

28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture - Written correspondence procedure

Item 4.3 Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee (MYPOW)

Secretariat response to written questions from the Members

The Secretariat expresses its appreciation for the comments from Members on Item 4.3 “Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Committee (MYPOW)”. All comments are duly noted and recorded below.

The Secretariat welcomes the comments provided by the European Union and its 27 Member States and the appreciation of the work undertaken by COAG in the intersessional period since the 27th Session of COAG, including on the establishment of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock with the aim to strengthen the technical advice available to COAG on substantive livestock-related matters.

The Secretariat took note of the positive comments regarding the enhanced collaboration among FAO Technical Committees and between COAG and other FAO Governing and Statutory Bodies, including strengthened coordination between COAG and the Committee on Forestry (COFO) on cross-sectoral matters.

The Secretariat notes the recommendation to COAG to continue giving full attention to the ongoing global impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on agriculture and food systems and the multidimensional food security and nutrition challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss and conflicts, exacerbated by the severe consequences of the war in Ukraine among the outstanding and strategic issues to be tracked over time by COAG future sessions.

The Secretariat welcomes the request to regularly discuss highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) at COAG Sessions and to keep Members updated on related activities. HHPs pose major threats to human health and the environment, threatening the transformation to sustainable agrifood systems and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Reducing risks of HHPs is a priority for FAO. Addressing HHPs has been identified as an issue of concern in the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management (SAICM). A progress report on HHPs by FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be prepared for the 5th International Conference on Chemical Management of SAICM.

The Secretariat took note of the need to consider in the next COAG agenda the priorities identified in the Regional Conferences, aligned to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 related to COAG’s mandate.

The Secretariat appreciates the importance given by the United States of America to the Committee’s work and will continue to support the regular involvement of Members in intersessional activities, in particular through consultations, and implement the MYPOW in an efficient manner.