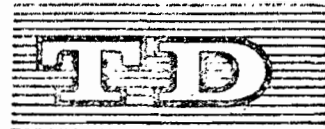




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Integrated Programme for Commodities

Fourth Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds

REPORT OF THE PANEL OF EXPERTS ON VEGETABLE
OILS AND OILSEEDS

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 11 to 15 August 1980

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Introduction

(i) The Panel of Experts on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds was convened in accordance with the decision taken at the Third Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds to present proposals for research and development projects concerning groundnuts and coconuts and their respective products to a Panel of Experts designated by governments, which would draw up a programme on the basis of those projects and in the light of the project criteria agreed upon at the Third Preparatory Meeting for submission to a Fourth Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds. 1/

(ii) In the course of its session the Panel held 10 plenary meetings.

1/ TD/B/IPC/OILS/11, chap. I, paras. 3 and 4.

Chapter I

A. PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR GROUNDNUTS AND THEIR PRODUCTS (agenda item 3)

1. The Panel of Experts had before it the following documents concerning project proposals to be included in the draft research and development programme for groundnuts and their products:

(a) Draft programme of research and development for groundnuts and their products - Report by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/IPC/OILS/AC/3);

(b) Projects submitted to UNCTAD by the African Groundnut Council (TD/B/IPC/OILS/AC/3/Add.1);

(c) Proposed projects in the groundnut sector of the vegetable oils and oilseeds commodity field, submitted by the Tropical Products Institute, United Kingdom (TD/B/IPC/OILS/AC/3/Add.2).

2. The Panel of Experts undertook an extensive examination of each of the proposed projects, and commented on the extent to which each project proposal could be considered as meeting the relevant criteria agreed by the Third Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds. It made specific suggestions for the reformulation of project proposals, including the combination of some of them into a single project, and the recosting of certain project proposals with a view to achieving financial savings and obtaining access to the resources of the Second Account of the Common Fund. Finally, the experts expressed a number of views regarding the usefulness of the proposed projects and the priority to be attached to them.

3. Following its examination of the project proposals, the Panel requested the UNCTAD and FAO secretariats, with the help of consultants as appropriate, to revise and reformulate the proposed draft programme of research and development for groundnuts and their products on the basis of the proposals contained in the above-mentioned documents. In doing so, they should take into account the ideas, suggestions and comments made on the documents during the meeting of the Panel of Experts and, in particular, they should:

(a) ensure that the revised programme contains a section reviewing the current state of research and development activities;

(b) pay special attention to the criteria set out in paragraph 3 of the report of the Third Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds (TD/B/IPC/OILS/11);

(c) ensure the uniform presentation and costing of the project proposals;

(d) suggest possible priorities.

B. PROGRAMME OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON
COCONUTS AND THEIR PRODUCTS (agenda item 4)

4. The Panel of Experts had before it the following documents concerning project proposals to be included in the draft research and development programme for coconuts and their products:

- (a) Draft programme of research and development for coconuts and their products - Report prepared by the FAO secretariat in consultation with the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/IPC/OILS/AC/2);
- (b) Draft programme of research and development for coconuts and their products; (additional project proposals submitted by the Philippine Coconut Authority, the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community and the Coconut Research Board of Sri Lanka) (TD/B/IPC/OILS/AC/2/Add.1);
- (c) Projet de programme de recherche et développement relatif à la noix de coco et ses produits dérivés; additional project proposals submitted by l'Institut de Recherches pour les Huiles et Oléagineux (IRHO) of France. 2/

5. The Panel of Experts was informed that, in addition to the supplementary projects proposals contained in the paper listed in paragraph 4(c) the secretariat had received very useful and constructive comments on the proposals contained in the basic document TD/B/IPC/OILS/AC/2 from 13 Governments, commodity bodies and research institutes. Also available to the Panel on an informal basis was a document in Spanish only entitled Proyecto de programa de investigación y desarrollo para el coco y sus producto derivados; additional projects submitted by Impulsora Guerrerense del Cocotero, S. de R.L.I.P. y C.V., Mexico.

6. As it had done for groundnuts, the Panel of Experts gave careful consideration to each of the proposed projects in the documents before it. Comments were made on all projects regarding their suitability for financing under the Second Account of the Common Fund and the priority accorded them by different delegations. Many suggestions were made on technical points, on objectives, on the work programmes, on staffing and on costs.

7. The Panel of Experts noted that, as mentioned in document TD/B/IPC/OILS/AC/2, no projects had been included on coir because that product was the subject of a separate programme prepared in connexion with the preparatory meetings on hard fibres. The panel was informed that a technical improvement programme for coir, consisting of 10 project groups, had been submitted to the Fourth Preparatory Meeting on Hard Fibres (February/March 1960), which had endorsed the list of project groups as an adequate basis for the initial programme to be implemented by the international body on coir, which was to be negotiated.

2/ A summary only was circulated in English to English-speaking participants.

8. Following its examination of the project proposals, the Panel requested the UNCTAD and FAO secretariats, with the help of consultants as appropriate, to revise and reformulate the proposed draft programme of research and development for coconuts and their products on the basis of the proposals contained in the above-mentioned documents. In doing so they should take into account the ideas, suggestions and comments made on the documents during the meeting of the Panel of Experts and, in particular, they should:

- (a) pay special attention to the criteria set out in paragraph 3 of the report of the Third Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds (TD/B/IPC/OILS/11);
- (b) ensure the uniform presentation and costing of the project proposals;
- (c) suggest possible priorities.

C. FUTURE ACTION

9. The Panel of Experts agreed that both the revised programmes of research and development should be submitted directly to the Fourth Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds. They should be circulated in all working languages to governments well in advance of the Fourth Preparatory Meeting with a view to facilitating successful consideration of the revised programmes by the Meeting. The Panel of Experts suggested that the Meeting should be held as soon as possible.

Chapter II

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Opening of the Panel

10. The Panel of Experts on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds was opened on 11 August 1980 by the representative of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, who made an introductory statement.

Election of officers (item 1 of the provisional agenda)

11. At its second and fifth meetings, the Panel of Experts elected Mr. R.V. Harris (United Kingdom) and Mr. G. Petitpierre (Ivory Coast) as Co-Chairmen to preside over the discussions on agenda items 3 and 4 respectively.

Adoption of the agenda (item 2 of the provisional agenda)

12. At its second plenary meeting, on 11 August 1980, the Panel of Experts adopted the agenda proposed by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/IPC/OILS/AC/1), as follows:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Programme of research and development for groundnuts and their products:
 - (a) Technical examination of project proposals
 - (b) Adoption of recommendations
4. Programme of research and development on coconuts and their products:
 - (a) Technical examination of project proposals
 - (b) Adoption of recommendations
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Panel of Experts

Attendance^{3/}

13. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented on the Panel of Experts: Argentina; Australia; Belgium; El Salvador; France; Germany, Federal Republic of; India; Indonesia; Ivory Coast; Madagascar; Mali; Malta; Mexico; Morocco; Netherlands; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Pakistan; Peru; Philippines; Romania; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Spain; Sudan; Sweden; Turkey; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United Republic of Cameroon; United States of America.

14. Other States members of UNCTAD participating in the Panel were Brazil and Hungary.

15. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization was represented at the meeting of the Panel. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT was also represented.

16. The following specialized agencies were represented at the meeting of the Panel: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was also represented.

17. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the meeting of the Panel: African Groundnut Council, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community ^{4/} Commonwealth Secretariat, European Economic Community, Organization of American States.

Adoption of the report of the Panel of Experts (agenda item 6)

18. At its closing meeting, on 15 August 1980, presided over by Mr. G. Petitpierre, the Panel of Experts adopted its draft report and authorized the UNCTAD secretariat to prepare the final version as appropriate.

^{3/} For the list of participants, see TD/B/IPC/OILS/AC/INF.1.

^{4/} Participating by decision of the First Preparatory Meeting.