



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Ninth Session

Rome, 25 – 27 July 2018

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

1. Election of the Chair, the Vice-Chair(s) and the *Rapporteur*

In accordance with its Statutes, the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) “shall elect its Chairperson and one or more Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of Members of the Working Group at the beginning of each session. These officers shall remain in office until the next session of the Working Group and shall be eligible for re-election”.¹ The Working Group may also wish to appoint a *Rapporteur*.

2. Adoption of the annotated agenda and timetable

A provisional timetable is given in the *Appendix* to the present document, for consideration by the Working Group.

3. Status of implementation of the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

3.1 Review of the implementation of the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

At its Sixteenth Regular Session, held from 30 January to 3 February 2017, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) welcomed the overall progress made in the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA).² The Commission requested FAO and donors to continue supporting countries in their efforts to conserve plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) *in situ*

¹ CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.2.

² CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 52.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



and on-farm, to maintain genebanks for continued collection, conservation, characterization, evaluation, use and provision of crop germplasm, and to strengthen the links and complementarity between *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation.³ The Commission requested FAO to continue assisting countries in strengthening their crop improvement and plant breeding capacities, including through multi-stakeholder platforms.⁴ The document, *FAO activities in support of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/2 Rev.1)*, provides a summary of the work initiated or completed since the last session of the Commission in support of the implementation of the Second GPA, for consideration by the Working Group.

Draft Voluntary guidelines for the national level conservation and sustainable use of farmers' varieties/landraces

At its last session, the Commission referred the revised draft guidelines on national level conservation and use of farmers' varieties/landraces to the Working Group for further review and invited Members, observers and National Focal Points (NFPs) to provide comments on this document.⁵ The draft guidelines, as revised in the light of comments received, are contained in the document: *Draft Voluntary guidelines for the national level conservation and sustainable use of farmers' varieties/landraces (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.4)*. The Working Group is invited to review and revise the draft guidelines, as appropriate, for consideration by the Commission.

In situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its Sixteenth Regular Session, reviewed a concept note on global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA and referred it to its Working Group for further consultations.⁶

As a result of informal consultations held by FAO, and due to the different stakeholders groups involved in on-farm management on the one hand, and *in situ* conservation on the other, FAO has developed two separate concept notes, on *Global networking on on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.5 Rev.1)* and on *Global networking on in situ conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.6)*, for consideration by the Working Group.

Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its Fifteenth Regular Session, requested FAO to continue supporting countries in the implementation of the *Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Genebank Standards)*⁷ and to propose a mechanism to monitor their application.⁸ In response, FAO has undertaken a survey of the use of the Genebank Standards, held an expert consultation and drafted a set of action steps for facilitating the implementation of the Genebank Standards (*CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.3*). The action steps could form the basis for practical guides to the use of the Genebank Standards for different conservation methods. The practical guides could facilitate the monitoring of the implementation of the Genebank Standards. The Working Group is invited to consider the preparation of practical guides to the Genebank Standards based on the action steps identified, and the development of a monitoring mechanism based on the practical guides, for consideration by the Working Group and the Commission, at their next sessions.

³ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev. 1, paragraph 58.

⁴ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev. 1, paragraph 59.

⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev. 1, paragraph 63.

⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev. 1, paragraph 64.

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3704e.pdf>

⁸ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 51.

Status and Trends of Seed Policies

In revising its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW), the Commission, at its last session, decided to review at its next session the status and trends of seed policies.⁹ An initial review is contained in the document *Review of the status and trends of seed policies and seed laws (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.7)*, for consideration by the Working Group.

3.2 Status of Development of the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its Sixteenth Regular Session, considered the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) on PGRFA and stressed its role as a key PGRFA information system with respect to Article 17 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty). It requested FAO to complete the restructuring of WIEWS, and publish through WIEWS information on the implementation of the Second GPA and Target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).¹⁰ The Commission also requested FAO to consult Commission Members and observers on options for further simplifying the reporting format for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA and to prepare a proposal for review by the Working Group.¹¹

The document *Status of Development of the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/3)* reports on the status of the restructuring of WIEWS, its use for monitoring the implementation of the SDG Target 2.5 and the collaboration with the Statistical Division of FAO and the Secretariat of the Treaty. The document also introduces the *Draft Revised Reporting Format for Monitoring the Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.8)*, which incorporates inputs from Commission Members, observers and experts for the simplification of the reporting format. The Working Group is invited to take note of the status of development of WIEWS and to review and revise, as appropriate, the simplifications proposed to the Reporting Format.

4. Preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

The Commission, at its Sixteenth Regular Session, considered the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report). It endorsed the revised timeline for the preparation of the Third Report and the monitoring of the implementation of the Second GPA, and took note of the revised provisional budget.¹² The Commission requested FAO to adjust the list of thematic studies, as necessary and appropriate, and to consult the Working Group and the Commission on the thematic studies before work commences.¹³ The document *Preparing the Third Report on the State of The World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/4)* provides background information on the preparation of the Third Report, proposes modalities for country reporting for the Third Report and includes a revised list of thematic studies. It envisages that data on the implementation of the Second GPA, as provided by countries according to the agreed monitoring framework and timeline, represent the core part of country reporting for the preparation of the Third Report and proposes to complement such information with summative narratives. These summative narratives would highlight achievements and identify trends, as well as gaps and needs in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. The Working Group is invited to consider the approach proposed for country reporting, as presented in the document *Preparation of Country Reports for The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and*

⁹ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, *Appendix C*.

¹⁰ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 57.

¹¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 56.

¹² CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 66.

¹³ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 67.

Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.9) and to review the list of thematic studies proposed to be prepared for the Third Report.

5. Access and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

In 2015, the Commission welcomed the *Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ABS Elements)*.¹⁴ The FAO Conference, at its Thirty-Ninth Session in June 2015, welcomed the ABS Elements and invited Members to consider and, as appropriate, make use of them.

The ABS Elements aim to assist governments considering developing, adapting or implementing access and benefit-sharing (ABS) measures to take into account the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA), their special role for food security and the distinctive features of the different subsectors of GRFA, while complying, as applicable, with international ABS instruments, such as the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

At its last session, the Commission “agreed to produce non-prescriptive explanatory notes describing, within the context of the ABS Elements, the distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA), to complement the ABS Elements”.¹⁵ The Commission invited Members, observers and other stakeholders to provide relevant inputs for such explanatory notes, including on their practical experiences in implementing national ABS measures related to GRFA. It also requested the Secretariat to convene, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the Treaty and the CBD, an international workshop on ABS for GRFA to provide outputs for elaboration into the explanatory notes.

The document *Draft explanatory notes, describing within the context of the ABS Elements, the distinctive features of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/5)* briefly introduces the ABS Elements, elaborates on the relevance of distinctive features of GRFA to PGR and identifies areas where explanatory notes could help governments in taking into account, in the development, adaptation or implementation of ABS measures, the importance of PGR, their special role for food security and their distinctive features. Inputs to the explanatory notes are contained in the document *Inputs by Members and Observers on Access and Benefit-Sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.10 Rev.1)*. *Outputs of the International Workshop on Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* are presented in the document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.11**. In addition, a preliminary version of the proceedings of the International Workshop has been made available to the Working Group (**CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.12 Rev.1**). The results of two surveys on access and benefit sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture are presented in the document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.13**.

The Working Group is invited to confirm the relevance of the distinctive features of GRFA to PGRFA and to review and revise, as appropriate, the draft explanatory notes.

6. “Digital sequence information” on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, established a new work stream on “digital sequence information.” It requested the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of the necessary resources, an exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) to provide information on, *inter alia*, terminology used in this area, actors involved with “digital sequence information” on GRFA, the types and extent of uses of “digital sequence information” on GRFA, such as:

- characterization,
- breeding and genetic improvement,
- conservation, and
- identification of GRFA

¹⁴ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 22(ii).

¹⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 25 (iii).

as well as on relevance of “digital sequence information” on GRFA for food security and nutrition, in order to facilitate consideration by the Commission, at its next session, of the implications of the use of “digital sequence information” on GRFA for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including exchange, access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.¹⁶

In response to the Commission’s request, the document *Review of the draft exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/6 Rev.1)* invites the Working Group to review and provide inputs to the *Draft exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.14)*.

7. Draft work plan for future work on sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to prepare a draft work plan for future work on the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates, taking into account the views of Members and observers, the findings of the report on *The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and any other relevant information, for review by the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions¹⁷

The document *Draft work plan for the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/7)* recapitulates the Commission’s activities in the area of micro-organisms and invertebrates over the last ten years and presents a draft work plan for the Commission’s future work in this area, for review by the Working Group.

8. Draft Revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018-2027)

The Commission, at its last session, updated the major outputs and milestones (2018–2027) of the MYPOW¹⁸ and agreed that the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture¹⁹ adopted at the Commission’s Fourteenth Regular Session would remain valid for the time being. However, it requested the Secretary to invite Members and observers to comment during the intersessional period on the draft Strategic Plan and to revise the document, taking into account comments received, relevant international developments and FAO’s Strategic Framework.

A revised version of the draft Strategic Plan, as reviewed by the Bureau of the Commission, is contained in *Appendix I* to the document *Draft Revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027) (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/8)*, for review by the Working Group.

9. Reports from international organizations and instruments

The document, *Reports from international organizations and instruments (CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/9)*, introduces reports to the Working Group from the CGIAR (*CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.15*), the Global Crop Diversity Trust (*CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.16*), the International Seed Federation (*CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.17*), International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (*CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.18*), and the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (*CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.19*). The Working Group is invited to take note of the reports from international organizations and instruments and may wish to recommend to the Commission that it continue to invite international organizations and instruments to report on their work to the Commission and its Working Group.

¹⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 86.

¹⁷ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 78.

¹⁸ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, Appendix C.

¹⁹ CGRFA-14/13/Report, Appendix I.

APPENDIX
PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Date and Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Wednesday, 25 July 2018, morning			
10:30 – 13:30	1	Election of the Chair, the Vice-Chair(s) and the <i>Rapporteur</i>	
	2	Adoption of the agenda and timetable	CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/1 Rev.1 CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/1 Add.1 Rev.2 (English only)
	3	Status of Implementation of <i>the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> 3.1. Review of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/2 Rev.1
Wednesday, 25 July 2018, afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	3	3.2 Status of development of the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/3
	4	Preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/4
Thursday, 26 July 2018, morning			
10:00 – 13:00	5	Access and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/5
	6	“Digital sequence information” on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/6 Rev.1
	7	Draft work plan for future work on sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/7
Thursday, 26 July 2018, afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	8	Draft Revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018-2027)	CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/8
	9	Reports from international organizations and instruments	CGRFA/WG-PGR- 9/18/9
	10	Other Business	
Friday, 27 July 2018, afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	11	Adoption of the Report	