## **IMMEDIATE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION PLAN**

Based on the Group’s renewed strategy, the Joint Meeting devised and agreed upon the following intergovernmental action plan, which calls for immediate progress to be made in all strategic areas. Unless indicated otherwise, the Secretariat will be responsible for implementing the Action Plan under the guidance and assistance of the nominated “Champions”.

***a) Policy***

* Actively engage in monitoring policy in trade and market developments, including their impact on countries and regions. To this end, the existing questionnaire should be modified to include emerging trade related issues.
* Synthesize the numerous studies and make them available to Members. Develop partnerships among FAO, the Champions and other relevant stakeholders to improve information sharing and dissemination.
* Analyze policies which impact consumption of fibres.
* Governments to be involved with policy formulation related to fibres.

**Champion:** Mr Wilson Andrade (Chairperson), Mr Salum Shamte

***b) Research and development***

* Agronomic
* Processing
* Markets
* Programme on R & D will be developed by the Champions and submitted for consideration of the Groups by early February 2012. The Secretariat with the guidance and assistance from the Champions.
* Innovation and replication

**Champions:** Messrs Alcides Lopes Leão, Dilip Tambyrajah and Ms Ines Toro Suarez

***c) Analysis***

* Market outlook and projections of raw materials and products
* Foundation for model building
* Annual market reports
* Strengthen and improve data capability through FAO Representatives and other sources
* Mechanism for dissemination and analysis
* Greater focus should be given to market conditions and trends, including local and regional markets, the impacts of biotechnology on trade, demand for traditional products in emerging or lesser-known markets and opportunities for sisal and other fibres in the construction industry.

With the guidance and assistance from the Champions, countries should provide information necessary to carry out the work on analysis, including the regular market assessments and medium term projections.

 **Champions:** Mr HamisiMapinda **Members of the Working Group:** Colombian Chain of Value for Fique, Fiber Industry Development Authority, National Kenaf and Tobacco Board of Malaysia, Tanzania Sisal Board, The Jute Study Group, The London Sisal Association, The Philippine Coconut Authority and any others

***d) Standards and certification***

* The Champions will identify and review standards and certification requirements and advise the Secretariat of existing and continuing work in this area for dissemination to the Groups. Deadline: March 2012

 **Champions:** Messrs Dilip Tambyrajah, Alcides Lopes Leão, Ahmad Bin Loman and Peter Clasen

***e)*** ***Value chain***

* Analysis of each fibre value chain which should also underpin research and development efforts to maximize plant utilization and identify options for improving smallholder participation in the value chain.
* Product/process development should aim at 100 percent utilization.

The Secretariat with the guidance and assistance of the Champion will coordinate and map the way forward for value chain analyses requirements of the Groups.

 **Champion:** Mr Daniel Cruz

***f) Promotion and networking***

* The suggestion of the creation of a working group to assist the Champion was seen as being the way forward
* Natural fibres could be promoted through private sector companies that use natural fibres in their products (i.e. automobile industries) and greater use of the Future Fibres website to share information on available research
* The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) could collaborate with the IGG/HFJU, particularly in the area of job creation, poverty alleviation and increasing food security
* Promotion idea: natural fibres industry to work with plastic industries
* Logo needs to be improved, especially the sisal and jute plants
* E-groups/blogs
* Share information
* Advertise websites
* Prioritize

 The Secretariat will liaise with the Champion to promote the work of the Group via the electronic forum to be included in the Future Fibres website.

 **Champion:** Mr Wilson Andrade (Chairperson)
 **Members of the Working Group:** Ms Cecilia Gloria J. Soriano, Messrs Dilip Tambyrajah
 and Alcides Lopes Leão