



COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON TEA

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Guwahati, India, 31st January – 2nd February 2024

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND AGENDA NOTES

30th January 2024 : Welcome dinner to all delegates of the 25th FAO IGG session (Radisson Blu Hotel) 7.30 PM onwards

31st January 2024 :
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

1. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

- A. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons
- B. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Timetable
- C. Statement by the Director-General or a Representative of FAO

2. MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

- A. Current global market situation and medium-term outlook
- B. Market developments in selected countries
- C. Changes in the global network of tea trade

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

3. EMERGING ISSUES

- A. FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the role and functions of the IGG/Tea
- B. Assessing the carbon footprint of tea production: a roadmap for future actions
- C. Tea and health: A discussion for future action by the Group

2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION

A. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

- i. Working Group on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)
- ii. Working Group on Tea Trade and Quality
- iii. Working Group on Organic Tea
- iv. Working Group on Climate Change
- v. Working Group on Global Tea Market Analysis and Promotion
- vi. Working Group on Smallholders
- vii. Working Group on Tea & Health

6.30 PM ONWARDS : DINNER AT BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER SAND BANKS

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org NN194/e

1st February 2024 :

9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

B. BREAK OUT SESSIONS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

11:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

C. BREAK OUT SESSIONS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM LUNCH AT RADISSON BLU HOTEL

2:00 PM TO 4:30 PM

V. INTERNATIONAL TEA DAY

VI. ACTIVITIES IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

**6:30 PM DINNER AT MAHABAHU BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER
HERITAGE CENTRE, GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**

2nd February

10.00 AM TO 12.30 PM

VII. OTHER MATTERS

- A. Arrangements for the next Session
- B. Any other business

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

1.00 PM : LUNCH AND DELEGATES DISPERSE

AGENDA NOTES

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

1. The Twenty-fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Tea will be held in Guwahati, India from 31 January to 2 February 2024.

A. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSONS

2. The Group will elect a Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons. At the Twenty-fourth Session, the Members elected Ms Sharon Hall (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as Chairperson, Mr K.N. Raghavan (India) as First Vice-Chairperson, and Mr RUAN Jianyun (China) as Second Vice-Chairperson.

B. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

3. The Group will adopt the Provisional Agenda and Timetable for the Session (CCP: TE 24/1; CCP: TE 24/INF.2).

C. OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

4. The Director-General or a Representative of FAO will address the Group. The statement will be published as soon as possible as document CCP: TE 24/INF.3.

II. MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

A. CURRENT GLOBAL MARKET SITUATION AND MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK

5. Document CCP:TE 24/CRS 1 examines both the current situation and longer-term prospects for the production, consumption, trade and prices of tea in the world market and their possible impact on the global tea economy. The document also looks at major challenges and issues related to the tea sector.

B. MARKET DEVELOPMENTS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

6. As agreed by the Group at its Twentieth Session in Sri Lanka in 2012, Tea Boards and Tea Councils of major producing and importing countries have been requested to prepare and present market developments (production, consumption, trade and prices) in their countries, for consideration by the Group. Delegates are invited to update market information pertaining to their countries, as this would help in reconciling any apparent differences, enhance market transparency and assist with the discussion of possible strategies for the sustainable development of the world tea economy. The presentations should include the following information:

- Country's tea demand and supply balance and its influence on prices;
- Consumption patterns as well as experiences in promoting tea consumption more effectively to achieve better prices;
- Tea promotional campaigns;
- Maximum Residue Levels for exports and cost of compliance;
- Challenges, emerging issues and opportunities for the tea sector.

C. CHANGES IN THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF TEA TRADE

7. At its Twenty-fourth Session, the Group underlined the importance of market monitoring and the provision of accurate, reliable and timely data for the analysis of drivers shaping the international tea market. In line with the Group's recommendation, the secretariat has prepared document CCP:TE 24/2, which provides an overview of long-term developments in the international tea trade network and describes recent changes and their drivers.

III. EMERGING ISSUES

A. FAO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2022-31 AND THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE IGG/TEA

8. It has been customary for the Group to review its workplan and adjust the objectives and priorities in light of current and emerging issues affecting the world tea economy. Document CCP:TE 24/3 discusses FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the role of the IGG/Tea in addressing the needs of countries and the sector. Delegates are invited to provide their feedback on the document and guide the secretariat on the way forward.

B. ASSESSING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF TEA PRODUCTION: A ROADMAP FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

9. In its last Session, the IGG cautioned against taking steps towards expanding tea production in a manner that is not sustainable, and reaffirmed the importance of the concept of environmental accountability. In an effort to inform the deliberations on this topic, the secretariat will present a proposed methodology to measure the carbon footprint of tea production, in line with international standards for carbon accounting (CCP:TE 24/4). Delegates are invited to discuss the way forward and decide on the next steps, including on the possible selection of country case studies.

C. TEA AND HEALTH: A DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE ACTIONS BY THE GROUP

10. Following the commitment by the Group to explore sustainable strategies to boost global tea consumption, it was decided to create a new Working Group to examine the linkages between tea consumption and health. As part of this effort, a presentation will be delivered to highlight the work so far and the roadmap for future action by the Group. This item will be supported by document CCP:TE 24/CRS 2.

IV. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION

A. REPORTS FROM THE CHAIRS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

11. The following Working Groups will report on their progress and present their envisaged work plans:

- Working Group on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)
- Working Group on Tea Trade and Quality
- Working Group on Organic Tea
- Working Group on Climate Change
- Working Group on Global Tea Market Analysis and Promotion
- Working Group on Smallholders
- Working Group on Tea & Health

V. INTERNATIONAL TEA DAY

12. With the support of the FAO IGG/Tea secretariat, the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted in December 2019 a resolution proclaiming 21 May of each year as International Tea Day (ITD). The IGG/Tea Members and the secretariat will report on the various activities and events organized in 2022 and 2023 to celebrate the ITD.

VI. ACTIVITIES IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

13. Observer organizations are invited to inform the Group of their activities on tea.

VII. OTHER MATTERS

A. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT SESSION

B. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

