



Geneva, 5 April 2002

Meeting report: Workshop on Integrated Assessment of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture in the Rice Sector

Objective of the meeting:

To launch the third set of UNEP country projects to be conducted initially in 4 countries focusing on domestic rice sector by applying an integrated—economic, environmental and social—assessment, and to present the government with practical and implementable policy recommendations to promote the sustainable management of the rice sector.

Participation:

National research institutions from China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal, Thailand and Vietnam, representatives from the Geneva-based government missions to the WTO (Germany, Indonesia, Japan), international organizations (FAO, OECD, UNCTAD, WTO, UNEP-ROE), an academic institute (IUED) and non-governmental organizations (Friends of Earth, IATP, ICTSD, IISD) participated in the meeting.

Summary of discussion:

The meeting was organized around three main components:

(1) Briefing 10 national research institutions on UNEP's work on integrated assessment that consists of country projects and the UNEP manual "the Reference Manual for Integrated Assessment of Trade-Related Policies" and its applications. (2) Presentations by 10 national institutions on the rice production trends, national policies and international trade-related policies related to rice production. (3) Reviewing and amending proposed design of country project studies.

In the introductory session, Hussein Abaza, Chief of Economics and Trade Branch of UNEP, briefed the meeting participants on the UNEP country projects. He emphasized that the projects need to be country-driven, following a multidisciplinary and participatory approach, that the country study needs to feed into actual policy-making at the national level, and that the government should find the policy recommendations derived from the study practical and implementable. He also requested that in case of this round of country projects the studies needed to be tightly linked to the ongoing negotiations of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). Mr. John Finn from the WTO provided a detailed briefing on the provisions contained in the AoA. 10 national research institutions made presentations on past and current trends of rice productions and national policies and international trade policies affecting rice production. Brief summaries of presentation and some presentation materials are available from the ETB at request. Presentations provided a wealth of information and contrasted different situations in each country. The following sessions were devoted to clarify the objectives and underlying rationale of the UNEP country projects. The session included short presentations of the UNEP Reference Manual by Ms. Sarah Richardson, and the meeting document by Mariko Hara at UNEP. In addition to the UNEP approach, Mr. Panos Konandreas from the FAO introduced and distributed copies of an FAO manual "Economic Assessment of Production-Related Environmental Impacts" and "Environment, Sustainability and Trade Linkages for Basic Foodstuffs" to the meeting participants.

Discussion covered:

Methodological issues:

- The objectivity/subjectivity of the country-driven studies;
- How best to ensure the stakeholder involvement;

- How to balance three different, namely economic, social and environmental, aspects of the assessment;
- Considering the fact that the country-specific, sector-specific, location-specific or production-system-specific country projects may well exclude exogenous factors from the analysis (e.g. impacts on other sectors in the country, etc.), certain precautions are to be taken in deriving study conclusions and policy recommendations that could affect the national economy as a whole;
- How to separate the effects of the AoA from other factors;
- How to address, model and value cross-border impacts of certain policies;
- Indicator availability may delimit the study.

Strategic issues:

- Whether the government would be ready to implement the policy recommendations delivered by the UNEP country projects;
- How national level assessment could influence trade negotiations in Geneva;
- How to involve the private sector in the assessment process;
- The policy recommendations at the national level derived from the study might need to anticipate their possible cross-border implications and effects upon the implementation.

Policy goals and issues of national governments:

- To what extent external factors to the individual countries, such as the provisions in the AoA or policies of other countries, would limit their policy objectives;
- To what extent an individual country could unilaterally address environmental problems that often require a multilateral solution;
- Some countries share a common national policy agenda in reducing the over-dependence on imported rice to save foreign currency earnings;
- Future prospect for the growth in rice production could largely be influenced by regional trade agreements that may provide opportunities for market access to other countries;
- Many developing countries see that trade distortions caused by developed countries' subsidies firstly support the rice production of the latter and secondly deprive market access opportunities for the former and lastly disrupt the sustainable management of the domestic rice sector by cheap imports;
- In some countries, increased imports of agricultural produce have put small-scale farmers into a difficult situation and even their survival is threatened without effective policy measures;
- Some African countries report that the upland rice production with slash and burn system could have negative environmental impacts compared to other types of production systems;
- Given the economic and social importance of the rice production in many countries, the sustainable management and production of rice may contribute to poverty alleviation.

Production trends:

- Technological improvement and increase of the yield;
- Provisions of input subsidies and other support measures to protect rice production by national governments;
- Irrespective of the market value, some societies attribute very important social values to the rice crop;
- In some countries rice accounts for the major source for calorie intake, and is an important food security crop;
- Other countries are rapidly increasing rice consumption due to changes in income and in the eating habits, but domestic production needs to catch up to fill in the gap in production and consumption so as to reduce rice import;
- Some African countries report consumer preference in favor of imported Asian rice over domestic rice, which could be due to the difference in quality;
- Countries report varying levels of production costs and yields per hectare;
- Unit costs differ among neighboring countries, for example, because of the land tenure system, and trade liberalization could make it impossible for high unit cost rice producing countries to keep its subsistence farmers in business;
- Where the land use change is observed, environmental impacts of the converted land are often not clear, and therefore makes it difficult to assign values.

Last session discussed the future work plan and modality of the project.

Next steps :

ETB has revised the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) based on the discussion in the last session and sent it to the national research institutions for their reference on 11th April. Interested national research institutions are requested to submit a project proposal in line with the MoU by the end of May 2002. After finalizing the MoU, 4-6 country projects will be launched as early as June 2003. Depending on the funding situation, UNEP will subsequently launch more country projects.

In this regard, UNEP seeks funding to this project from interested parties.

List of participants:

NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

State Environmental Protection Administration

Dr. Linxiu Zhang
Deputy Director
Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy (CCAP)
Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
Building 917, Datun Road
North Asian Games Village
Beijing 100101
PR China

Tel: (010)64856834/64889440
Fax : (010)64856533
Email : lxzhang @public.bta.net.cn

Institut des sciences de l'environnement

Dr Abdoulaye Sene
Professeur
Institut des sciences de l'environnement
Université C.A. DIOP
BP 5286 Dakar-Fann
Dakar
Senegal

Tel: 221 825 43 27
Fax: 221 822 93 13
E-mail: absene@refer.sn

West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA)

Dr. Aliou Diagne
Impact Assessment Economist
Rice Policy and Development Program
West Africa Rice Development Association

(WARDA)
B.P. 2551
Bouaké 01
Côte d'Ivoire

Tel: 225 31 65 94 21
Fax: 225 31 63 47 14
E-mail: a.diagne@cgiar.org

Centre for Ecological Economics

Prof. Sitanon Jesdapipat
Director
Centre for Ecological Economics
Chulalongkorn University
511/1 Faculty of Economics, Phayathai
Bangkok 103 30
Thailand

Tel: (66 2) 2186 293
Fax: (66 2) 2186 212
E-mail: jsitanon@hotmail.com

FEDEARROZ

Dr. Néstor Gutiérrez
Head
Economic Research Division
Federación Nacional de Arroceros –
FEDEARROZ
Kra 100 No. 47-55
Bogota
Colombia

Tel: 57 1 425 2013
Fax: 57 1 42 2023
E-mail: inv-econ@fedearroz.com.co

GALPA

Mr. Carlos M. T. Amarante
Director
CMTA Studies and Consultancies
Ministry of Agriculture
M.A.F.P. – GAPLA, CP 71
Bissau
Guinea-Bissau

Tel: + 245 221 200/ 254885
Fax: + 245 221 019 or 22 24 83
E-mail: fao.gnb@field.fao.org

Guyana Rice Development Board

Mr Jagnarine Singh
General Manager
Guyana Rice Development Board
117 Cowan Street. Kingston,
Georgetown,
Guyana

Tel: 592 225 8717
Fax : 592 225 6486
E-mail: grdb@gol.net.gy

Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry - Vietnam

Mr Truong Van Tuyen
Lecturer - Researcher
Department of Extension and Rural Development
Study
Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry
24 Phung Hung Street
Hue City
Vietnam

Tel: 84 54 529 749
Fax: 84 54 530 000
E-mail: tvtuyen@dng.vnn.vn

Jenderal Soedirman University - Indonesia

Mr. Matius Suparmoko
Environmental Economist
Faculty of Economics
Jenderal Soedirman University
Arthaloka Bld, 15th Floor, Jalan Jenderal
Sudirman No.2
10 220 Jakarta
Indonesia

Tel: 62-21 251 13 72
Fax: 62-21 251 13 72
E-mail: rmoko@cbn.net.id

Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER)

Prof. Tunji Akande
Director
Agriculture & Rural Development
Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic
Research (NISER)
NISER, P.M.B. 5, U.I. Post Office
Ibadan
Nigeria

Tel: (234-2) 810 29 04; 39 41
Fax: (234-2) 810 11 94
E-mail: akande@niser.org.ng

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Mr. Dimitris Diakosavvas
Senior Economist
Policy and Environment Division
Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Organization for Economic Co-operation and
Development (OECD)
2 rue André Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16
France

Tel: 33.1.4524-9533
Fax: 33.1.4524-1890
E-mail: dimitris.diakosavvas@wto.org

World Trade organization

Mr. John Finn
Counsellor
Agriculture and Commodities Division
World Trade organization
154 rue de Lausanne
1211 Geneva

Tel: 739 5081
Fax: 739 5760
E-mail: john.finn@wto.org

Mr. Robert The
Counsellor
Development and Economic Research Division
WTO
154 Rue de Lausanne
Centre William Rappard

CH-1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22) 739 56 08
Fax: (41-22) 739 51 62
E-mail: robert.teh@wto.org

UNITED NATIONS

Food and Agriculture Organization

Mr. Panos Konandreas
Senior Liaison Officer (FAO)
Liaison Office with the United Nations in Geneva
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Room B-556
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22) 917 36 35/36 83
Fax: (41-22) 917 00 65
E-mail: pkonandreas@unog.ch

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Mr. Murray Gibbs
Executive Direction and Management
U/EDM
UNCTAD
Palais des Nations

Tel: 41.22.917-5920
Fax: 41.22.917-0044
E-mail: murray.gibbs@unctad.org

Ms. Miho Shirotori
Economic Affairs Officer
Division on International Trade in Goods and
Services, and Commodities (DITC)
United Nations Conference for Trade and
Development
Palais des Nations
Room E.8022
Geneva 10
Switzerland

Tel: 41.22.917-5556
Fax: 41.22.917-0044
E-mail: miho.shirotori@unctad.org

United Nations Environment Programme

Mr. Gerard van Dijk
Programme Biodiversity Officer
Regional Office for Europe (ROE)
United Nations Environment Programme
15 chemin des Anémones
CH-1219 Châtelaine
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22) 917 82 81
Fax: (41-22) 797 34 20
E-mail: gerard.van.dijk@unep.ch

ACADEMIC INSTITUTION

Institut Universitaire d'Etudes du Développement (IUED)

M. Claude Auroi
Professor
Developpement rural
Institut Universitaire d'Etudes du Développement
(IUED)
24 rue Rothschild
CH-1211 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22) 906 59 55
Fax: (41-22) 906 59 47
E-mail: claudio.auroi@iued.unige.ch

NGO

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Ms. Shefali Sharma
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
B.P. 21
160A, Route de Florissant
CH-1231 Conches
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22) 789-0724
Fax: (41-22) 789-0500
E-mail: ssharma@iatp.org

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

Mr. Alex Werth
Programme Coordinator on Agriculture
International Centre for Trade and Sustainable
Development (ICTSD)
13 chemin des Anémones
Chatelaine/Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22) 917 83 74
Fax: (41-22) 917 80 93
E-mail: awerth@ictsd.ch

International Institute for Sustainable Development

Mr Konrad von Moltke
International Institute for Sustainable
Development (IISD)
239 Hopson Road
Norwich, VT 05055
USA

Tel: (1 802) 649 2823
Fax: (1 802) 649 3539
E-mail: kvm@dartmouth.edu

Friends of the Earth International

Mr. Vicente Paolo B. Yu III
WTO Program Officer
Friends of the Earth International
BP 21 Rte de Florissant
CH-1231 Conches
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22) 789-0742
Fax: (41-22) 789-0500; (1)(240)208-4262
E-mail: yuvice@philonline.com

CONSULTANT

Maeander Enterprises

Ms. Sarah Richardson
Consultant
Maeander Enterprises
172 Avenue Querbes
Montreal, Quebec H2V 3V9
Canada

Tel: 1-514-270-9757
Fax: 1-514-270-9711
E-mail: maeander@attcanada.net

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Germany to the International Organizations in Geneva

Mrs. Ursula Holzhauser
Counsellor (Agricultural Affairs)
Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of

Germany
28 Chemin du Petit-Saconnex
1209 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22) 730 12 56
Fax: (41-22) 734 30 43
E-mail: wto6@genf.auswaertiges-amt.de

Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations at Geneva

Mr. Arrmanatha Nasir
Third Secretary
Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United
Nations at Geneva
16 & 28 rue de Saint-Jean
1203 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22) 339 70 10 / 338 33 50
Fax: (41-22) 339 70 25 / 345 57 33
E-mail: arrmanatha.nasir@ties.itu.int

Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

Mr. Masayoshi Mizuno
First Secretary (Economic Division)
Permanent Mission of Japan to the United
Nations and other International Organizations in
Geneva
Chemin des Fins 3
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland

Tel: (41-22) 717 32 38
Fax: (41-22) 788 33 68
E-mail: mission.japan@ties.itu.int
mizuno.masayoshi@bluewin.ch

UNEP/ETB

Mr. Hussein Abaza
Chief, ETB

Mr. Charles Arden-Clarke
Senior Programme Officer for Trade

Ms. Mariko Hara
Junior Programme Officer
