



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR  
L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS  
PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

ESC: CSP/75/1

February 1975

EXPERT CONSULTATION ON CEREAL STOCK  
POLICIES RELATING TO WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Rome, 24-28 February 1975

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Meeting arrangements

The Expert Consultation on Cereal Stock Policies will open at FAO Headquarters, at 9.30 a.m. on Monday 24 February 1975. The meeting will be held in the Ethiopia room (C285/289). The suggested meeting hours will be from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. from 2.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Provision has been made for the Consultation to continue on Friday 28 February 1975. The names of the participants nominated so far are shown in Annex A, together with other countries invited. Simultaneous interpretation facilities are available for English, French and Spanish.

Objectives of Consultation

The Consultation is being held on the proposal of the ad hoc Working Party on World Food Security, as endorsed by the FAO Council and the Committee on Commodity Problems. It is aimed at an exchange of views on a number of practical problems relating to world food security, with the intent of providing practical guidance which could be taken into account by countries in formulating their national stock policies for the purpose of world food security. Although the link between stock policies and price stabilization is recognized, the main purpose of the present Consultation is to examine the technical and economic aspects of these problems, and to facilitate, but not duplicate any discussions under the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations on these topics.

The experts have been nominated by the governments concerned, but participate in their personal capacity.

Discussion by FAO Committee on Commodity Problems:  
(for information)

The relevant extract from the report of the 49th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (October 1974) is attached in Annex B.

Documents for Background Information

The following documents are attached, providing useful background information:

- i. Report of the Working Party on World Food Security (Rome, 27-31 May 1974)

- ii. World Food Security : Evaluation of the World Cereals Stock Situation (CL 64/27 October 1974).
- iii. Food Reserve Policies for World Food Security (An FAO Consultant Study). (This document will be transmitted at a later date).
- iv. Grains Stocks Issues and Alternatives, USDA.
- v. National and Regional Reserves (A recent FAO study).
- vi. A Policy and Action Plan for Strengthening National Food Security in Ethiopia (Report of an FAO Mission, Rome, 1974).

5. Discussion of the Main Papers

The main discussion during the Consultation will centre on the following topics, on the basis of the papers to be submitted by the Experts:

- i. Methods of assessing the desirable size of stocks for food security and ways of sharing the cost burden between countries.
- ii. Ways of balancing the costs and benefits of national (or regional) stocks, assuming either full or partial insurance against crop failure and other contingencies.
- iii. Ways of regulating the effects on commercial markets and prices of national stock policies formulated in the context of world food security.
- iv. Criteria for the size and release of separate national emergency stocks for local and/or international relief, including the possibilities of segregating such stocks from commercial markets.
- v. Alternative means by which governments (not holding their own stocks) can encourage private stockholders to meet the official objectives of national stock policies.
- vi. Desirable main elements to be contained or considered in a "model" national stock policy for cereals, compatible with the objectives of world food security, taking account of the different types of situations existing in different regions. (The model is intended to offer practical advice to countries wishing to formulate national stock policies for this purpose).

Each of the above topics will be introduced by two main speakers, who will have prepared the papers under consideration. The discussion will be led by two "discussants", followed by a general debate on the main issues. Copies of the papers by the Experts will be circulated as soon as possible, in the original language. The summaries of the papers would be circulated in other working languages, provided they are received in time to permit translation.

6. Main conclusions of the Consultation

While no lengthy report of the discussions is contemplated, it is intended to prepare a concise account of the main issues considered and the conclusions of the experts. The Committee on Commodity Problems has agreed that this report should be transmitted as soon as it is ready, for information, to all member nations of FAO and/or the United Nations.