



3 April 2023

(23-2326)

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Committee on Agriculture

Original: English

### NOTIFICATION

The following submission, dated 3 April 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of **Australia**. The notification concerns actions taken within the framework of the Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (**Table NF:1**) during the **Financial Year 2020/2021**.

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**Table NF:1**

**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 16.2 OF THE AGREEMENT: MONITORING OF THE  
FOLLOW-UP TO THE DECISION ON MEASURES CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE  
NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF THE REFORM PROGRAMME ON LEAST-DEVELOPED  
AND NET FOOD-IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:  
AUSTRALIA**

REPORTING PERIOD: FINANCIAL YEAR FROM 01-07-2020 TO 30-06-2021

**1 QUANTITY OF FOOD AID PROVIDED TO LEAST-DEVELOPED AND NET FOOD-IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

1.1. Australia is committed to providing a minimum of AUD 80 million of food assistance per calendar year under the Food Assistance Convention (FAC). In financial year 2020-21, Australia provided AUD 107.52 million in food assistance for LDCs<sup>1</sup> and NFIDCs<sup>2</sup> as part of its FAC commitments (see Annex A for a breakdown by recipient country). All funding was provided as cash-based support to the UN World Food Programme.

**2 INDICATION OF THE PROPORTION IN FULLY GRANT FORM OR APPROPRIATE CONCESSIONAL TERMS**

2.1. All Australian food assistance is provided in fully grant form.

**3 TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER PARAGRAPH 3(III) OF THE DECISION**

3.1. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is primarily responsible for delivering Australia's aid programme. This aid programme includes work to improve agriculture and rural development in LDCs and NFIDCs. Detailed information on Australia's aid programme is available at <https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/topics/development-issues/agricultural-development-and-food-security>.

3.2. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) also assists LDC and NFIDCs through its Global Programme, delivering agricultural research programmes in collaboration with Australian institutions and their counterparts in developing countries. Detailed information on ACIAR's Global Programme is available at <https://www.aciar.gov.au/>.

3.3. In 2020-21, Australia provided AUD 296.41 million for programmes within the ambit of the Decision (see Annex B, column 4), including AUD 100.63 million directed to LDCs and NFIDCs (see Annex B, column 3). The expenditure was channelled through multilateral, regional and bilateral programmes; humanitarian/emergency assistance; non-government organisations (NGOs); ACIAR; and other government departments (OGDs).

**DFAT Bilateral and Regional Programmes**

3.4. The majority of Australia's aid is delivered through bilateral and regional programmes. Bilateral country strategies reflect recipient government priorities and Australia's capacity to assist. Specific activities are developed with partner countries in order to provide technical and financial assistance. Australia also supports several regional programmes, which are often the most cost effective response to region-wide development challenges.

3.5. In 2020-21, the bilateral and regional technical and financial assistance provided to LDCs and NFIDCs within the ambit of the Decision was approximately AUD 44.42 million. This assistance focused on agricultural productivity and sustainability, crop storage, environmental management, developing markets, the provision of infrastructure related to food security and assisting countries adjust to changes in trade patterns.

<sup>1</sup> Based on Least-Developed Countries as recognised by the Economic and Social Council of the UN.

<sup>2</sup> See G/AG/5/Rev/10 of 23 March 2012.

**Other programmes**

3.6. A proportion of Australia's core contributions to multilateral development banks and other relevant multilateral organisations are used for food security and agricultural programs. Australia supports scholarship students from LDCs and NFIDCs on agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

3.7. A number of Australian NGOs receive aid programme funding that has a direct impact on improving food security, agricultural productivity and infrastructure in developing countries.

**ACIAR**

3.8. ACIAR's mission is to achieve more productive and sustainable agricultural systems for the benefit of developing countries and Australia through international agricultural research partnerships. ACIAR does not provide direct funds to the World Food Programme, rather the organisation works to improve food security and reduce poverty among smallholder farmers and rural communities by brokering and investing in research relating to these issues. In 2020-21, ACIAR directed AUD 51.87 million to programmes within the ambit of the decision, of which AUD 24.03 million was directed to programmes in LDCs and NFIDCs. See Annex C for a breakdown of ACIAR's administered expenditure for 2020-21.

**4 OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO ACTIONS TAKEN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DECISION**

4.1. Outside of Australia's food aid and financial assistance delivered by DFAT and ACIAR, a number of federal and state government agencies ("Other Government Departments") sponsored official exchanges with developing countries on agriculture and food security, totalling around AUD 37.91 million in 2020-21, of which AUD 2.01 million was directed at LDCs and NFIDCs.

**ANNEX A****FOOD ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME FOR LEAST-DEVELOPED  
AND NET FOOD-IMPORTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-21**

Country	Total Value (AUD million)
Afghanistan	12.50
Bangladesh	20.85
Ethiopia	2.82
Jordan	3.12
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.25
Myanmar	8.75
Nepal	0.5
Somalia	0.18
Timor Leste	3.00
Yemen	5.00
Asia Unspecified	13.7
Global Unspecified	30.00
Lebanon	3.56
Oceania Unspecified	0.25
Philippines	1.22
Syrian Arab Republic	1.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>107.52</b>

Source: DFAT.

**ANNEX B****DIRECT AID FLOWS FOR FOOD SECURITY, BY PROGRAMME, 2020-21  
(AUD MILLION)**

Programme	Sub Programme	To LDCs and NFIDCs	Total all programmes
Bilateral & Regional Programmes	Bilateral Programmes	40.77	83.40
	Regional Programmes	3.65	21.85
Global Programmes	Humanitarian	17.63	61.38
	Other International	12.54	40.00
Non-DFAT Programmes	ACIAR	24.03	51.87
	Other Government Departments	2.01	37.91
Total LDCs and NFIDCs		100.63	
<b>TOTAL all programmes</b>			<b>296.41</b>

Source: DFAT.

**ANNEX C**

## ACIAR EXPENDITURE 2020-21

ACIAR Administered Expenditure*	Total value (AUD million)
<b>Multilateral partnerships (including funding for international agricultural research centers including CGIAR)</b>	<b>23.32</b>
<b>Bilateral research projects &amp; co-investment programmes</b>	<b>51.87</b>
<i>Pacific</i>	14.62
<i>East &amp; South-East Asia</i>	23.78
<i>South Asia</i>	6.02
<i>Eastern &amp; Southern Africa</i>	7.45
<b>Capacity building</b>	<b>12.25</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>2.22</b>
<b>Impact evaluation</b>	<b>1.12</b>
<b>Programme support</b>	<b>4.23</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95.01</b>

Source: ACIAR.

\* Given ACIAR's mandate of agricultural research to improve food security in low and lower-middle income countries, total research for development spend in the financial year 2020-21 for LDCs and NFIDCs is provided. List of LDCs was sourced from United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States<sup>1</sup>. The list of NFIDCs was sourced from The World Trade Organisation, Committee on Agriculture<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [List of LDCs | Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [G/AG/5/Rev.11.](#)