

## **176th Session of the FAO Council**

### **Subitem 7.2: Report of the 76th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (Rome, 11-13 September 2024)**

The Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) held its 76th Session from 11 to 13 September 2024 in hybrid mode. The Report of the Session is submitted to the Council in document C 2025/22.

The agenda covered ten items under four substantive areas: i) “World Agricultural Commodity Markets”; ii) “Policy Matters”; iii) “Programmatic Matters”; and iv) “Governance Matters”. In addition, it included a proposal to establish an International Coffee Day.

Under “World Agricultural Commodity Markets”, the Committee recognized that, while global food and agricultural markets have recently stabilized, they remain susceptible to shocks. It requested the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to continue monitoring trends and impacts across the three dimensions of sustainable development. Furthermore, the Committee highlighted the significance of market transparency and emphasized the significant role played by the Agricultural Market Information System. It requested FAO to continue and further strengthen its commodity intelligence work and dissemination to guide policy decisions and foster policy coordination among Members. The Committee also stressed the important technical role of FAO in assessing and addressing, within its mandate, the impact of all ongoing wars and conflicts, particularly in key commodity exporting countries, on agricultural commodity markets and trade. Moreover, it highlighted the importance of increasing agricultural productivity and production in a sustainable manner for achieving food security and improving nutrition. Moreover, the Committee reviewed developments in international fertilizer markets and underlined the importance of keeping open, fluid and transparent trade of fertilizers to reduce uncertainty and avoid the negative impact on global food security.

The Committee reviewed the medium-term trends and prospects for agricultural commodity markets and emphasized that current challenges these markets are facing may have serious implications for food security and sustainability over the medium-term. It highlighted the importance of medium-term projections and requested FAO to strengthen its outreach and capacity development activities to promote the uptake of these medium-term projections and analyses. The Committee also commended FAO for the excellent partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Under “Policy Matters”, the Committee discussed the findings of the 2024 edition of *The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets* report on the theme of trade and nutrition. It acknowledged the complexity of the interlinkages between food trade, food security, dietary patterns, nutritional outcomes and sustainable development. The Committee underlined the importance of trade, emphasizing that its effects on nutrition can be widely heterogeneous across countries. It encouraged Members to improve their capacities, as required, to strengthen coherence between trade, food security and nutrition policies, and requested FAO to provide technical support in this regard. The Committee also stressed the importance of harmonizing, where appropriate, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures, including through international standards, which can facilitate food trade and improve food safety and nutrition.

The Committee underlined the importance of multilateralism and of a rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, for promoting agricultural and rural development and contributing to world food security and improved nutrition. It expressed appreciation for FAO’s work in agricultural trade and requested the Organization to strengthen its technical assistance to Members, including support to address climate- and environment-related issues affecting agrifood commodities.

Under “Programmatic Matters”, the Committee reviewed FAO’s programme of work in commodity markets and trade under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. It appreciated the achievements realized

during the 2022-23 biennium and commended the richness and quality of the products and services. Furthermore, the Committee reviewed the global developments and trends that are expected to impact FAO's work in these areas and endorsed the identified priorities in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. It also urged the Organization to ensure regional balance in its work in agricultural commodity markets and trade and requested future work to consider the particular challenges and opportunities in Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States.

The Committee expressed appreciation for FAO's work on agricultural value chains, including through collaboration with other partners, and requested the Organization to continue and further strengthen its work in this area to promote efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agricultural value chains, by conducting analysis, providing capacity development, supporting responsible investment, and facilitating dialogue events and collaboration among stakeholders.

Under "Governance Matters", the Committee considered and endorsed the Report of the 25th Session of the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Tea and the *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 41st Session of the IGG on Hard Fibres, the 43rd Session of the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres, and the 22nd Session of the Sub-Group of Sisal and Henequen Producing Countries*. Additionally, the Committee reviewed the progress report on the implementation of its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2022-24, approved the MYPOW for 2024-26, and provided guidance on the future work of the CCP. The Committee also agreed to retain its name unchanged.

Finally, the CCP endorsed the proposal by Brazil to observe an International Coffee Day on 1 October of each year, and requested the Secretariat and the CCP Bureau to make any necessary adjustments to the proposal and advance it for endorsement by the 176th Session of the Council and 44th Session of the Conference, with a view to its subsequent consideration by the United Nations General Assembly.

The Report of the 76th Session of the CCP is presented for endorsement.

*Ambassador, Ms Krisztina Bende, Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems*