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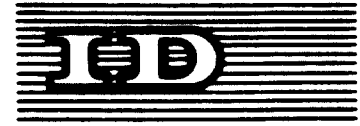
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08669



United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Distr.
LIMITED

ID/WG.290/2
18 January 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Second Leather and Leather Products
Industry Panel Meeting
Vienna, 5-7 February 1979

ACTION PROGRAMME TO
INCREASE RAW MATERIALS AVAILABILITY*

by

the Secretariat of UNIDO

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id.79-344

ACTION PROGRAMME TO INCREASE RAW MATERIALS AVAILABILITY

Introduction:

In the report of the first session of the leather and leather products industry panel, held in Vienna from 5 to 7 June 1978, page 4, Chapter V, paragraph 21, the following recommendation was made regarding an action programme to increase raw material availability:

"The Panel agreed that the preparation of an action programme to improve raw material availability and quality was of crucial importance to the development of the industry in both developed and developing countries. It recommended that without awaiting the results of the data collection described in Chapter II, UNIDO - in co-operation with FAO - should prepare jointly a campaign designed to draw the attention of governments on the need and economic advantage of specific programmes to overcome this problem. Examples were the setting up of carcass recovery centres in India and the problem of small non-mechanized slaughterhouses in Tanzania. The Panel felt that it was necessary to impress upon governments the economic importance of including hides and skins projects in their respective development plans. UNIDO and FAO were to prepare within the proposed campaign general briefs to stimulate government initiatives in this respect. The Panel agreed to discuss at its second meeting the implementation of this recommendation."

Implementation Action Initiated:

1. The agreement setting out guidelines for co-operation between FAO and UNIDO in the field of industrial development, signed on 9 July 1969, clearly states that technical assistance activities concerning the raw materials required for the leather industry, namely, hides and skins, are FAO operations. Therefore, action programmes to increase raw material (hides and skins) availability necessarily have to be implemented by FAO, which organization has extensive experience and valuable expertise in this field.

2. Close contact, by correspondence, telephone and mutual visits, has been maintained between representatives of FAO and UNIDO, at the substantive level, to discuss this specific matter and how the subject action programme can best be carried out.

However, to obtain a formal agreement on the respective contributions of the two organizations to the envisaged action programme to increase hides and skins availability, this subject will have to be discussed by representatives of FAO and UNIDO at a meeting of the joint FAO/UNIDO working group on food and agricultural products conservation and processing industries. Such a joint FAO/UNIDO meeting was originally scheduled to take place end October/beginning November 1978, but for various reasons this meeting had to be postponed. The exact date of the forthcoming meeting of this joint working group is not yet known.

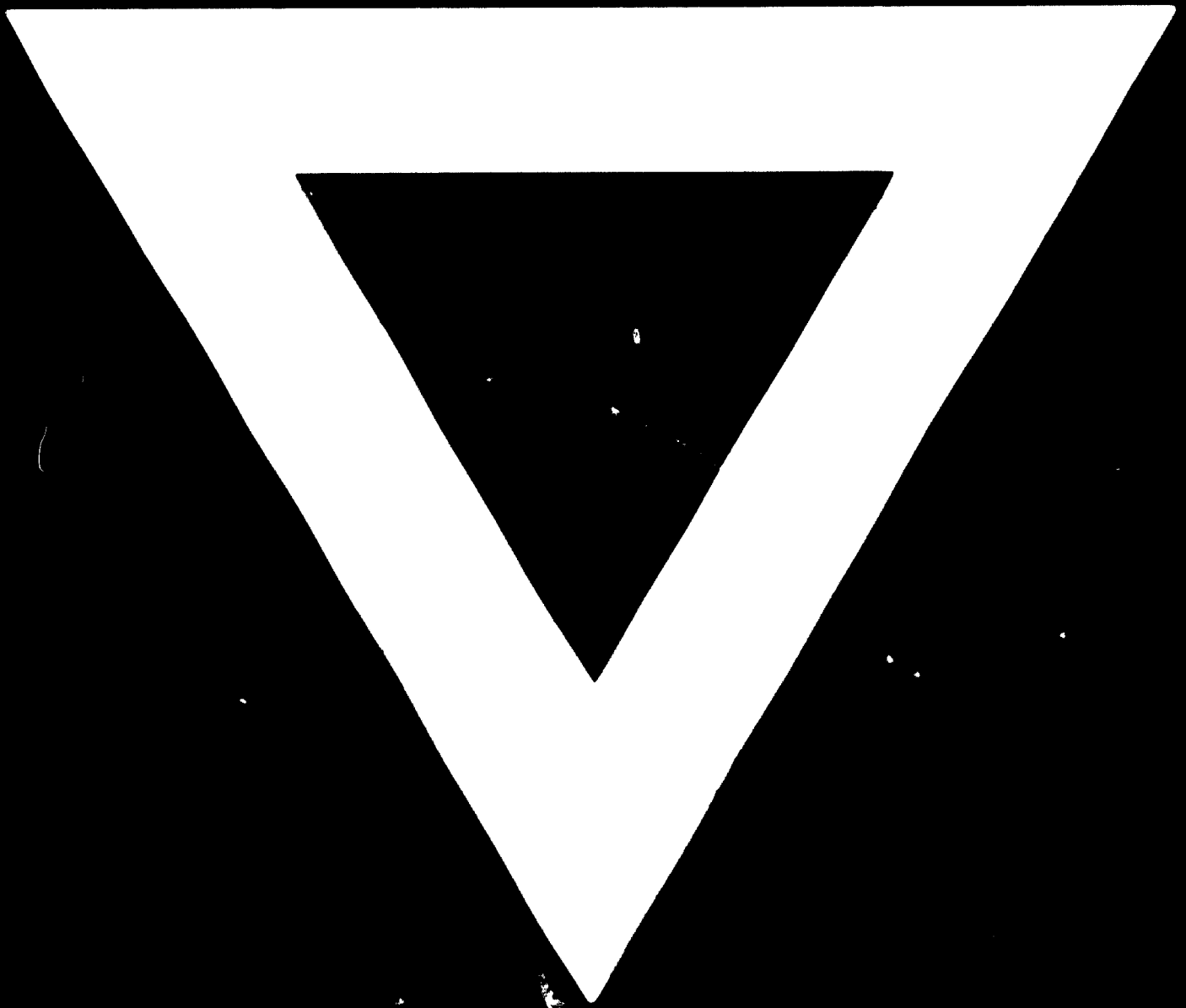
3. FAO has written to its country representatives in main hides and skins producing countries, requesting them to approach the government authorities concerned to impress upon them the economic advantages of improving raw material availability and quality, and the importance of giving high priority to hides and skins improvement projects in their development plans. FAO reports that the response to this approach has been good.

A detailed report on this matter and other related activities carried out by FAO in this field is expected to be presented to the second session of the Leather and Leather Products Industry Panel, Vienna, 5 to 7 February 1979, by FAO's representative, agenda item 6 (ii), b) - "Ongoing and actually planned activities to improve raw material availability and quality".

4. The background for and the outcome of the important Ad Hoc Government Consultation on Hides and Skins, which was organized by FAO in Rome from 17 to 20 October 1978, will also be reported on by FAO's representative at the second Leather Panel meeting, agenda item 6 (ii), a).

The valuable documents prepared for this Ad Hoc Consultation as well as the final report including recommendations for further action to be taken, has been prepared by FAO.

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