NOTIFICATION

The following submission, dated 9 March 2022, 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** **2019/2020**.

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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 01-07-2019 TO 30-06-2020

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Quantity of food assistance provided to least-developed and net food-importing developing countries

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 2019-20, Australia provided AUD 91.92 million in food assistance for LDCs[[1]](#footnote-1) and NFIDCs[[2]](#footnote-2) 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.

# Indication of the proportion in fully grant form or appropriate concessional terms

All Australian food assistance is provided in fully grant form.

# Technical and financial assistance under paragraph 3(iii) of the Decision

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://dfat.gov.au/>.

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/>.

In 2019-20, Australia provided AUD 321.32 million for programmes within the ambit of the Decision (see Annex B, column 4), including AUD 227.14 million directed to LDCs and NFIDCs (see Annex B, column 3). The expenditure was channeled through multilateral, regional and bilateral programmes; humanitarian/emergency assistance; non-government organisations (NGOs); ACIAR; and other government departments (OGDs).

**DFAT Bilateral and Regional Programmes**

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.

In 2019-20, the bilateral and regional technical and financial assistance provided to LDCs and NFIDCs within the ambit of the Decision was approximately AUD 104.93 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 to adjust to changes in trade patterns.

***Other programmes***

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

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**

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. In 2019-20, ACIAR directed AUD 104.18 million to programmes within the ambit of the decision, of which AUD 68.04 million was directed to programmes in LDCs and NFIDCs. See Annex C for a breakdown of ACIAR’s administered expenditure for 2019-20.

# Other relevant information with respect to actions taken within the framework of the Decision

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 19.64 million in 2019-20, of which AUD 0.38 million was directed at LDCs and NFIDCs.

Annex A

Food assistance through contributions to the World Food Programme for Least‑Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries,
Financial Year 2019-20

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Country | Total Value(AUD million) |
| Core (unearmarked) | 40.00 |
| Bangladesh | 19.00 |
| Afghanistan | 11.00 |
| Jordan | 5.30 |
| Pacific Regional | 4.00 |
| Lebanon | 3.50 |
| South Sudan | 3.50 |
| Pakistan | 3.25 |
| Myanmar  | 1.50 |
| Nepal | 0.87 |
| **Total** | **91.92** |

Source: DFAT.

ANNEX B

Direct aid flows for food security, by programme, 2019-20
(AUD million)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Programme | Sub Programme | *To LDCs and NFIDCs* | Total all programmes |
| Bilateral & Regional Programmes | Bilateral Programmes | 104.93 | 104.98 |
|  | Regional Programmes | 7.76 | 14.77 |
| Global Programmes | Humanitarian | 37.43 | 43.39 |
|  | Other International | 9.67 | 46.94 |
| Non-DFAT Programmes | ACIAR | 66.97 | 91.6 |
|  | Other Government Departments | 0.38 | 19.64 |
| *Total LDCs and NFIDCs* |  | **227.14** |  |
| **TOTAL all programmes** |  |  | **321.32** |

Source: DFAT.

ANNEX C

ACIAR expenditure 2019-20

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ACIAR Administered expenditure | Total value(AUD million) |
| **Bilateral research projects & co-investment programmes** | **68.04** |
| *East & South-East Asia* | 27.88 |
| *Pacific* | 19.65 |
| *South Asia* | 10.90 |
| *Eastern & Southern Africa* | 9.61 |
| **Multilateral partnerships (including funding for international agricultural research centers including CGIAR)** | **19.97** |
| **Programme support** | **8.88** |
| **Capacity building** | **5.11** |
| **Outreach** | **2.05** |
| **Impact evaluation** | **0.13** |
| **TOTAL** | **104.18** |

Source: ACIAR.

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1. Based on Least-Developed Countries as recognised by the Economic and Social Council of the UN. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See G/AG/5/Rev/10 of 23 March 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)