

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Limited Distribution

Agriculture Committee

PROGRAMME OF WORK OF COMMITTEE

The Agriculture Committee met on 18/19 January 1968 to determine a programme for the implementation of its terms of reference. The Committee agreed that its work programme could conveniently be undertaken in three stages, viz:

- (a) a preparatory stage consisting of the assembly of documentation so as to clarify the situation as it existed with respect to the products under examination;
- (b) the consideration by the Committee of the preparatory work in order to arrive at the identification of the principal problems affecting international trade in these products;
- (c) the discussion, to be followed by a report to the CONTRACTING PARTIES, of the means whereby, in the view of the Committee, mutually acceptable solutions to these problems could be achieved.

The Committee considered that the data to be assembled should be as complete and as up to date as possible and that this could be best achieved if such data were to be supplied by governments, members of the Committee, on the basis of a questionnaire. The Committee agreed for practical reasons to select certain products to which, in the preparatory stage, the information should relate. This would leave open the possibility of including other products at a later date. The questionnaire together with the list of products to be covered is annexed.

On receipt of data provided in response to this questionnaire, the secretariat will collate material in a form suitable for examination by the Committee at its next meeting.

The Committee further agreed that replies to the questionnaire should be submitted to the secretariat by 15 April at the latest and that it should meet on 17 June so as to provide a sufficient interval for the assembly and distribution of documentation by the secretariat and for the examination of such documentation by governments.

Members of the Committee are accordingly invited to submit replies to the questionnaire. If governments find that they are able to compile data on some, at least, of the product groupings earlier than mid-April, it would facilitate the work of the secretariat if such material could be dispatched to Geneva immediately on completion. Data with respect to all commodities should, however,

be submitted by 15 April. The secretariat has prepared a note providing clarification on product coverage and the content of the questionnaire and this is attached.

In submitting replies to the questionnaire, governments may also wish to provide an account of their general agricultural policies, including the position of agriculture in the overall economy.

Annex I

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Data to be Provided for the Most Recent Three-Year Period

A. Production: production measures and policies

1. Statistical data on total volume of production; total acreage or units of production and average yield per unit of production.
2. Trends in production and estimates for 1970.
3. Statistical data on carry-over stocks and stockpiles (governmental and; where significant and available, private).
4. Factors which affect production (e.g. interrelationship of commodities - structural elements - improvement of productivity - technological progress).
5. Policies and measures of governments or other bodies likely to influence production, other than those listed under B.

B. Protection and support measures and policies

I. Internal support measures and policies

1. Inventory of the instruments of support (guaranteed prices, support prices, subsidies and other measures directly or indirectly affecting returns to producers, stock management policy with cost to government or quasi-governmental entities, etc.), including measures which tend to limit production.
2. Levels of guaranteed prices or support prices.
3. Amount of producer subsidies.
4. Average returns to producers (ex farm, value per unit).
5. Method of determining returns for producers, including pooling of receipts; constituent elements of these returns; relationship of price formation in domestic and international markets.

II. Measures at the frontier

Measures at frontier (both of central government and of governments of constituent units) such as import duties and all charges, quantitative import restrictions, minimum import prices, import calendars, conditional import regulations, and all other measures which affect the quantity or price of imports. Levels of such measures.

C. Consumption and internal prices

1. Statistical data on consumption.
2. Trends in consumption and estimates for 1970.
3. Retail and wholesale prices on major internal markets, including, where relevant, major seasonal variations. Marketing costs, if available.
4. Factors which condition the evolution of internal consumption including inter-dependence of products.
5. Policies and measures affecting consumption including: consumer subsidies; promotion measures and other measures affecting domestic consumption; use of the product in domestic and international welfare schemes and other non-commercial disposals.

D. International trade and prices

1. Statistical data on the volume and value of imports and exports by source and destination, distinguishing between commercial and non-commercial.
2. Levels of export prices prevailing in various markets for different varieties (f.o.b.; where available, c.i.f.); levels of import prices for different varieties (c.i.f., free at frontier; where available, f.o.b.); their direction and evolution and their main seasonal variations. Inter-dependence of markets in price formation and trade flows.
3. Export aid measures and policies.
 - (a) Specific data and comment on export payments, subsidies and other aids; the total amount of subsidies paid and the quantity exported under subsidy.
 - (b) Stock management policies as they relate to exports.
 - (c) Types and influence of non-commercial transactions and policies, including export credit.
4. Description of bilateral agreements affecting imports or exports.

Annex II

SECTORS COVERED BY THE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Dairy products
2. Grains
3. Beef and veal, live cattle, processed meat
4. Other meats: poultry, pig meat, live pigs, mutton and lamb, processed meat
5. Fruits and vegetables; citrus, deciduous fruits, tropical fruits; canned products
6. Vegetable oils and seeds
7. Unmanufactured tobacco
8. Wine

In the course of the examination, supplementary information may be required on products of particular interest to certain countries.

Annex III

EXPLANATORY NOTE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

The Committee decided to prepare only one questionnaire which should cover all products for which information is required. Depending on the product considered, therefore, not all questions may be relevant.

It is suggested that the statistical data requested should cover the most recent period of at least three years for which statistics are available. The data are requested in the same or comparable units, such as hectares, metric tons, United States dollars, hectolitres for wine etc. For meat conversion into carcass weight is suggested, where relevant. Some of the questions may require some further explanation, which is given below:

- A4. Factors which affect production -- a short description is requested of factors, other than governmental policy measures, which are likely to have had an effect on past production trends and may have in the future.
- A5. This question relates to policies and measures, other than support measures, to improve conditions of production such as farm consolidation, irrigation etc.
- B3. The producer subsidies which should be listed under this item are subsidies which do not relate to a particular commodity and are therefore not included under B1.
- B5. This item relates to a breakdown of the average return to producers listed under B4. The pooling of receipts refers to such systems where the producer for example eventually receives an average of the returns for his product, sold on the domestic market and for exports at different prices.
- BII. Measures at the frontier. It is suggested that import duties should be given in ad valorem terms, and only those presently applied and those to be applied when the Kennedy Round is fully implemented. As regards variable import levies it is suggested that only a range should be given, for example the lowest and the highest applicable during the period under consideration.
- C4. A short description is requested of factors, other than measures referred to under C5, which are likely to affect consumption, for example the relationship between butter and margarine etc.
- D2. It is suggested that exporting countries should give prices actually prevailing in particular markets for representative varieties and not export unit values. Similarly importing countries should not give import unit values, if more reliable data can be given.

As regards the list of products it is suggested that:

1. Dairy products should include milk, butter and near-butters, skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, condensed milk and cheese of the types regularly traded internationally such as Gouda, Cheddar, etc.
2. Grains should include wheat, barley, oats, maize and sorghum.
3. Beef and veal should include live cattle, as well as canned and processed meats.
4. Other meats should also include live pigs, as well as canned and processed meats.
5. Fruits should include such fruits as are traded regularly internationally as apples, pears, apricots, peaches, hazelnuts, etc. as well as canned fruits (including mixtures); tropical fruits would relate primarily to those fruits in which tropical countries have an important export interest, with the exception of bananas which have been taken up by the Group on Tropical Products.
6. Vegetable oils and seeds should be limited as much as possible to the important vegetable oils and seeds traded internationally.