

March 2011

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольствен ная и сельскохозяйств енная организация Объединенных	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Hundred and Sixth Session

Rome, 21 - 25 March 2011

REPORT OF PROGRESS ON THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) OF THE COMMITTEE

1. This report was prepared by the Chair of the Programme Committee, following discussions in the previous Committee meetings and written inputs by the Committee Members up to 4 March 2011.

A. PROGRAMME PLANNING AND PRIORITY SETTING

During the biennium 2010-11, the Programme Committee discussed the following issues pertaining to programme and priority setting:

- Priorities for the technical work of the Organization in the 2012-13 biennium
- Corporate strategy on capacity development
- Medium Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13
- Corporate Strategy on Capacity Development
- Sustainable animal health and contained animal-related human health risks – in support of the emerging One-Health agenda

2. All recommendations so far proposed by the Committee were approved by the Council, and therefore the indicators of the MYPOW in this respect were exceeded. The Committee recommendations have been consensual and precise.

3. The Committee reviewed the priorities of the Organization for the biennium 2012-13 in an informal meeting, as well as in its formal sessions. These exchanges of views with the strategy teams and Assistant Directors-General (ADGs) were very useful as they facilitated more focus on the main areas of changes in the PWB, but the formal sessions were greatly hampered by the late arrival of the background documents. In the future, it should be considered how Regional ADGs could be also heard, possibly via video links. The time needed to discuss the underlying reasons for the areas of emphasis and de-emphasis and their resource implications need to be considered in the future.

Assessment of the proposed PWB 2012-13 [To be updated after the 106th Session]

4. The work has been carried in consultation with the Independent Chair of the Council, and the Finance Committee. The reporting from the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees needs to be standardized further to facilitate discussion of the Programme Committee on priorities suggested by

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them. Consultation with the Chairs of the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees also needs to be further developed to improve the discussions on their priorities in the Programme Committee. One way to do this could be for the Independent Chair of the Council to organize a coordinating meeting prior to the meetings of Regional Conferences and Technical Committees, as was done in 2010.

B. RESULTS-BASED MONITORING OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

5. The following issues pertaining to results-based monitoring of programme implementation were discussed by the Programme Committee and the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, respectively:

- Programme Implementation Report 2008-09 (Joint Meeting)
- Mid-term Review Synthesis report – 2010, including review of PWB 2010-11 implementation and proposal for adjustments
- Progress on implementation of the TCP (three times, Joint Meeting)

6. All Council advice and decisions on adjustments to the programme of work have been reflected in the Programme Committee's and Joint Meeting's recommendations. The recommendations of the Committee and the Joint Meeting to the Council have been precise and consensual.

7. The Joint Meeting discussed the outline of the Mid-term Review Synthesis Report, and the annotated outline of the Programme Implementation Report. The first Mid-term Review Synthesis Report – 2010, including review of PWB 2010-11 implementation and proposal for adjustments, was presented and discussed at the 106th Session. *[To be updated after the 106th Session].*

C. EVALUATION

8. The Committee has discussed the following evaluation items:

- Charter for the FAO Office of Evaluation
- Indicative Rolling Workplan of Strategic and Programme Evaluation 2010-12
- Strategic evaluation of FAO country programming and Management Response
- Evaluation of FAO's activities on capacity development in Africa and Management Response
- Second Real-Time Evaluation of FAO's work on HPAI and Management Response
- The Evaluation of FAO's operational capacity in emergencies and Management Response
- Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO and WFP support to information systems for food security and Management Response
- Evaluation of FAO's role and work related to water and Management Response
- Evaluation of FAO's interventions funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Management Response
- Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Subregional Offices for the Near East and Management Response
- FAO's effectiveness at country level: A synthesis of evaluations in post-conflict and transition countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Tajikistan, Sudan) and Management Response
- FAO's effectiveness at country level: A synthesis of evaluations in large, rapidly-developing countries (India and Brazil) and Management Response
- Follow-up to the independent evaluation of FAO's role and work in statistics

9. The Committee has been careful in selecting topics for Evaluation, thereby giving guidance in order to focus FAO's evaluation work on strategic issues. All Evaluations agreed for the future are strategic in nature.

10. The Committee has been fairly thorough in discussing the Evaluation reports and Management Responses. The Committee has also followed-up on earlier Programme Committee recommendations based on Evaluation reports and Management Responses, with the aim of ensuring the integration of their recommendations in FAO's work. While there is evidence that the strategy teams have considered Evaluation recommendations, it is not fully clear how these are systematically reflected, e.g. in the work leading to the Programme of Work and Budget.

11. When considering future topics of evaluation, it might be useful to consider topics related to the structure, content and performance of the FAO field programme, including systems in place for project planning and monitoring. More assessments of aspects of the decentralization process could also be considered, as well as evaluations of key topics or individual Strategic Objectives addressing pressing global challenges.

D. IPA IMPLEMENTATION AND INTEGRATION INTO PWB

12. It was decided by the Finance Committee and Programme Committee Chairs to discuss the remaining IPA-related issues, where decisions had not yet been reached, in the Joint Meetings of the Programme and Finance Committees.

- Access to TCP on a grant basis: eligibility criterion (twice in the Programme Committee)
- Preliminary review of statutory bodies with particular reference to Article XIV bodies and their relationship with FAO (Programme Committee)
- Results-based Work Planning, Monitoring and Reporting System (Joint Meeting, twice)
- Resource mobilization and management strategy (Joint Meeting, twice)
- Progress on decentralization (Joint Meeting)
- Vision for the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices (Joint Meeting)
- FAO strategy on partnerships with the private sector (Joint Meeting)

13. The responsibilities between the mandates of the Programme Committee, the CoC-IEE and OEWG have not been entirely clear. However, the Programme Committee has completed the IPA actions related directly to the Programme Committee work (actions 2.35, 2.36, 2.38, 2.39, 2.44, 2.45, 2.46, and 2.47). In the future, careful planning between the Agendas of the Finance Committee and the Programme Committee, and of the Joint Meetings needs to be continued in order to avoid duplication in the Agendas.

E. IMPROVED METHODS OF WORK AND EFFICIENCY OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

14. The Programme Committee has discussed two issues related to its methods of work:

- Multi-year Programme of Work of the Programme Committee
- Review of progress on the Multi-year Programme of Work for the Committee.

15. The formulation of the MYPOW was facilitated by informal seminars. The Programme Committee was the first of the governing bodies to complete a MYPOW, which was then endorsed by Council.

16. Generally speaking, the Programme Committee has been efficient and effective. The Agendas have been focused, though somewhat crowded. This has sometimes led to a situation where part of the discussions took place without interpretation. Better time management will require more flexible meetings in the future, particularly taking into account the increasing volume of Evaluations.

17. The recommendations to the Council and FAO management have been precise and sharp, and the format was appreciated by the Council.¹ The feedback to the constituencies has thus been satisfactory. The working atmosphere has been friendly and cooperative, and Programme Committee Members have been open to compromises.

¹ CL 139/REP paragraph 20

18. The working relations with the Finance Committee and FAO Secretariat have been smooth. Relations with other governing bodies have been less regular, but have also been friendly and facilitated streamlined work of the governing bodies. In the future there is a need to regularize these relations.

19. The request of the Programme Committee to standardize the presentation in the background documentation, including the cover page, has been met by the Secretariat. However, the delay in receiving the documentation from the Secretariat in all languages on time has been a major problem. The rules in this respect should be observed for the member countries to be able to play the governance role expected of them.

20. Informal meetings have been well attended and have provided opportunities for more in-depth discussions on the most crucial issues (particularly prioritization of FAO work) on the Programme Committee Agenda. They have been appreciated by the Committee Members, and should be considered as a way to also prepare for formal sessions in the future.