



COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

Seventy-sixth Session

Rome, 11-13 September 2024

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW)

Executive Summary

This document provides a report on the CCP Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) since the 75th Session of the Committee, held in July 2022, and presents the draft MYPOW for the period 2024-2026. The development of multi-year programmes of work by FAO's Governing Bodies is meant to serve as an instrument to improve the governance and accountability of their work.

The document is prepared as a rolling plan, presenting the method of work of the Committee and it follows the format considered and approved by the Committee in 2012.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the information presented in the document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.
- Approve the proposed MYPOW 2024-26, as set out in Annex 1 to this document.

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

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I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 75th Session held from 13 to 15 July 2022, the Committee received a progress report on the implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) and reviewed and approved the proposed MYPOW for the period 2022-24.

2. As with the previous versions, the new draft MYPOW for the period 2024-26 was developed based on the terms of reference of the Committee, as outlined in Rule XXIX of the General Rules of the Organization.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MYPOW 2022-2024

3. In line with the approved MYPOW 2022-24, regular meetings of the CCP Bureau and other related activities were planned and organized by the Chairperson and the Bureau members, with the support of the Secretariat.

4. As of the end of May 2024, a total of thirteen (13) Bureau meetings were held since the last Session of the CCP to address relevant matters, plan intersessional activities, and prepare for the 76th Session of the Committee.

5. The Bureau has contributed to improving the governance of the Committee by facilitating consultations with the Regional Groups, through the regional representatives in the Bureau. This has proved useful for the work of the CCP and for the organization of intersessional activities and the preparation of the provisional agenda for the 76th Session of the Committee.

A. Strategy, priority setting and budget planning

6. The 75th Session of the CCP, held in a hybrid format, reviewed and discussed developments in international agricultural commodity markets as well as the short- and medium-term outlook and emerging issues. The background documents included discussions on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine on global agricultural commodity markets and food security.

7. The Committee deliberated on the findings of the 2022 edition of *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets* (SOCO) on the theme “The geography of food and agricultural trade: Policy approaches for sustainable development”. The key findings of SOCO 2022 were presented to the Committee in document CCP 22/4. The Committee also received an update on agricultural trade negotiations under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and developments in regional trade agreements (RTAs) related to agriculture.

8. The Committee provided guidance regarding FAO’s work priorities in commodity markets and trade under the Strategic Framework 2022-31. It also reviewed the work of the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) and provided guidance as regards its activities and products.

9. Furthermore, the Committee considered and approved the report of the 31st Session of the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats and the report of the 24th Session of the IGG on Tea.

10. The Committee’s recommendations under the various agenda items contributed to setting the strategic direction for FAO’s work programme in commodity markets and trade and for elaborating the work plans of the Trade and Markets Division for 2023-24.

11. The report of the 75th Session of the CCP was adopted by acclamation on 15 July 2022. It was subsequently endorsed by the Council at its 171st Session in December 2022.

Intersessional activities

12. At its 75th Session, the Committee “*encouraged the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to organize topical intersessional events between the CCP sessions*”. During the intersessional period, the CCP Bureau and the Secretariat organized several activities.

13. On 13 September 2022, an Informal Briefing to Members was organized on FAO’s proposal to establish a Global Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF) to help countries deal with the soaring food import costs. The briefing provided an overview of the Facility as a policy measure, defined the role of FAO, and discussed the possibility of extending it to fertilizers and other agricultural inputs.

14. Following consultations between the Secretariat and the Bureau, two topical intersessional events were organized:

- An intersessional event on “Repurposing agricultural support to transform agrifood systems” was organized on 1 June 2023, with the primary objective of providing a platform for sharing how countries design and implement programmes to repurpose agricultural support to improve agrifood systems sustainability.
- A second intersessional event on “Towards more sustainable and resilient agrifood systems: The importance of responsible global value chains” was organized on 30 October 2023, with the aim to discuss challenges and possible solutions to ensure that policies and regulations for responsible agrifood value chains benefit agricultural producers, including small and medium-scale farmers in developing countries, and support the transition to more sustainable and resilient agrifood systems.

15. Both events were held in hybrid format and were highly appreciated by the participants. The summary reports of the two events are presented in documents CCP 24/INF/8 and CCP 24/INF/9.

16. Further to the two intersessional events, two informal briefing sessions were organized for the Bureau members: i) a briefing on the market situation and prospects for agricultural commodities and price developments was organized on 17 January 2024; and ii) a briefing on crop prospects and price developments globally and regionally was organized on 30 April 2024. Both informal briefings were highly appreciated by the Bureau members.

17. Further to the designation by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) of 21 May as International Tea Day, the Secretariat organized celebration of the Day on 19 May 2023 and 21 May 2024. In 2023, the celebration focussed on smallholder tea farmers, while in 2024 the focus was on women in the tea sector. A number of activities were organized on these occasions, including high-level and technical panels, exhibitions and cultural activities, and tea-tasting segments. The celebrations were inaugurated by the FAO Director-General inaugurated.

B. Global policy and regulatory matters

18. The report of the 75th Session of the Committee was considered and endorsed by the FAO Conference at its 43rd Session, held in July 2023.

19. As a contribution to the 78th Session of the UNGA held in 2023, the Secretariat prepared the section on Natural Plant Fibres and Sustainable Development as part of the United Nations Secretary-General’s *Report on Agriculture Development and Food Security and Nutrition*. Furthermore, the Secretariat provided technical support and responded to enquiries by the Members throughout the process leading up to the adoption by the UNGA of resolution A/RES/78/169 on natural plant fibres and sustainable development.

20. At the invitation of the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the CCP submitted inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

(HLPF). In 2023, the Committee provided input to the 2023 HLPF, which was on the theme “*Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels*”. In 2024, the Committee provided input to the 2024 HLPF, which was on the theme “*Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions*”. The inputs were prepared by the Secretariat and reviewed by the Bureau members. The CCP inputs were submitted as part of FAO’s corporate submission to the HLPF.

Name of the Committee

21. At the 75th Session and under the agenda item on the MYPOW, the Committee “*requested the Bureau to reflect on the need to review the name of the Committee, and its harmonization in the different UN official languages, taking into account recent situational changes such as the growing focus on positive contributions by commodity markets and trade*”.

22. To inform the discussion of the Bureau, the Secretariat prepared a background note, which is presented in document CCP 24/INF/10. The Bureau members discussed the matter at the second and third meetings of the Bureau, in January and February 2023, respectively.

23. The Bureau members noted that the French version of the Committee’s name is not aligned with the English version, as it does not contain the word “Problems” and underlined the need for its harmonization in all the official languages. The members also stressed the need for a quick decision, without prolonging discussions, considering the many more pressing issues that the Bureau and the Committee need to deal with.

24. The Bureau members discussed the matter and did not reach a consensus to change the name of the Committee. A change in name would entail opening the Basic Texts and entering into a time-consuming process that would not be in line with other Committee’s priorities at this point in time. The Bureau has fulfilled its mandate and suggests to the Plenary to maintain the name.

C. Work planning and working methods

25. The background documents and the constructive deliberations of the 75th Session of the Committee enabled the preparation and adoption of a concise report, focusing on specific action-oriented recommendations, for presentation to the FAO Council and Conference.

26. During its 75th Session, the Committee received a progress report on the MYPOW 2021-23 and endorsed its MYPOW for the period 2022-24.

27. Interaction was maintained with the secretaries of the other technical committees to exchange information and promote coordination of action. Two informal working lunches were organized, with the participation of the chairpersons and secretaries, to discuss preparations for the sessions in 2024 and possible collaboration on topics of mutual interest. The first informal working lunch was organized by the Secretariat of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) on 29 January 2024, while the second was organized by the Secretariat of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) on 30 April 2024.

28. The CCP Bureau, and particularly the Chairperson, has maintained regular and constant contact with the Secretariat, located in the Markets and Trade Division (EST).

29. The draft provisional agenda of the 76th Session of the CCP was prepared through close consultation between the Bureau and the Secretariat and subsequently approved by the Director-General. The regional representation in the Bureau facilitated interaction and consultation with the various Regional Groups.

ANNEX 1

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) 2024-26 OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

1. As outlined in Rule XXIX.6 of the General Rules of the Organization, the Committee shall:
 - a) keep under review commodity problems of an international character affecting production, trade, distribution, consumption and related economic matters;
 - b) prepare a factual and interpretative survey of the world commodity situation, which may be made available directly to Member Nations;
 - c) report and submit suggestions to the Council on policy issues arising out of its deliberations. The reports of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies shall be made available to Member Nations for their information.
2. The Committee reports to FAO Council and Conference, as appropriate, on relevant matters under its competence.

II. RESULTS FOR 2024-26

A. Strategy, priority setting and budget planning

3. Result:

The Organization has a clear strategy, well-defined priorities, and relevant programmes and budget for the issues under the competence of the Committee.

4. Indicators and targets:

- World commodity market situation and outlook, policy developments, and work priorities in commodity markets and trade in line with SDG targets and FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 are reviewed and discussed by the Committee.
- The findings of the flagship report *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)* are presented to the Bureau members ahead of the CCP sessions and are discussed by the Members during the Committee's sessions.
- The guidance and recommendations on work priorities are taken into consideration in the preparation of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) 2026-29 and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) 2026-27.

5. Output:

Reports of the Committee and clear and consensual recommendations based on updated information and evidence are presented to the Council, providing a solid basis for guidance and decision.

6. Activities:

- Review the current situation and developments in its areas of mandate, including issues of topical significance to the international community, in line with achieving the SDGs.
- Review decisions and recommendations from other global and regional fora relevant to commodities, trade and related policies, and their implications for Members and FAO.
- Review decisions and recommendations from other FAO Governing and Statutory Bodies and sub-committees, as appropriate.

- Formulate clear, consensual and actionable recommendations in commodity markets and trade for setting work priorities, strategies, programmes and budget under the Strategic Framework.

B. Advice on global policy and regulatory matters

7. Result:

The Committee's decisions and recommendations provide a solid basis to inform the decisions and recommendations taken by the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters.

8. Indicators and targets:

- Members obtain value from the deliberations of the Committee, using the resulting advice and recommendations to guide actions and policies.
- Clear and specific recommendations made by the Committee to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate.
- The report of the Committee, including recommendations, is endorsed by the Conference.

9. Output:

The reports of the Committee with clear and consensual recommendations for FAO Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments.

10. Activities:

- Report to the Conference on global policy and regulatory issues arising out of the Committee's deliberations.
- Review the status of relevant international agreements, instruments and processes in the areas of competence of the Committee.
- Address new and emerging issues and recommend possible policy and action options for Members, FAO and other relevant stakeholders.
- Organize events, as appropriate, in the areas of the Committee's competence.

III. EFFECTIVE WORK PLANNING OF CCP

11. Result:

The Committee works efficiently and effectively, in an action-oriented and inclusive way.

12. Indicators and targets:

- Agendas are prepared in close consultation with the Regional Groups and are focused, topical and responsive to emerging needs.
- The documents are made available in all FAO languages at least six weeks before the sessions, or earlier where possible.
- The sessions are conducted in an efficient and effective manner.
- Reports of the sessions are concise, contain action-oriented recommendations and are made available to Members, Council and Conference in a timely manner.
- Intersessional activities are led and organized by the CCP Bureau, with support from the Secretariat, on issues of topical and emerging importance within the mandate of the Committee.
- Information sessions on issues of topical importance and based on already published products are organized by the Secretariat for the CCP Bureau members, with information to be disseminated to the Regional Groups.

Outputs:

- Focused agendas and concise reports containing specific action-oriented recommendations to both the Council and the Conference.
- Reports published electronically soon after conclusion of the sessions.
- Progress report on current MYPOW and draft new MYPOW approved by the Members.

13. Activities:

- Formulate focussed agendas in close consultation with the Regional Groups.
- Support the Secretariat in the preparation of documents of the sessions that are concise and informative and make them available in a timely manner.
- Organize side events to the sessions, in consultation with the Members as appropriate.

IV. WORKING METHODS

14. The work of the Committee is based on regular review and analysis of global trends and developments in agricultural commodity markets, trade policies and related issues within the areas of its competence. It operates based on the following working methods:

- Regular contact and consultation with the CCP Secretariat based in EST.
- Collaboration with FAO Governing Bodies and relevant statutory bodies under FAO auspices.
- Liaison with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters and with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters, as required.
- Interaction with other global fora active in areas of relevance to the Committee, including through the possible participation of Bureau members in relevant meetings and events.
- Regular intersessional activities facilitated by the Committee's Chairperson and the Bureau, with support from the Secretariat.
- Information sessions on issues of topical importance and based on published work and reports organized at the request of the Chairperson and the Bureau.
- Promotion and facilitation of the participation of farmers and civil society organizations and the private sector, within the rules and regulations of the Organization.

15. The Committee shall have the following standing items in its sessions:

- Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable
- Designation of the Drafting Committee
- World commodity market situation and outlook: short- and medium-terms
- The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO)
- Update on WTO agricultural negotiations and regional trade agreements (RTAs)
- Reports of the Intergovernmental Groups (IGGs)
- FAO's programme of work in commodity markets and trade
- Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW)
- Election of the new Bureau Members
- Arrangements for the next Session of the Committee
- Adoption of the Report

16. Specific issues for the agenda of the 77th Session will be identified by the Bureau, in consultation with Regional Groups and the Secretariat, with due consideration of relevant decisions by other FAO Governing Bodies, as well as developments in relevant international and regional processes related to food and agricultural commodity markets and trade.