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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twenty-fifth Session

Rome 26 - 30 September 2016

Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee

Executive Summary

This document provides the progress report of the COAG Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2014-2017 and the draft COAG MYPOW 2016-2019. The first MYPOWs, covering the period of 2012-2015 and 2014-2017 were developed by the Bureau and adopted by the 23rd and 24th Sessions of the Committee.

The current COAG MYPOW has been developed on the basis of guidance received from the Committee and intends to provide a solid basis for guiding its work in the 2016-19 period.

The document is presented as a rolling plan, presenting the method of work of the Committee and follows the format already set out by the Committee in 2012.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- 1) Review the progress report of the implementation of the approved MYPOW 2014-17 in accordance with its overall objectives and mandate and make recommendations for further improvement.
- 2) Review and approve the proposed MYPOW 2016-2019, set out in the Annex. The Committee may wish to note the changes in the MYPOW for improvement as compared to the version submitted to its last session, which are shown in *underlined italics*.

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

The Chairperson of COAG

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I. Background

1. At its 23rd Session (21 - 25 May 2012), the Committee reviewed, amended and approved its draft MYPOW 2012-2015. As a rolling plan the Committee adopted its second MYPOW 2014-2017 at its 24th Session (29 September - 3 October 2014). The development of the COAG MYPOW conforms to the recommendations embodied in Actions 2.70 to 2.72 of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA), and adheres to the periodicity specified by the IPA in terms of the timeframe covered by the programme as well as the submission of timelines of progress reports to Governing Bodies.
2. As underscored by the Committee, the first two MYPOWs of the Committee provided an important step towards the improvement of COAG's efficiency and transparency. The MYPOW guided the work of COAG and the Secretariat over the last four years. The Secretariat provided regular progress reports to the Bureau, the Committee and the Council.
3. At its 24th Session the Committee reviewed the implementation of the MYPOW and based on a detailed progress report gave its guidance for the development of the next MYPOW, noting the opportunities for enhancement in terms of a more strategic and forward looking document, enabling collaboration among FAO Technical Committees and Regional Conferences.
4. Following the review of the recommendations of the Independent evaluation of FAO's Governing Bodies, the 39th Session of the Conference stressed that the *"MYPOWs for Technical Committees and Regional Conferences could enable continuity and longer-term planning and accountability if their potential is fully realized"*¹.
5. The current document has been developed on the basis of the guidance received from the Committee, the Council and the Conference and intends to provide a solid basis for guiding the work of the Committee in the 2016-2019 period.

II. Progress Report on the MYPOW: Results for 2014-2016

A. Strategy, priority setting, and budget planning

6. The decisions and recommendations by the 24th Session of COAG were reported, reviewed and adopted by the 150th Session of Council as well as the 39th Session of Conference, providing a solid basis for the strategy, priority setting and budget planning of the Organization.
7. The Committee reviewed the new FAO Strategic Framework, current issues in **agriculture** (Family Farming, Sustainable Production Intensification and Sustainable Food Systems, FAO's Strategy for Improving Food Safety Globally, the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS), and the International Rice Commission); **livestock** (Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, *Peste des Petits Ruminants* Global Eradication Programme); **economic and social development** (New Data for Monitoring Investment in Agriculture), **natural resources management** (Report of the Second Meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP), Water Governance for Agriculture and Food Security); and Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.
8. The Committee organized nine side events of relevance to priority or topical issues on the agenda: (1) Building a common vision on sustainable food and agriculture; (2) UN participation in Expo Milano 2015; (3) Food Security, Nutrition, and Sustainable Agriculture in Post-2015 Development Agenda; (4) International Symposium on Agroecology For Food Security and Nutrition; (5) Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division for Nuclear Techniques; (6) The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2); (7) Fast track to improving food security

¹ C 2015/26 Rev. 1 Recommendation 14

and mitigating climate change: the Agriculture Initiative of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition; (8) Climate-Smart Agriculture; (9) Ebola Outbreak: Impact on Agriculture and Food Security in West Africa.

9. Considerable progress was made in strengthening the collaboration among FAO Technical Committees. A joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Technical Committees held in June 2015 made recommendations for future joint activities and gave guidance for enhancing collaboration further. Key results of the coordination included the discussion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), FAO's climate change corporate strategy and the follow up on the outcome of ICN2 by the Technical Committees during their respective sessions, as well as the presentation of the State of the World's Forest 2016 (SOFO): Forests and Agriculture, at the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO).

10. The indicators and targets were successfully met and all planned activities performed. The Secretariat reported about the status of implementation of the recommendations of the 24th Session of COAG by FAO. The report is presented to this session of the Committee under Agenda item 14 (document COAG/2016/12).

B. Advise on global policy and regulatory matters

11. The Committee presented its recommendations to the Conference including those related to the Strategic Objectives and were fully endorsed by the Conference at its 39th session.

C. Work planning

12. The deliberations at the 24th Session of COAG have enabled the formulation of a concise report embodying specific action-oriented recommendations to be presented to the FAO Council and Conference.

13. During that session the Committee approved its MYPOW for the period 2014-17. The Progress Report of MYPOW 2012-14 was developed during the intersession and submitted to the 24th Session of COAG for its review and further recommendation.

14. As a rolling document, the MYPOW 2014-17 was submitted to the 24th Session of COAG for its review and approval. The MYPOW 2016-2019 is presented for approval to the present session of the Committee.

15. The agenda for the 25th Session of COAG has been elaborated by the Bureau in close consultation with countries, Regional Groups and the Secretariat.

D. Working Methods

16. In line with the endorsed MYPOW 2014-17, four regular intersessional Bureau meetings have been facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau composed of representatives of all seven regional groups with support from the Secretariat. In addition, the Bureau participated in a joint meeting of the Technical Committees' bureaux where the issue of strengthening collaboration was discussed. Two of the Bureau meetings were devoted to the preparation of the agenda of the 25th Session of COAG.

ANNEX 1 - Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Committee on Agriculture (2016-2019)

I. Overall Objectives for the Committee on Agriculture

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) conducts periodic reviews and appraisals, on a highly selective basis, of agricultural and nutritional problems, with a view to proposing concerted action by Member Nations and the Organization. It advises the Council on the overall medium- and longer-term work programme of the Organization relating to agriculture and livestock, food, natural resources and nutrition, with emphasis on the integration of all social, technical, economic, institutional and structural aspects related to agricultural and rural development in general². It provides well-founded advice and action-oriented recommendations to the Conference on global policy and regulatory matters, in its areas of mandate.

II. Results for 2016-2019

A. Strategy, priority setting, and budget planning

Result: The Organization has a clear strategy, well-defined priorities and programmes on issues of relevance to the Committee, and the international community at large is provided with up-to-date information on the world situation, *global major trends and drivers of change* in agriculture and livestock, food and nutrition and natural resources management.

Indicators and targets:

- *Key global and regional* developments *including global major trends and drivers of change* in the areas of mandate *identified, including through the Regional Conferences and* part of the regular sessions of COAG;
- Committee's recommendations made on the pertinent aspects of the Strategic Framework, the Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) reflected in the Council Report.

Output: Clear, precise and consensual recommendations on strategy, priorities, programmes and budget for the Organization *made by the Committee* are favourably considered by Council and provide a solid basis for its guidance and decisions.

Activities:

- Review the current situation in its areas of mandate, including issues of topical significance to Regional Groups and the international community;
- *Address issues of high priority and emerging issues identified by the Regional Conferences and other FAO's bodies;*
- *Review decisions and recommendations from other FAO governing and statutory bodies and committees;*
- Review implementation of the PWB in areas falling within the committee's competence;
- Formulate clear consensual, timely and well-developed recommendations on the strategies, priorities, programmes, and budget in areas falling within the committee's competence;
- Organize side events of relevance to priority or topical issues on the agenda;
- Specific issues of topical significance are addressed during the scheduled sessions.

² Rule XXXII 6 a) and b) of the Basic Texts

Working methods

- Chairperson continuously and effectively liaises with the secretariat;
- Intersessional work by the Bureau, supported by the secretariat to identify topics of significance for the agenda;
- Collaboration with other relevant FAO Governing (in particular Council, and other Technical Committees) and statutory bodies.

B. Advise on global policy and regulatory matters

Result: Based on the Committee's recommendations, the FAO, through its Conference, and taking into consideration regional priorities, gives clear, relevant and useful advice on major policy and regulatory issues confronting the globe, regions, and individual member nations, within the areas of competence.

Indicators and targets:

- Member nations obtain value from the deliberations of COAG, using the advice and recommendations to guide domestic and regional actions and policies as reported by FAO;
- Clear and specific recommendations made in a timely manner by COAG to the Conference regarding global policy and regulatory matters in its areas of mandate;
- Committee's recommendations made on global policy and regulatory matters are reflected in the Conference Report.

Output: Clear, precise and consensual recommendations for Conference on policy and regulatory frameworks or instruments.

Activities:

- Report to the Conference on global policy and regulatory issues arising out of its deliberations;
- Review the status of relevant international instruments, including codes of conduct in areas of competence for the Committee;
- Consider possible solutions with a view to support concerted action by Members themselves or collectively through FAO and other relevant bodies on issues or concerns in areas of competence for the Committee;
- Identify and review new trends and emerging issues in the areas of competence;
- Develop recommendations and guidance for the consideration of the Conference.

Working methods

- Close collaboration with relevant FAO Departments and Units through the Chairperson and the Bureau;
- Chairperson and the Bureau, through consultations, to facilitate member nations participation during intersessions.

III. Work planning

Result: COAG works effectively and efficiently, in an action-oriented, transparent and inclusive way.

Indicators and targets:

- COAG agendas are focused and responsive to emerging needs;
- COAG agendas are coordinated with other Technical Committees as appropriate;
- COAG reports are concise and contain specific, action-oriented recommendations to both Council and Conference;

- COAG documents are made available in all FAO languages four weeks before the session commences;
- Continuity in terms of inter-sessional work;
- Level of participation of COAG members in the planning and inter-sessional work of the Committee.

Outputs

- Multi-year Programme of Work 2016-2019 for COAG adopted in 2016;
- Progress report on COAG's MYPOW in 2018.

Activities:

- Consider ways to improve the conduct of sessions, including more efficient use of the time available;
- Focus side events on key issues;
- Facilitate coordination with other Technical Committees as well as Regional Conferences;
- Work out clear modalities for the election and operation of the Bureau with a view to enhancing continuity between sessions;
- Pay continued attention to effective arrangements for the formulation of agendas and drafting of the final report;
- Enhance consultative participation of COAG members in planning and inter-sessional work of the Committee;
- Regular review of methods of work, including through indicators and targets specified in the MYPOW.

Outstanding and strategic issues to be tracked overtime:

The critical analysis of the agendas of the past COAG sessions as well the analysis of the global trends and emerging issues in the global agricultural development agenda showed that issues such as sustainable food systems, nutrition, climate change, women and youth empowerment, technological innovations, smallholder farmers, smallholder seed systems, sustainable soil management, sustainable livestock development, have always been in the centre of COAG discussions and deliberations and will need to be tracked overtime.

IV. Working methods

The work of the Committee is based on the review of worldwide trends in sectoral policies and regulations within the areas of competence. It collaborates with statutory and other bodies under FAO auspices, liaises with the Programme Committee on strategy and priority matters, and with the Finance Committee on financial and budgetary matters. It collaborates with other relevant FAO Governing Bodies, liaises with other international organizations active in the areas of agriculture, food and nutrition. It undertakes regular inter-sessional activities facilitated by the Chairperson and the Bureau and with proactive support from the Secretariat. It encourages and facilitates participation of farmer's, private sector's and civil society's organizations as observers.