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COUNCIL

Council

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH
PROGRAMME: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE
AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS**

(Note by the Secretary-General)

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Background

1. The Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems (CRP) is the successor of the Co-operative Research Project on Food Production and Preservation, established by a Decision of the Council adopted on 21 December 1978, “with a view to its becoming the first step to a co-operative effort between research institutions of Member countries in order to develop food production and ensure the preservation of food products” [C(78)188(Final) and C/M(78)23, Item 264]. This programme was subsequently renewed every three years until 1989 when it was replaced by the Co-operative Research Project on Biological Resource Management to bring it more in line with the rapidly evolving world of scientific research, particularly in biotechnologies [C(89)184(Final) and [C/M\(90\)1\(Final\)](#), Item 11]. In 1994, the title of the Programme was modified to include “for Sustainable Agricultural Systems” to reflect interest in sustainable agriculture [[C\(94\)218/FINAL](#) and [C/M\(94\)26/PROV](#)].

2. The CRP was then renewed in 1999 [[C\(99\)169/FINAL](#) and [C/M\(2000\)1](#)] and 2004 [[C\(2004\)108](#) and [C/M\(2004\)18/PROV](#)]. The objectives of the CRP were defined at that time as being to:

- Provide a sound scientific knowledge base to agricultural policy making;
- Contribute to an informed public debate on current and emerging agri-food issues and to help resolve conflicting views in participating countries;
- Contribute to scientific advances in this field; and
- Promote scientific understanding and standards between major regions of OECD [[C\(2004\)108](#), Appendix, paragraph 7].

3. The CRP mandate was last renewed in 2009 [[C\(2009\)49](#) and [C/M\(2009\)9/PROV](#), Item 110]. Due to expire in December 2014, the CRP was extended until 31 December 2015 to receive the results of the 2nd Cycle In-depth Evaluation [[C\(2014\)100](#) and [C/M\(2014\)9](#), Item 130]. In this regard, this note proposes to revise and renew the CRP, as well as the mandate of the Governing Body of the CRP, as set out in the Annex.

Activities and key achievements 2010-15

4. Since its establishment, the CRP has supported and promoted international co-operation and networking in the field of basic and applied agri-research (which also includes food, fisheries and forests) through two activities:

- a) Funding/co-funding (sponsoring of) conferences and workshops that are organised by external stakeholders (such as government research institutions, universities and international associations), that bring together leading specialists to address agri-research issues that are high on the science/policy agenda. Such conferences and workshops should be both organised by individuals who are citizens or residents of countries participating in the CRP and held in countries participating in the CRP; and
- b) Awarding fellowships to scientists who are citizens and/or residents of countries participating in the CRP, to conduct a research project in a different country participating in the CRP.

5. In 2004, the Council agreed to fund the CRP as a Part II Programme [[C\(2004\)96](#) and [C/M\(2004\)14/PROV](#), Item 187]. The assessed contributions of the countries participating in the CRP¹ provide the funding for the two activities of the CRP in the areas covered by the Programme, which then acts as a catalyst to promote international co-operation between scientists in participating countries.

6. The funding or co-funding for conferences and fellowship awards is awarded through a competitive “Call for Applications” on the basis of several selection criteria e.g. policy relevance, innovative science, scientific excellence and feasibility of the proposed work. The applications are assessed by the Scientific Advisory Body (SAB), a subsidiary body of the Governing Body.

7. Despite its modest budget (KEUR 770 in 2010 to KEUR 695 in 2015), the CRP will have funded 54 conferences/workshops and almost 190 fellowships between 2010 and 2015. It is proposed that these activities continue to be the basis for the 2016-2020 period.

Research themes

8. Climate change, food security and safety, competing pressures on agricultural land and water uses in the face of a growing world population continue to be pressing issues that need input from science to identify solutions to inform policy making. The SAB discussed these and proposed a set of science issues that the countries participating in the CRP saw as being the most important for 2016-2020. The Governing Body then assessed the proposed science issues. Following these discussions, it is proposed that in 2016-2020 the CRP focus on three main research themes:²

- Managing natural capital for the future;
- Managing risks in a connected world;
- Transformational technologies and innovation.

9. The detailed science issues, their policy relevance and how these issues relate to the research themes are outlined in Annex II of document [TAD/PR/II\(2015\)2/REV.](#)

Revisions to the Resolution

10. The CRP was the object of a 2nd Cycle In-depth Evaluation (IDE) in the course of 2014. The IDE report [[C\(2014\)142](#)] includes four recommendations which were discussed by the Governing Body at its meeting of 1 December 2014. In response, an Action Plan was developed and endorsed by the Governing Body under written procedure [[TAD/PR/II\(2015\)1](#)].

11. In the light of the above, the Governing Body approved on 27 May 2015, under written procedure, the draft revised Resolution, the priority areas of research of the CRP and the results of the evaluation of its substructure, as set out in document [TAD/PR/II\(2015\)2/REV.](#) The main revisions include:

- The draft revised Resolution (reproduced in the Annex) now contains a provision that allows those appropriations for which no commitment has been entered by year end, as well as any

¹ Countries currently participating in the CRP are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

² The three main research themes of the current mandate are: i) The Natural Resources Challenge, ii) Sustainability in Practice, iii) The Food Chain [[C\(2009\)49](#)].

surplus income, to be automatically carried forward to the budget of the ensuing year. This measure would allow the programme the flexibility to make full use of any remaining amounts available at year end and mitigate administrative burdens both for the OECD and the countries participating in the CRP.

- The Priority Areas of Research that the CRP should concentrate on in 2016-2020 have been revised to take into account issues which the Governing Body considers to be important priorities for research. As a consequence, a change in the preamble has been made to the draft Resolution to reflect the Priority Areas of Research for 2016-2020 [see also [TAD/PR/II\(2015\)2/REV](#), Annex II].
- The IDE recommendations do not suggest any significant changes to the mandate with the exception of the recommendation that aims to improve working relations with the Committee for Agriculture (COAG) and the Fisheries Committee (COFI) and highlights the possibility of reporting directly to the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment (JWPAE).

12. In addition, some presentational adjustments and restructuring were introduced to reflect the current standard for similar Resolutions, including:

- The update of the historical references in the Preamble;
- The inclusion of provisions on the Co-ordination Arrangements to reflect that many of the activities funded by the CRP relate closely to the work of other OECD Bodies;
- The removal of the list of participating countries;
- The removal of references taken from the OECD Rules of Procedure to avoid duplication.

Review of the substructure

13. The Governing Body has one subsidiary body, the Scientific Advisory Body (SAB), which replaced the Management Committee in 2010. The SAB is “in charge of recommending to the Governing Body the activities that, from a scientific point of view, are worthy of sponsorship” [[C\(2009\)49](#) and [C/M\(2009\)9](#), Item 110]. In accordance with Rule 21 c) of the OECD Rules of Procedure, the Governing Body reviewed the appropriateness and effectiveness of its sub-structure and agreed that it is still relevant, highlighting that the SAB is particularly important to the good functioning of the CRP [see also [TAD/PR/II\(2015\)2/REV](#), Annex III].

Proposed Action

14. It is proposed that the revised CRP Draft Resolution, and accordingly the mandate of the Governing Body, as set out in the draft Resolution in the Annex hereto, should remain in force for a period of five years, until 31 December 2020, unless the Council decides otherwise. The draft Resolution would supersede all previous provisions concerning the CRP. The Governing Body would return to the Council to propose a revision to the CRP should there be any major developments that warrant such a change.

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

THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2015\)77](#);
- b) adopted the draft Resolution concerning the Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems as set out in the Annex to document [C\(2015\)77](#), which will enter into force on 1 January 2016.

ANNEX

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH PROGRAMME: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

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 Financial Regulations of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Decision of the Council concerning a Co-operative Research Project on Food Production and Preservation of 21 December 1978 [C(78)188(Final)] and to the Decision of the Council concerning the Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems [C(89)184(Final)], which was last revised in 2009 [[C\(2009\)49](#)] and extended in 2014 [[C\(2014\)100](#)];

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

Having regard to the Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/FINAL](#)];

Considering the challenges facing the world in feeding its growing population with increasing pressures on natural resources and in the face of climate change;

Having regard to the proposed priority areas of research for 2016-2020 [[TAD/PR/II\(2015\)2/REV](#)];

Having regard to the results of the In-depth Evaluation of the Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems [[C\(2014\)142](#)];

Having regard to the proposed revision of the Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems [[C\(2015\)77](#)];

DECIDES:

A. The Co-operative Research Programme: Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems (hereinafter “the CRP”) is renewed and revised as follows:

I. Objectives

16. The overall objectives of the CRP are to strengthen scientific knowledge in the areas of agriculture, food, fisheries and forests, to support and promote international co-operation and networking between scientists in countries participating in the CRP, and to provide relevant scientific information and advice that will inform future policy decisions.

17. The CRP has three main research themes:

- i) Managing natural capital for the future;
- ii) Managing risk in a connected world;
- iii) Transformational technologies and innovation.

18. The CRP shall achieve its objectives by:

- i) Funding/co-funding conferences and workshops that are organised by external parties such as government research institutions, universities, international associations, that bring together leading specialists to address agri-research issues that are high on the science/policy agenda. Such conferences and workshops should be both organised by individuals who are citizens or residents of countries participating in the CRP and held in countries participating in the CRP; and
- ii) Awarding fellowships to scientists who are citizens and/or residents of countries participating in the CRP, to conduct a research project in a foreign country (also participating in the CRP).

II. Governing Body of the CRP

19. The Governing Body of the CRP (hereinafter the “Governing Body”) shall be competent to consider all questions related to the implementation and discharge of the functions of the CRP and it shall in particular:

- i) Define the general orientations of the CRP;
- ii) Identify on an annual basis the scope of policy interests of the CRP, in consultation with the Committee for Agriculture and, where appropriate, other bodies of the Organisation;
- iii) Decide, on the basis of the scientific recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Body, 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;
- iv) Submit a summary report of work each year to the Committee for Agriculture and the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment for information and advice.

III. Participation

20. Participation in the CRP is open to all OECD Members, which may participate in the CRP by addressing a notification to the Secretary-General to this effect.

21. Participation of non-Members in the CRP will be considered by the Governing Body and may be recommended by the Governing Body to the Council.

22. Each country participating in the CRP shall appoint at least one representative to the Governing Body. Representatives should be chosen by virtue of their responsibilities in matters relating to agriculture, food or forest research and research policy.

IV. Scientific Advisory Body

23. The Governing Body shall be assisted by the Scientific Advisory Body of the CRP (hereinafter called "the SAB") which will be in charge of:

- i) Advising the Governing Body on the immediate and over the horizon scientific research issues in the fields of agriculture, food, fisheries and forests to facilitate the CRP's ability to identify cutting edge research;
- ii) Assisting the Governing Body in the awarding of conference/workshop funding and fellowships.

24. To this end, the SAB should, in particular:

- i) Recommend 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;
- ii) Submit to the Governing Body a recommendation for the annual sponsorship of conferences and fellowships; and
- iii) Submit to the Governing Body a yearly report on the sponsored activities of the Programme.

25. The SAB shall be composed of a maximum of six representatives designated by the Governing Body from a list of distinguished individuals proposed by Governments of countries participating in the CRP. A regional balance will be maintained in the selection of SAB representatives, 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.

V. Budget

26. The expenditure of the CRP shall be charged against appropriations authorised for it under Part II of the Budget of the Organisation.

27. Appropriations for which no commitment has been entered into before the end of the Financial Year for which they were appropriated, as well as any surplus income, shall be automatically carried forward to the Budget of the CRP for the ensuing year by decision of the Secretary-General, notwithstanding the provisions of Regulation 10 of the Financial Regulations of the Organisation

28. The CRP may include activities to be financed in whole or in part from grants by public or private institutions.

VI. Co-ordination arrangements

29. The Governing Body shall co-operate closely with the Committee for Agriculture (COAG) and the Fisheries Committee (COFI), with which it has intrinsic links, and in particular the following subsidiary bodies and fora of the COAG:

- i) the Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets;
- ii) the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and the Environment;
- iii) the Global Forum on Agriculture;
- iv) the Joint Working Party on Agriculture and Trade;
- v) the OECD Codes and Schemes.

30. The Governing Body shall also maintain working relations with other bodies and fora of the Organisation, in particular and as appropriate with:

- i) the Environment Policy Committee (EPOC) and Chemicals Committee including their relevant subsidiary bodies (i.e. the Working Group on the Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology; the Task Force for the Safety of Novel Food and Feeds; the Working Group on Pesticides; Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems) as well as the Global Forum on Biotechnology;
- ii) the OECD Global Science Forum including its relevant activities (e.g. on temperate agriculture) and the Working Party on Biotechnology, Nanotechnology and Converging Technologies (BNCT), a subsidiary body of the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy (CSTP);
- iii) the Regional Development Policy Committee.

B. This Resolution shall remain in force until 31 December 2020.