

March 2012



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Twenty-third Session

Rome, 21 - 25 May 2012

Multi-year Programme of Work of the Committee

Executive Summary

The document contains the draft COAG Multi-year Programme of Work 2012-15 which was prepared by the Bureau of COAG as foreseen in the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal (IPA).

Suggested action by the Committee:

The Committee is invited to review the draft Multi-year Programme of Work 2012-15, and make any amendments thereto as appropriate. The Committee may wish to approve the agreed text.

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

The Chairperson of COAG

I. Overall Objectives for the Committee on Agriculture for 2013-2015

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 and nutrition, with emphasis on the integration of all social, technical, economic, institutional and structural aspects related to agricultural and rural development in general¹. 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 2012-2015

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.

Indicators and targets:

- Summary presentation of developments in the areas of mandate is 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) are reflected in the Council Report.

Output: Clear, precise and consensual recommendations on strategy, priorities, programmes and budget for the Organization 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 the international community;
- 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;
- Side events may be organized, depending on the issues on the agenda.

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 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.

¹ Rule XXXII 6 a) and b) of the Basic Texts

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 in areas of competence for the Committee.

III. Effective work planning of COAG

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

Indicators and targets:

- COAG agendas are focused;
- 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.

Outputs

- Multi-Year Programme of Work for COAG adopted in 2012;
- Progress report on COAG's MYPOW in 2014.

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;
- 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.

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, takes into account relevant recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on measures designed to increase the efficiency of Governing Bodies, including representation (OEWG report submitted to the 37th Conference of June-July 2011), 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.