



Committee on Agriculture

**WORK PROGRAMME PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 8 OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION
ON THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO FOOD INSECURITY**

APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON 22 NOVEMBER 2022

Paragraph 8

"We reaffirm the importance of effective implementation and monitoring of the Marrakesh Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries. In this regard, we commit to having a dedicated work programme in the Committee on Agriculture to examine how this Decision could be made more effective and operational pursuant to Article 16 of the Agreement on Agriculture and to consider concerns raised by Members in their current and future submissions. The work programme shall consider the needs of LDCs and NFIDCs to increase their resilience in responding to acute food instability including by considering the best possible use of flexibilities to bolster their agricultural production and enhance their domestic food security as needed in an emergency."

A. Introduction

The work programme will be implemented under the auspices of the Committee on Agriculture, in an open and flexible manner, allowing any interested Member to contribute and take part.

Under this work programme, Members will:

- exchange information in an informed dialogue;
- identify the needs of LDCs and NFIDCs to build long-term resilience and preparedness to respond to acute future crises;
- assess the extent to which the multilateral trade system supports LDCs and NFIDCs to respond to those challenges; and
- make recommendations, where appropriate, for approval by the Committee on Agriculture.

The mandate and activities of some international organizations are highly relevant to the objective of this work programme. These organizations can be invited to be involved, as appropriate.

B. Thematic areas of work

In a coherent, flexible, efficient and open manner, the following thematic areas of work (along with a non-exhaustive list of elements thereunder) can be addressed:

1. Access to international food markets

- Global and regional supply chain bottlenecks
- Role of international food aid and the international food aid architecture (WTO rules, Food Assistance Convention) in meeting recipient countries' food needs
- Role of trade and relevant WTO rules in ensuring food security; implications of trade measures on foodstuffs on LDCs and NFIDCs' access to food

2. Financing of food imports

- WTO rules on export finance and their implementation, including impact of the Nairobi Decision on Export Competition on NFIDCs and LDCs' ability to finance normal levels of imports
- Availability of finance from international financial institutions
- Access by LDCs and NFIDCs to import finance and related import guarantees/credits

3. Agricultural and production resilience of LDCs and NFIDCs

- Use of WTO rules and flexibilities to bolster agricultural production and productivity as needed in an emergency
- Technical and financial assistance, and capacity building, to improve agricultural productivity and infrastructure, including access to agricultural inputs (e.g., seeds, fertilizers, pesticides)
- Technology transfer and knowledge cooperation (e.g., climate resilient agriculture development, reduced food loss and waste, science-based regulatory and food safety infrastructure)

4. Horizontal issues

- Identification of challenges and needs of LDCs and NFIDCs, and sharing of practical experiences
- Fostering collaboration among international organizations for enhanced transparency of production, markets, trade and trade measures for critical crops
- Coordinated rapid response of international organizations to food security crises

C. Working methods

The Committee on Agriculture will establish an open Working Group for the conduct of discussions on various thematic areas based on Members' contributions. The Committee on Agriculture will appoint the Coordinator as soon as possible after the adoption of the Work Programme.¹

The Working Group may make use of simple, streamlined, topical questionnaires to promote the identification of challenges and needs of LDCs and NFIDCs in the context of this Work Programme, as well as responses to food insecurity of these countries by other Members. The questionnaire can guide and inform the discussions under each thematic area to build upon existing work undertaken by Members, and provide an evidence-based approach to the discussions.

LDCs and NIFDCs are encouraged to share their experiences in the Working Group.

The Secretariat can provide background notes upon request by the Working Group.

The Coordinator of the Working Group will on a regular base report progress to the Committee on Agriculture.

D. Planning

At its first session, the Working Group will develop its organization of work and planning.

The Working Group shall submit its report and recommendations to the Committee on Agriculture by no later than 30 November 2023, unless the Committee agrees to extend the timeframe.

¹ The Committee at its meeting on 22 November 2022 agreed to establish a single Working Group and appointed the current Chairperson of the Committee to coordinate its activities and discussions in his personal capacity.