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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Économiques
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English - Or. English

COUNCIL

Council

**REVISION OF THE MANDATE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS**

(Note by the Secretary-General)

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1. This document contains a proposal to revise the mandate for the OECD Co-operative Research Programme on Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems which expires on 31 December 2009.

2. The Co-operative Research Programme on Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems (CRP) was first established by Decision of the Council at its 479th meeting on 21 December 1978 [C/M(78)23] and was subsequently renewed on various occasions, with its current five-year term (2005-2009) ending on 31 December 2009 [C(2004)108].

3. The CRP supports and promotes international co-operation and networking in the field of basic and applied agri-research. This is done through i) funding/co-funding conferences and workshops bringing together leading specialists to address agro-food issues that are high on the science/policy agenda and ii) awarding fellowships to scientists to conduct a research project in a foreign country (CRP Member). National organisations provide the basic funding for research in the areas covered by the CRP which then acts as a catalyst to promote international co-operation between scientists in Member countries. Grants (*i.e.* the funding or co-funding for conferences and fellowship awards) are awarded on the basis of several criteria among which: policy relevance, innovative science, and feasibility of the proposed work. The proposed mandate for 2010-2014 will focus on three main research themes reflecting Members' policy interests:

- Theme 1: Securing the availability and managing the quality of natural resources for sustainable agricultural production systems (The Natural Resources Challenge);
- Theme 2: Developing and adapting food, fibre and bio-energy enterprises, both modern and traditional, to contribute to the sustainability of natural resources (Sustainability in Practice);
- Theme 3: Contributing to technological advances to sustain the global food and agriculture systems from input to final consumption, taking into account changing consumer and societal interests (The Food Chain).

4. The CRP is a Part II programme [C(2004)96] paid for entirely and directly by participating countries and, with its modest budget (752K€ in 2005 to 770K€ in 2009), will have funded 30 conferences and 234 fellowships during its 2005-2009 mandate.

5. In a world of climate change, food shortages and competing pressures on agricultural land and water uses, agricultural and food production are more than ever dependent on the application of science to identify solutions and inform policy making in these areas which need to take account of the scientific dimension. The CRP, therefore, continues to be relevant to current demands.

6. The CRP underwent an In-Depth Evaluation in 2007/08, and the revisions in the 2010-2014 mandate have been introduced to meet the recommendations of the In-Depth Evaluation. In particular, the creation of a Scientific Advisory Body instead of the Management Committee is the direct result of recommendation iv) of the In-depth Evaluation [C(2008)96 and C/M(2008)18, Item 242].

7. The draft mandate has been structured in two parts. The first part details the specific objectives of the CRP. The second part describes the structure of the CRP. The Appendix is given for information to explain how the objectives are to be reached and substantive information on the themes to be covered by the work of the CRP during its 2010-2014 mandate.

8. The draft mandate was approved by the Governing Body by written procedure on 25 February 2009 [TAD/PR/II/RD(2008)12/REV1 and TAD/PR/II/M(2008)3].

9. It is proposed that the revised mandate, as set out in the draft Resolution in Annex hereto, should remain in force for a period of five years, until 31 December 2014, unless the Council decides otherwise. The draft Resolution would supersede all previous provisions concerning the mandate of the CRP. The CRP would return to the Council to propose a revision to its mandate should there be any major developments that warrant such a change.

Proposed Action

10. In the light of the preceding, the Secretary-General invites the Council to adopt the following draft conclusions:

THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document C(2009)49;
- b) adopted the draft Resolution concerning the mandate of the Co-operative Research Programme on Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems as set out in the Annex to document C(2009)49, which will enter into force on 1 January 2010.

ANNEX

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL REVISING THE MANDATE OF THE CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMME: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS 2010-2014

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Decision of the Council on 21 December 1978 establishing the Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems [C/M(78)23] and having regard to the Decision of Council [C(2004)108];

Having regard to the decision of the Council to fund the Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management For Sustainable Agricultural Systems as a programme within the Part II of the Budget of the Organisation [C(2004)96];

Having regard to the recommendations of the In-depth Evaluation of the Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management For Sustainable Agricultural Systems [C(2008)96 and C/M(2008)18, Item 242];

Having regard to the proposed revision of the mandate of the Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management For Sustainable Agricultural Systems C(2009)49;

Having regard to the favourable opinion of the Committee for Agriculture;

DECIDES:

A. The Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management For Sustainable Agricultural Systems (hereinafter “the CRP”) has the following mandate:

I. Objectives

The objectives of the CRP are to strengthen scientific knowledge in its field of competence and to provide relevant scientific information and advice that will inform future policy decisions related to the sustainable use of natural resources, in the areas of food, agriculture, forests and fisheries.

II. Definitions, Functions, Financing, Membership

Article 1

DEFINITION OF THE CRP AND WORK PROGRAMME

- a) The Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems is established as part of the co-operative effort between Member countries in order to enhance the impact of co-operative agricultural (and fisheries) research.
- b) A work programme, drawn up within the framework of the CRP, shall be adopted by the Council and implemented by the Secretary-General. The work programme shall be drawn up in consultation with the Committee for Agriculture (hereinafter the "COAG") and the Fisheries Committee (hereinafter the "COFI") where appropriate.

Article 2

METHODS AND CO-ORDINATION

- a) In the implementation of its mandate, the CRP will use two instruments: International Conferences¹, and Fellowships. Conferences will provide "state of the art" knowledge and forward looking commentary for future direction in fields that can contribute to the mandate of COAG (and COFI, where appropriate) and Fellowships will facilitate and support the building of global networks in advanced research.
- b) To ensure relevance, the CRP will regularly consult with the COAG (and COFI, where appropriate) on its activities, direction and outcomes. The COAG (and COFI, where appropriate) will provide its observations and guidance to the CRP as necessary.

Article 3

COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

- a) The Governing Body of the CRP (hereinafter the "Governing Body") shall be composed of one representative appointed by the Government of each participating country. Representatives should be chosen by virtue of their responsibilities in matters relating to agriculture or food research and research policy.
- b) The Government of each participating country may appoint an alternate to its representative on the Governing Body.
- c) The Governing Body shall designate each year from among its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair.
- d) The Governing Body may invite Member countries not participating in the CRP to be represented by observers.

¹ Conferences is used in this document to include conferences, workshops, congresses, symposia, etc.

Article 4

FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODY

- a) The Governing Body shall be competent to consider all questions related to the implementation and discharge of the functions of the CRP. It shall exercise its functions in accordance with the Decisions and Resolutions of the Council and shall, in particular, exercise the functions defined in this decision as well as such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Council.
- b) The Governing Body shall define the general orientations of the CRP, and on an annual basis, in consultation with the COAG and, where appropriate the COFI, identify the scope of policy interests, and shall, on the basis of the scientific recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Body, decide on the upcoming annual programme of fellowships and conferences and its related budget. In doing so the Governing Body shall ensure that the activities to be undertaken are of relevance to the scientific and policy communities in agriculture.
- c) The Governing Body shall submit a summary report of work each year to the Committee for Agriculture for information and advice.

Article 5

COMPOSITION OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODY

- a) The Scientific Advisory Body of the CRP (hereinafter called the "SAB") shall be composed of a maximum of six members designated by the Governing Body from a list of distinguished individuals proposed by Governments of participating countries. A regional balance will be maintained in the selection of SAB members, who shall be chosen by virtue of their scientific responsibilities in the topics covered by the CRP or shall have responsibilities at a high level in the administration of agricultural research. Members of the SAB shall be appointed for a period not exceeding five years.
- b) The SAB shall designate each year from amongst its members a Chair and a Vice-Chair.

Article 6

FUNCTIONS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODY

- a) The members of the SAB shall be in charge of recommending to the Governing Body the activities that, from a scientific point of view, are worthy of sponsorship, taking into account the scope of policy interests identified by the Governing Body.
- b) The SAB shall submit to the Governing Body a recommendation for the annual sponsorship of conferences and fellowships.
- c) The SAB shall submit to the Governing Body a yearly report on the sponsored activities of the Programme.

Article 7

FINANCING OF EXPENDITURE

- a) The expenditure arising from the implementation of the CRP shall be defrayed from the appropriations authorised for it under Part II of the Budget of the Organisation.

- b) The CRP may include activities to be financed in whole or in part from grants by public or private institutions.
- c) The Governing Body shall submit to the Council for adoption the biennial estimates of expenditure and of income for the Programme.

Article 8

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

- a) The countries participating in the CRP are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.
- b) Any Member country of the Organisation which does not participate in the CRP or any country having observer status in the Committee for Agriculture may participate in it by addressing a notification to the Secretary-General to this effect.
- c) Invitations to and participation of non-Members in the Work of the CRP will be considered by the Governing Board in accordance with Council Resolution C(2004)132/FINAL. Such participation will become effective on the date of reception of the acceptance of that invitation by the Secretary-General. The Organisation may suspend or terminate that participation by giving one month's written notice of suspension or twelve months' written notice of termination to that country.

Article 9

DURATION

The mandate of the CRP shall enter into force on 1 January 2010 and expire on 31 December 2014; it will be reviewed by the Governing Body in December 2013.

APPENDIX²

PRIORITY AREAS OF RESEARCH FOR THE 2010-2014 MANDATE PERIOD

Introduction

In its programme of work for the 2009-2010 period, the Committee for Agriculture (and Fisheries) has identified the policy relevance of its work on sustainability as [extract from TAD/CA(2008)3/REV1]:

Agriculture and Fisheries Sustainability

The impact of agricultural policies on the sustainability of natural resource use is a growing national and international concern, but governments are often uncertain as to the most effective mix of policies to use. Many farm policies put pressure on water and soil resources. The wide range of agri-environmental measures being put in place by governments to address sustainability concerns sometimes only serve to offset pressures from other agricultural policies. Uncertainty is felt in particular as regards policies to help mitigate, and to respond to, the effects of climate change. Many governments also want to ensure that agriculture activities contribute to the provision of environmental goods and services. Governments, in both developed and developing countries, recognize that maintaining the productive capacity and effective use of natural resources is essential if future demand for food and non-food products is to be satisfied. OECD analysis increasingly confronts key policy issues and helps to clarify the required policy directions to achieve sustainable resource use.

The impact of fisheries policies on the sustainability of natural resource use is a growing concern and there is a policy implementation gap at both the national and international level. Effective management systems for this common resource, along with further development of aquaculture, are now receiving greater attention by governments and industry. In recognition of the important potential in both developed and developing countries to supply protein rich food, OECD analysis increasingly focuses on the political economy of reform in this area, including with respect to fisheries subsidies that encourage increased fishing capacity, along with illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activity, which add further stress to already overexploited stocks. Climate change is having an impact on the future the sector.

The objective and work of the CRP are anchored in both a policy and scientific environment in the fields of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. For the Committee for Agriculture (and Fisheries) to be able to deliver on their respective mandates they need to be informed about scientific developments that are likely to have a medium and longer term impact on policy settings.

Food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries policies are, more than ever, developed in a multidisciplinary environment to be able to respond to the varied demands from a range of stakeholder groups with interests

² For information

in these fields. Also, food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries policies are developed with due regard to a world that is globalised and where food production systems are interlinked.

A number of developments are setting the food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries research agenda in context of sustainable production systems, including:

- Climate change
- Growing populations
- Growing urbanisation
- Globalisation
- The competition between food and non food (energy)
- Changing consumer and societal interests
- Health and nutrition

The CRP will work across policy communities, and provide solid and objective research in the fields of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, taking a long term view of possible and potential scientific developments and bearing in mind the complementarity of the CRP to other agricultural research networks.

Research Themes

The CRP will address three main research themes:

- THEME 1: Securing the availability and managing the quality of natural resources for sustainable agricultural production systems
- THEME 2: Developing and adapting food, fibre and bio-energy enterprises, both modern and traditional, to contribute to the sustainability of natural resources
- THEME 3: Contributing to technological advances to sustain the global food and agriculture systems from input to final consumption, taking into account changing consumer and societal interests.

The three themes provide sufficient flexibility for the delivery of the Programme while encompassing the growing suite of priorities from both the policy and research communities, and in light of the overarching responsibility to respond to the challenges of climate change.

There are a number of overarching issues that all have implications for agricultural research and which need to be mainstreamed into a substantive, multidisciplinary research agenda (taking into consideration the economic, social and environmental challenges of a given research project) to be able to respond to policy makers' needs. In particular:

- Few now doubt the growing scientific evidence that human actions are changing the global climate through the emission of greenhouse gases. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has projected that temperatures are highly likely to increase by 1.4-5.8 degrees C over the next 100 years. The result may be an increased frequency of extreme weather events and changing rainfall regimes with detrimental impacts on the natural world and on human society. Understanding these impacts is the first step to determining plans for action nationally and at global level. It is therefore imperative that science financed by the CRP automatically integrates climate change as an overarching challenge and addresses this in its work.
- Developing countries are playing an ever increasing role in the food production system while, concurrently, their resource base is also under stress. For OECD countries it is therefore important to consider in their policy making, and hence in the research underpinning policy-

making decisions, the interaction between the developing and developed world with a view to mitigate geographically negative economic, social and environment impacts policies may have. Coherence across agriculture and development policies can contribute to this, and research underpinning agriculture policy making should take policy coherence for development into account.

- Finally, the CRP also needs to be seen against the context of new and developing technologies.