



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Governing Council of the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops
Development in Asia and the Pacific

Sixth session
23 March 2010
Bangkok

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CENTRE FOR
ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY THROUGH SECONDARY CROPS
DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
ON ITS SIXTH SESSION**

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I. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. The Governing Council endorsed the strategic actions for implementation in support of the strategic plan adopted at the fifth session of the Governing Council and the programme of work for 2010-2011 developed based on the outcome of the strategic planning workshop and Technical Committee (TC) meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, in December 2009.
2. The Governing Council welcomed the Technical Committee's recommendation to strengthen collaboration with the private sector in support of agribusiness development in the context of inclusive agricultural and rural development for food security and poverty alleviation and urged CAPSA to take necessary steps ensuring achievement of this recommendation.
3. The Governing Council welcomed the firm commitment and action of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP in addressing the human and financial resources gap of the Centre and hopes this support will continue in the future. The Governing Council also supported the recommendation of the Technical Committee that additional regular budget resources from ESCAP be provided to CAPSA to support any funding gap in its institutional costs.
4. The Governing Council supported the recommendation of the Technical Committee that its members, in collaboration with CAPSA, become actively engaged in resource mobilization initiatives and project identification and development. It also recommended that CAPSA prepare an estimated budget for each strategic action for marketing CAPSA's initiatives, effectively utilizing existing resources and prioritizing interventions during periods of funding gaps.
5. The Governing Council recommended that CAPSA take the necessary steps to expand its network with national agricultural research centres in the region as well as with the ESCAP regional institutions, particularly the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM), and establish collaborative projects with them to address poverty reduction, food security and sustainable agriculture.
6. The Governing Council also recommended that CAPSA take the necessary steps to engage its members and development partners in receiving staff secondments, hosting CAPSA activities and staff, and identifying and more effectively utilizing focal points in each member State that are genuinely interested in assisting CAPSA to fulfill its mandate.
7. The Governing Council agreed to a new name of the Centre, namely "Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture", as proposed by the Technical Committee at its meeting in December 2009, for consideration by the Commission, taking into account that the Centre's unique character would continue to focus on secondary crops development as stipulated in the statute of CAPSA.
8. The Governing Council requested the Executive Secretary to urge member States at the 66th session of the Commission to be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, to provide and/or increase voluntary contributions to CAPSA as per resolution 65/4.

9. The Governing Council agreed to limit the term of the Technical Committee members to one 3-year term with possibility of an extension. It also recommended that CAPSA develop rules and procedures to this effect.

II. PROCEEDINGS

A. Opening of the session

10. The Chair opened the meeting and invited the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to deliver opening statements.

B. Report on the activities of CAPSA, including outcomes of the CAPSA Technical Committee Meeting (Agenda item 4)

11. The Governing Council had before it the report of the Head of the Centre on provisional agenda item 4 MPDD/CAPSA/GC(6)01. The document was introduced by the Head of the Centre.

12. The Head of CAPSA provided an overview of the key activities of the Centre, its major developments and results in 2009, as well as matters calling for the attention of the Governing Council.

13. Statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh, China, France, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand.

14. The Chair of the Governing Council commented on the comprehensive nature of the report of the Head of CAPSA, in particular efforts taken to revitalize the Centre and enhance its network with (what....) in the region, and to implement the Centre's two main programmes and recommendations of the Technical Committee during its 5th session held in Bogor, Indonesia, on 9 December 2009.

15. The Governing Council noted the comment that CAPSA utilize existing Internet-based communication technologies, in particular Facebook, with a view to enhancing interaction among GC members. It was also suggested to explore ways to engage non-GC members who are ESCAP member States to actively participate in and contribute to the work programme of CAPSA.

16. The Governing Council suggested considering the possibility of nominating new GC members with terms coinciding with current membership, 2009-2012, to avoid rolling membership with sitting Council members having different term periods.

17. The Governing Council noted the comment of the lack of interaction among member countries post-GC meeting and to review the process of identifying and utilizing member-country focal points to expand project areas of CAPSA in the member states.

18. To address funding constraints, the Governing Council noted that member States' contributions are insufficient to cover the Centre's annual operating expenditures and encouraged CAPSA to overcome these funding constraints by developing project proposals for mobilizing financial resources from other donors.

19. The Governing Council noted the proposal from the Technical Committee to change the name of the Centre to the “Centre for Poverty Alleviation through Sustainable Agriculture” keeping the current acronym CAPSA and maintaining to the Centre’s inclusive nature. The Governing Council acknowledged the need to maintain the Centre’s unique niche in addressing poverty reduction through secondary crop farming systems development despite a change in name while at the same time noting the limited connotation and lack of concrete definition of “secondary crops” and the need to broaden the scope of the Centre and expand the Centre’s ability to mobilize financial resources.

20. The Governing Council supported the recommendation for term limits for Technical Committee members to one 3-year term renewable for a second term. CAPSA was requested to develop rules and procedures detailing the procedures for the term and selection of TC members.

21. The Governing Council noted that the SWOT analysis of CAPSA undertaken as part of the strategic plan and presented for discussion at the 2009 Governing Council session included weaknesses and requested an update on progress in addressing these. Actions included translating research project findings into concrete policy recommendations for member countries; identifying mechanisms to mobilize greater voluntary financial contributions and human resources; enhancing networking with member States, partner institutes and donor agencies for development of project proposals for internal or external funding and for supervision of project implementation; and ensuring the Centre emphasizes its regional focus as opposed to an Indonesia-focus. These were discussed at the CAPSA Technical Committee meeting in December 2009.

22. The Governing Council noted the concern that the work of CAPSA, especially with its new mandate, not duplicate initiatives and the respective mandates of the other four regional institutes of ESCAP. The Governing Council was reassured that a name change for CAPSA would not change its mandate.

23. The Governing Council also noted the concern that the strategic action elements of CAPSA agreed to by the Technical Committee members should also support the work of other regional institutions of ESCAP.

**C. Presentation and discussion on the revised strategic plan of
CAPSA and proposed programme of work for 2010-2011
(Agenda item 5)**

24. The Governing Council had before it the report of the Head on the provisional agenda item 5 MPDD/CAPSA/GC(6)02. The document was introduced by the Head of the Centre.

25. The Head of CAPSA provided an update on the status of the strategic plan produced for the Governing Council meeting in March 2009 and a detailed description of the strategic action elements developed at the two-day strategic planning workshop and discussed and agreed upon by the Technical Committee meeting at its 5th session in December 2009, both held in Bogor, Indonesia.

26. Statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia and the Philippines.

27. The Governing Council noted the appreciative comments regarding the work on the strategic action elements and that each identified activity have its associated budget requirement for successful implementation.

28. The Governing Council appreciated the work of CAPSA and Technical Committee for providing a comprehensive set of strategic action items and expressed strong support to realize the commitment to their implementation.

29. The Governing Council noted the need for clarification of the term “business development” stated in Resolution 65/4 para. 2(b) and was informed that it referred to the importance of engaging small farm holders to enhance their business activities and the importance to partner with the private sector in implementing CAPSA activities, including the provision of funding.

D. Report on the administration and financial status of CAPSA (Agenda item 6)

30. The Governing Council had before it the report of the Head on the provisional agenda item 6 MPDD/CAPSA/GC(03). The document was introduced by the Head of the Centre.

31. The Head of CAPSA provided an overview of the current situation with the administration and financial status of the Centre as of the end of 2009, as well as matters calling for the attention of the Governing Council. Annexes 2 and 3 provide, respectively, the financial status of the Centre and voluntary contributions from member States as of December 2009.

32. Statements were made by the representatives of the following countries: Indonesia and the Philippines.

33. The Governing Council noted the need for CAPSA to prepare all the financial documentation necessary for presentation at the 66th Commission session in May 2010 and to urge member States to make their voluntary contributions to CAPSA.

34. The Governing Council noted the suggestion to allow voluntary contributions to be made on an instalment basis throughout the year.

35. The Governing Council suggested that member States host or sponsor CAPSA activities, even through in-kind contributions.

E. Adoption of the report and closing

36. The Meeting had before it a set of draft recommendations MPDD/CAPSA/GC(6)CRP.1. The recommendations were adopted. The Head of the Centre made a closing statement, and the Chair declared the session closed.

III. ORGANIZATION

A. Attendance

37. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Governing Council: Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

38. Representatives of the following States Members of the United Nations attended as Observers: China and the Philippines.

39. Representatives of the following United Nations Secretariat units attended the session: Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division (MPDD), Programme Management Division (PMD) and Special Unit on Countries with Special Needs (CSN) of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

40. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

41. Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations attended: International Potato Centre (CIP).

B. Election of officers

42. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair: Dr. Tengku Mohd. **Ariff** Tengku Ahmad (Malaysia)

Vice-chair: Dr. Hasil **Sembiring** (Indonesia)

Rapporteur: Dr. Abdul Kalam **Azad** (Bangladesh)

C. Adoption of the agenda

43. The Meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Report on the administration and financial status of CAPSA
5. Report on the activities of CAPSA, including outcome of the CAPSA Technical Committee Meeting
6. Presentation and discussion on the revised strategic plan of CAPSA and proposed programme of work for 2010-2011
7. Discussion on the draft report of CAPSA to the Commission
8. Election of additional GC members for the period 2009-2012 for adoption at the 66th session of the Commission
9. Date and venue for the next GC meeting
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report