed Task Force's future work plan which included the holding of a workshop for statistical focal points at the next intersessional and/or Intergovernmental meetings. Members were also encouraged to express their interest in participating in the analytical studies prepared for future meetings.

The Intersessional meeting will organize the workshop for statistical focal points, 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.

The meeting will also assess progress made by members in nominating focal points to liaise with the Task Force on Projections and Statistics. The Task Force will share feedbacks and updates on country statistics in order to facilitate the work of the Secretariat in developing analysis of the current market situation and the medium term outlook.

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 to host the 24th Session of the Intergovernmental Group on Tea
 - ii) Any other matters to discuss
- B. Adoption of the report of the intersessional meeting.