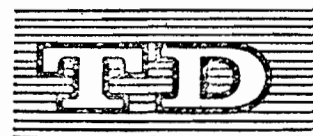




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United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Integrated Programme for Commodities

REPORT OF THE THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING ON VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 8 to 11 October 1979

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>
Introduction	(i) - (ii)

Chapter

I	Consideration of outstanding issues on vegetable oils and oilseeds (agenda item 2)	1 - 3
	Consideration of follow-up action (agenda item 3)	4 - 6
II	Organizational matters	7 -15

Annex

Checklist of documents before the Meeting

Introduction

- (i) The Third Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable oils and Oilseeds was convened by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 8 October 1979 pursuant to Conference resolution 93 (IV) on the Integrated Programme for Commodities, section IV, paragraph 4.
- (ii) In the course of its session the Meeting held three plenary meetings. At its second meeting, on 8 October 1979, it decided that its proceedings in its Sessional Committee should be in private.

Chapter I

CONSIDERATION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

(a) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

(b) OTHER ISSUES

(agenda item 2)

1. The Third Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds noted with appreciation the report of the FAO and UNCTAD secretariats on the rôle of research and development and market intelligence in improving the competitive position of developing countries (TD/B/IPC/OILS/7) and a note by the UNCTAD secretariat on further work on research and development (TD/B/IPC/OILS/10).

2. The Meeting agreed to proceed with the development of over-all programmes of research and development for oilseeds and oils.

3. The Meeting agreed that the over-all programme for research and development in the oilseeds and vegetable oils sector should be so designed as to enable it to obtain access to, inter alia, the resources of the Second Account of the Common Fund. The Meeting felt that, in view of the complexity of the commodity group being considered, it was not possible to establish precise criteria for the selection of projects. However, it was agreed that, in selecting projects for the programme, two of the basic factors to be kept in mind were the need for further expansion in the over-all consumption of oilseeds and vegetable oils, and the desirability of including areas which would show results in and have potential to expand international trade. The projects should be so selected as to be of benefit to both producing and consuming countries, particularly the developing countries, and especially the least-developed countries. Projects should avoid duplication of the work, the results of which are publicly available and generally applicable. Within this broad framework, the Meeting agreed that the following criteria inter alia, could be considered in the selection of the projects for the research and development programme:

(a) Projects should contribute to the following:

- (i) increasing productivity;
- (ii) improving and maintaining the quality of oilseeds and their products;
- (iii) developing new end-uses;
- (iv) developing the fuller uses of by-products;
- (v) increasing the value of export products.

(b) Projects should aim to increase the capacity and technical skills of the developing countries to undertake research and development activities, and to apply the results of research; to the extent possible, projects should make use of expertise available in the area; .

(c) Projects should, where relevant, include provision for the dissemination and application of research findings through, for example, outreach programmes so that the results are put to practical and effective use;

(d) Projects should be formulated in such a way that the results are suitable for application in the greatest practical number of producing and consuming countries.

CONSIDERATION OF FOLLOW-UP ACTION (agenda item 3)

4. The Meeting, after considering the practical difficulties of preparing a single programme of research and development covering all the individual commodities in the large and heterogenous group of oilseeds and oils, decided that, in a first stage and as a pilot undertaking, studies aimed at developing programmes should be undertaken on two product groups of particular interest to the developing countries: groundnuts and their products and coconuts and their products. The Meeting felt that, once experience had been gained with programmes for these two product groups, it would be possible to expand the coverage of the programme progressively and with speed to cover other important oilseeds and their products.

5. The Meeting requested the UNCTAD and FAO secretariats to undertake the work for these two product groups simultaneously. The Meeting suggested that the secretariats might proceed in the following manner for each of these groups:

(a) Use the services of technical experts to identify needs and areas in which an international programme of research and development could contribute to the achievement of the objectives within the criteria specified above and, to the extent possible, make preliminary proposals for the likely projects;

(b) Circulate the results of this work to concerned governments, research and intergovernmental commodity bodies, for comments and additional suggestions for submission, via the respective governments in the case of national research bodies, to the secretariats;

(c) Present all the above material to a Panel of Experts, designated by Governments, for review, and reformulation into a programme with a proposed list of projects (including estimated costs) suggesting appropriate indications for priorities, taking account of the criteria indicated above;

(d) Submit a substantive progress report to the next session of the FAO Intergovernmental Group (likely to be held in April 1980) for its comments and submit the proposed list of projects to the Fourth Preparatory Meeting for further action. The Meeting hoped that it would be possible to complete these exercises regarding the two programmes by mid-1980.

6. The Meeting agreed that in the light of the progress made till now on the issues considered by it, a further Preparatory Meeting would be required to decide on the follow-up action on the agreed programmes of research and development and discuss matters still outstanding. The Meeting, therefore, decided to request the Ad Hoc Committee for the Integrated Programme for Commodities to make appropriate arrangements for a Fourth Preparatory Meeting, to be convened as soon as possible after the panel of governmental experts referred to above had completed their task.

Chapter II

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Opening of the session

7. The Third Preparatory Meeting on Vegetable Oils and Oilseeds was opened on 8 October 1979 by Mr. G. Vanamaker (United States of America), the Chairman. The representative of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD made an introductory statement.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

8. At its first meeting, on 8 October 1979, the Preparatory Meeting adopted the agenda proposed by the UNCTAD secretariat (TD/B/IPC/OILS/9), as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Consideration of outstanding issues on vegetable oils and oilseeds
 - (a) Research and development
 - (b) Other issues
3. Consideration of follow-up action
4. Other business
5. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Meeting

Election of the Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur

9. At its second meeting, the Preparatory Meeting elected Mr. I.M. Sahai (India) as Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur in place of the late Mr. E. Hempel-Joergensen (Denmark).

Establishment of a sessional committee

10. Also at its second meeting the Preparatory Meeting decided to establish a sessional committee to consider agenda items 2 and 3. It was understood that the officers of the Sessional Committee would be the same as those of the Preparatory Meeting itself and that the Rapporteur would be authorized to report to the Meeting direct.

Attendance 1/

11. The following States members of UNCTAD were represented at the session: Argentina; Australia; Belgium; Brazil; Chile; Denmark; France; Gambia; German Democratic Republic; Germany, Federal Republic of; India; Indonesia; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Japan; Madagascar; Malaysia; Malta; Morocco; Netherlands; Nigeria; Norway; Pakistan; Panama; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Romania; Senegal; Spain; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America; Zaire.

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

12. The following specialized agencies were represented at the Meeting: International Labour Organisation; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Monetary Fund. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was also represented.

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the Meeting: African Groundnut Council; Arab Organization for Agricultural Development; Council of Arab Economic Unity; European Economic Community; International Olive Oil Council; Organization of American States.

Statement by the Executive Director of the International Olive Oil Council

14. The Executive Director of the IOOC made a statement on the activities of his organization and their relationship with the Integrated Programme for Commodities, in particular the possibility of a research and development programme for olive oil to which the Common Fund could contribute finance through its Second Account.

Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Meeting (agenda item 5)

15. At its closing meeting, on 11 October 1979, the Preparatory Meeting adopted its draft report and authorized the Rapporteur to prepare the final version as appropriate.

Annex

CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
TD/B/IPC/OILS/9	Provisional agenda and annotations
TD/B/IPC/OILS/3	Report of the First Preparatory Meeting
TD/B/IPC/OILS/8	Report of the Second Preparatory Meeting
TD/B/IPC/OILS/5	National stocking and storage practices and policies for vegetable oils and oilseeds - Report prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat, in consultation with the FAO secretariat
TD/B/IPC/OILS/6	Promotion of purchases from exporting developing countries for delivery to net importing developing countries linked to market stabilization objectives - Report prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat, in consultation with the FAO secretariat
TD/B/IPC/OILS/7	Role of research and development and improved market intelligence in improving the competitive position of developing countries - Report prepared by the FAO secretariat, in consultation with the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/IPC/OILS/10	Further work on research and development - Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/IPC/OILS/INF/3	List of participants
TD/B/IPC/OILS/IIsc.3	Annotated bibliography of relevant background material in the field of oils and fats - Note by the UNCTAD secretariat