

Agricultural Technical Working Group (ATWG) FSLC in Ukraine

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Rationale

The agricultural sector in conflict-affected Donetsk and Luhansk regions has suffered since the beginning of the armed conflict in 2014, which resulted in the disruption of trade links, a significant reduction in local production, and instability. The impact of the continuous armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine appears to have had a significant impact on agricultural livelihoods and, therefore, it is prudent to emphasize the need to facilitate the scaling up of ongoing agricultural production by the affected population as a way of safeguarding, restoring livelihoods, recovering incomes, and ensuring sustainable food security. The Agricultural Technical Working Group will serve as a platform to coordinate and exchange information between the key actors and stakeholders at the policy level and on technical issues related to implementing emergency agriculture support.

Purpose

The Agricultural Technical Working Group's prime purpose is to serve as a platform to discuss issues related to agriculture activities, support technical guidelines for the various aspects of agriculture-based interventions and discuss assessment methods, implementation modalities, type of the assistance and provide a mechanism for the coordination, monitoring and evaluation of all agriculture projects implemented by the partners.

Objectives

The objective of the Agricultural Technical Working Group is substantiated by the necessity of strengthening coordination and complementarity of agricultural activities to support the productive capacities and to help the target population engage and restart their agricultural production. The ATWG will provide a platform that facilitates shared information on agricultural livelihoods inputs and best practices informed by field-based evidence.

Role & Responsibilities of the ATWG

Specific responsibilities of the ATWG include:

- Coordinate efforts of FSLC partners providing agricultural support for the affected population.
- In coordination with the ministry develop policy recommendations to address key barriers within agricultural production for Eastern Ukraine.
- Facilitate discussion and build consensus on appropriate agricultural activities, modalities, common approaches, and share ongoing and planned agriculture-based responses by the partners to maximize the impact, coverage, and mitigate duplication of efforts.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade, and Agriculture and their designated bodies, develop technical approaches and guidelines for agricultural

livelihood inputs (agriculture kits, good agriculture practices, and management), together with the key humanitarian actors involved in agriculture activities.

- Identify agricultural production challenges that affect the production of the affected population and find measures to solve them.
- Develop joint communication and advocacy messages to inform key stakeholders on the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of agriculture assistance in Eastern Ukraine.
- Support the FSLC with formulating the agricultural livelihood objectives and target for the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).
- Designate committees to develop specific guidance and other relevant documents / approaches to promote agricultural production.
- Promote and mainstream market-based approaches across the sector.
- Identify capacity building needs across the NGO sector in Ukraine.
- Harmonize market and agriculture assessments.

Governance

- Membership. Membership shall include FAO and other interested UN agencies, NGOs, donors, Government extension, and research institutions.
- Chair and Co-chair. The working group will be led by a Chair and Co-Chair and supported by a Secretariat comprised of one or two individuals. The working group will select or endorse the Secretariat, Chair, and Co-Chair and will ideally comprise a representative from a UN agency, the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture, and an NGO.

Meetings

Meetings to be held regularly (monthly) and more frequently as required. The venue, date, and time of meetings shall be communicated by the Chair. Decision making and the meeting procedures shall be conducted in a participatory manner with input from all members.

Documentation and sharing

- The Working Group will organize meetings in consultation with the FSLC; draft minutes, compile reports, plans, and data. The minutes shall be uploaded to the FSLC website.
- The working group will disseminate their outputs in the FSLC monthly coordination meetings, so that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of the technical working group' work.

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