



INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION
ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DEL CAFÉ
ORGANIZAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL DO CAFÉ
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU CAFÉ

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Core Group on the Consultative Forum
3rd Meeting
5 March 2013
London, United Kingdom

3rd Consultative Forum – concept paper

Background

The attached concept paper has been received from the representative of the National Coffee Association of the USA (NCA) with a view to assisting the Core Group in considering the preparations for the 3rd Consultative Forum in September 2013.

Action

The Core Group is invited to consider this document.

3rd CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON COFFEE SECTOR FINANCE SEPTEMBER 2013

CONCEPT PAPER

The International Coffee Agreement 2007 provides for a Consultative Forum on Coffee Sector Finance to “facilitate consultation on topics related to finance and risk management in the coffee sector, with a particular emphasis on the needs of small- and medium-scale producers...” The Core Group is charged with assisting the Council with organizing and promoting the work of the Forum, including identifying mechanisms or formats for considering topics in the Forum. At the meeting of the Core Group on 25 September 2012, it was agreed that the 3rd Consultative Forum, to be held in Brazil, would employ a Force Field Problem Solving model to explore a topic related to finance and risk management.

Suggested Topic: Aggregation

The topic of farmer aggregation is well suited to be explored using Force Field methodology. Most importantly, due to the complexities of identifying and managing risks and accessing finance, and the cultural frameworks that exist amongst small- and medium- scale producers, it is generally accepted that well organized, successful farmer groups can be a vehicle to not only manage risk and access finance, but also a vehicle that can deliver other types of benefits to farmers, such as training, general education and information dissemination. Further, aggregation is a topic that ICO has not fully explored in the context of finance and risk management.

Programme Design

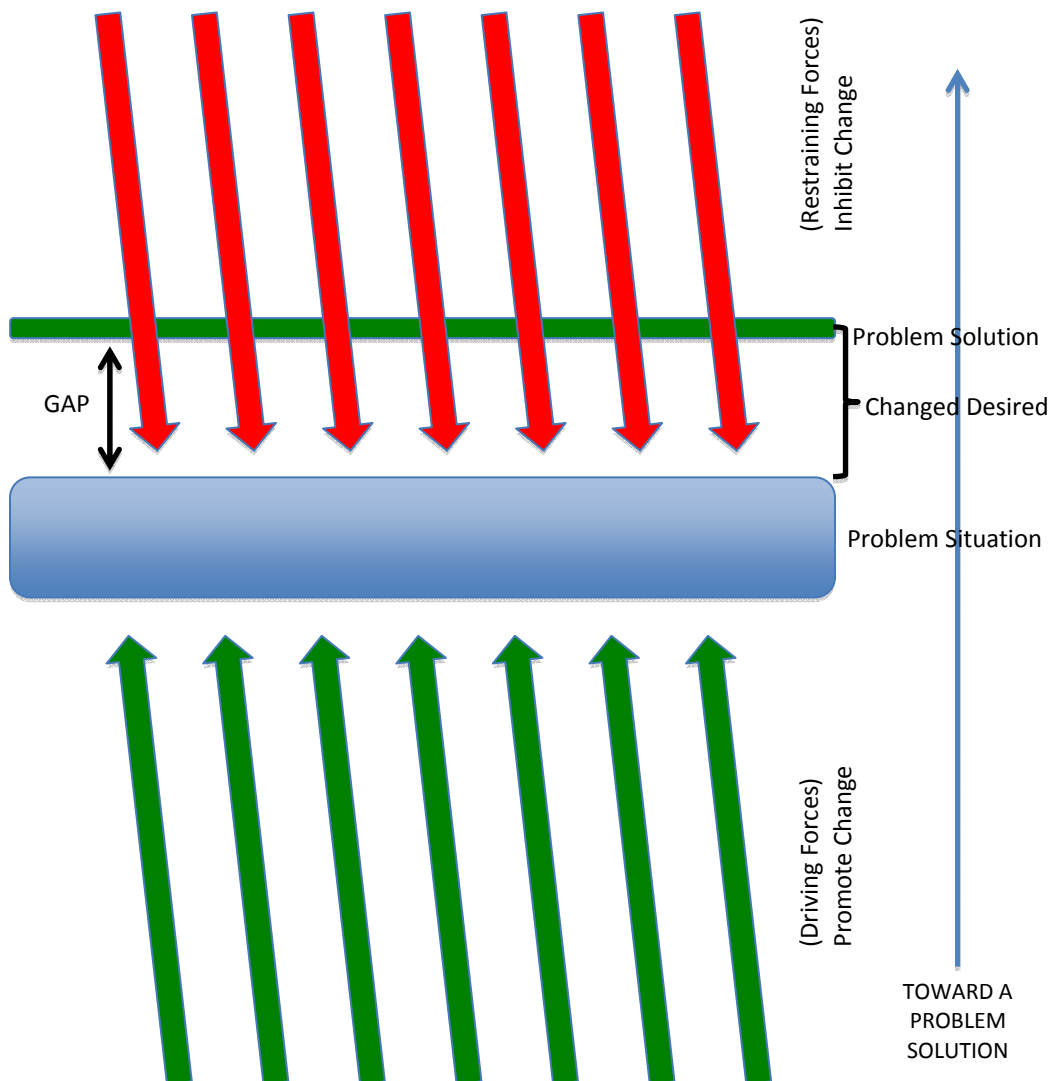
The Consultative Forum will be designed to identify various manners in which farmer organization (aggregation) occurs, and current environmental forces that lend themselves to farmer aggregation (driving forces) and those that create barriers to aggregation (restraining forces). Driving forces promote change and restraining forces inhibit change. The identification of driving and restraining forces provides an opportunity for the ICO to explore strategies for strengthening driving forces and weakening restraining forces, forces that may very well differ from region to region. Depending on time availability at the Forum itself, such strategies will be explored during the Forum. Subsequently, strategies may also be explored by the Core Group or at another Forum event. The Forum will be executed in a way that will result in a “deliverable” that the ICO could 1) use to execute (or act as a catalyst for) risk management and finance solutions and/or 2) use as a roadmap for future Core Group discussions or Forum activities/topics.

It is envisioned that the session will utilize both facilitated large group discussions and small group breakouts.

Participants

The success of the programme will be largely dependent on having the right group of diverse participants. As such, in addition to the customary ICO delegates and usual private sector representatives, it is proposed that the ICO invite individuals with expertise in farmer aggregation to form an “Expert Nucleus” for the session. It is important that the Expert Nucleus be diverse both geographically and functionally. As such, experts from public and private sectors should be invited and should include individuals from non-profit organizations, development banks, development agencies, cooperative representatives and traders, among others. Based on the number of ICO delegates expected to participate and the number of small breakout groups, ideally 15 to 20 experts would be engaged to participate.

Force Field Problem Solving Model



Logistics

One large room that will accommodate approximately 125 ICO delegates and the Expert Nucleus set up in Chevron Style will be needed, along with five breakout rooms that each accommodate 25 people set in “U” formation. Ample flip chart easels and flip charts (along with multi-colored markers) will be needed for each room.

It is strongly recommended that interpretation be available in the large room and the breakout rooms.

In addition to the main facilitator, facilitators will have to be identified for the breakout sessions.