



## **European Commission on Agriculture (ECA)**

**36/2 Meeting of the Executive Committee  
15 June 2016**

### **Agenda item 3 – Background note Scope and direction of Informal Consultations (ICs) in 2016-2017**

#### **Background**

Using Informal Consultations as an instrument for interacting with member countries at Regional level has been successful since 2010, taking into consideration the limited presence of FAO at country level. It has been very well received by both beneficiary and donor countries in the Region and is considered an important instrument for interacting with countries between the European Regional Conference.

Informal consultations have been organized at Regional and Subregional level.

The main purpose of the informal consultations was:

- 1) To review priorities in the region and to agree with the member countries on the update of the priorities in preparation for the relevant regional conferences
- 2) To inform and update the member countries of the Region on the status of the implementation of the ongoing PWB
- 3) To facilitate an exchange of views and provide a discussion platform among all members of the European and Central Asia Region to allow dialogue with countries that are not members of the European Regional Group in Rome

#### **Scope of Informal Consultations**

The 30<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference has agreed on the medium term priorities for the upcoming Medium Term Plan (MTP)<sup>1</sup> 2018-2021. However, this is based on a broad range of priority areas for the Region.

With the start of the preparation for the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2018-19 in autumn 2016, it is important to consult with members in the region on further details regarding the next PWB 2018-19.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq752e.pdf>. C. Priorities for FAO's work in the Europe and Central Asia region, para. 23-24

Based on a review of the preliminary results achieved for the biennium 2016-17 and particularly the two Regional Initiatives, lessons learnt should be drawn for the preparation of a more detailed framework for the biennium 2018-19.

It will be important to review the future scope of the Regional Initiatives, confirming their continuation, corrections and adjustments taking into consideration the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals for the Region and the ongoing target setting process at country level.

The main elements of the meeting will be to update the member countries of the Region on:

- Implementation of the PWB 2016-17 and particularly the Regional Initiatives.
- Review of the priorities for the Region for the 2018-19 biennium and confirm or adjust the priorities.
- Consultation regarding possible Regional Initiatives for the biennium 2018-19.

It is important to note that the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Commission on Agriculture will be held in September 2017 in Budapest. The ECA session will also be an integral element of the preparation of the ERC 2018, and will discuss technical issues for decision at the ERC 2018.

The results of the informal consultation related to the priorities and the PWB, as well as the ECA Session will form the basic agenda for the ERC 2018.

The Informal Consultation will be held in the second quarter 2017, tentatively in May 2017

### **Decisions required by the Executive Committee**

- Agreement regarding the timing of the Informal Consultation Meeting
- Views and feedback regarding agenda items for the Informal Consultation Meeting