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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

31ST SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON OILSEEDS, OILS AND FATS

4–5 March 2021

Draft report

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats held its 31st Session on 4–5 March 2021, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. A total of 66 FAO Members and three international organizations registered for the Session. The list of participants will be made available in document CCP:OOF21/INF.2.
2. The Session was opened by Mr. Gustaf Daud Sirait of the Republic of Indonesia, Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), who called for nominations for the Chairperson and two Vice- Chairpersons for the IGG on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats.
3. The Group elected Her Excellency Ambassador Ina Hagniningtyas Krisnamurthi of the Republic of Indonesia as Chairperson and Messrs. Yaya Olaniran of Nigeria and Bommanakanti Rajender of India as Vice-Chairpersons for the IGG on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats.
4. The Session was convened virtually, on an exceptional basis, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public health concerns and constraints. This followed by endorsement of the Group that the virtual meeting constituted a formal Session of the IGG on Oilseeds, Oils and Fats. The Group noted the prior consultations with the CCP Bureau and its recommendation to convene the meeting virtually.
5. The Group agreed to apply its Rules of Procedure and practices to the conduct of this Session and to suspend any rules that may be incompatible with the virtual meeting for the purposes of this Session. The Group also agreed to the application of any special procedures or amended working modalities as may be required for the efficient conduct of the Session.
6. The Group agreed on the arrangements for the preparation of the draft report of the Session.

7. The Group adopted the Provisional Agenda and Provisional Timetable for the Session. The Agenda is reproduced in Appendix A to this Report.

II. RECENT MARKETS AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

8. Based on presentations made by the Secretariat, the Meeting reviewed recent developments in the global oilseeds, oil and meals markets, including the short- and medium term market outlook and relevant policy changes and industry initiatives (CCP:OOF21/CRS1 and CCP:OOF21/CRS2).

9. The Group reviewed recent production, utilization, international trade, stocks, price, and policy developments concerning the oilseeds, oils and meals, and examined the supply and demand prospects for 2020/21. In addition the Group discussed the medium-term outlook for oilseeds and oilseed products, based on the *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2020-2029*.

10. Furthermore, the Group took note of recent developments in both national policies and industry initiatives having a bearing on international, regional and national markets for oilcrops and derived products, the Members shared insights and informed about measures undertaken by their governments in order to minimize the impacts of the covid-19 pandemic and also various measures to promote the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in the oilseeds, oilcrops, oils, fats and meals sector.

11. The Group expressed appreciation to FAO's work on the monitoring and assessment of the markets of oilseeds, oilcrops, oils, fats and meals and by-products as well as on policy developments, and highlighted the need for coordination and robust systems for enhanced transparency on market conditions and policy developments to inform policies and reduce uncertainty.

12. The Group underlined the importance of the oilcrops sector, including the provision of adequate support to the sector, in meeting the growing demand for vegetable oils and other oilcrops products, and achieving the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

13. Recognizing the significance of international trade in vegetable oil, oilseeds, oils and fats sector, the Group emphasized the importance of improved transparency, eliminating unnecessary trade barriers, predictable policies and science and evidence- based information regarding trade, as well as the need for common understanding of the linkages between international trade, markets and sustainable production practices and policy coordination.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON SUSTAINABLE VEGETABLE OIL IN SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A. Indonesia Position Paper

14. The Group received a presentation by Indonesia introducing the country's proposal to develop Voluntary Guideline on Sustainable Vegetable Oils in Support of the SDGs. The Voluntary Guidelines aim to ensure a holistic and balanced approach to sustainable vegetable oils, while taking into account the three pillars of sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental dimensions. Key objectives of the proposed Voluntary Guideline would be, among others, to support and implement the SDGs, promote sustainable production, bring unity to address and setting path to meet the SDGs, and contribute to gaining a mutual understanding on sustainability.

15. Indonesia, therefore, proposed the development of Voluntary Guideline on Sustainable Vegetable Oils in Support of the SDGs through the establishment of an open-ended working group to initiate and complete the process, with the possibility of establishing an FAO inter-Technical-Committee collaboration process, with the aim to have the Voluntary Guidelines endorsed by the relevant FAO technical Committees in 2022, before presentation to the 43rd Session of the Conference for adoption.

B. Expert Presentations and Panel Discussion

16. A panel of experts organized by the Government of Indonesia discussed the role of vegetable oils in supporting the achievement of the SDGs and highlighted emerging trends, including price developments of vegetable oils, as well as specific challenges faced in, among others, the soybean, rapeseed, sunflowerseed, coconut, olive and palm oil sectors.

17. The panelists highlighted the importance and provided evidence of the contribution of the vegetable oils to the SDGs. They also indicated that vegetable oils can be produced sustainably to fulfill the growing global demand and recommended enhancing international cooperation to address the sustainability of vegetable oils in a holistic and balanced manner as well as a science-based approach. They underlined the need to strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers to produce in a sustainable manner.

18. The Group expressed appreciation for the panel discussion and thanked the panelists for their informative presentations.

