



# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda

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

#### Eighth Session

Rome, 8 – 10 June 2016

### FAO ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
I. Introduction .....	1 - 2
II. <i>In situ</i> conservation and on-farm management	
A. Multistakeholder dialogue on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture .....	3 - 4
B. Technical support.....	5 - 7
C. Landraces and crop wild relatives .....	8
III. <i>Ex situ</i> conservation .....	9 - 12
IV. Sustainable use .....	13
A. Voluntary Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation .....	14
B. Strengthening seed systems .....	15 - 18
C. Rehabilitation of seed systems.....	19 - 23
D. Strengthening plant breeding .....	24 - 27
V. Building sustainable institutions and human capacities	
A. National Strategy for PGRFA.....	28 - 31
B. National Focal Points.....	32
C. World Information and Early Warning System on PGRFA .....	33 - 35
VI. Guidance sought.....	36

*This document is printed in limited numbers to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and contribute to climate neutrality. Delegates and observers are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and to avoid asking for additional copies. Most FAO meeting documents are available on the Internet at*

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Fifteenth Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) considered FAO's work in support of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA)<sup>1</sup>. The Commission reaffirmed the need for technical support in the area of crop improvement and for plant breeding capacity and seed systems' development in support of the implementation of the Second GPA.<sup>2</sup> The Commission stressed the complementarity of different conservation approaches and the need to balance them and it requested FAO to continue supporting countries in the implementation of the *Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*<sup>3</sup> and to continue its work on strengthening national seeds systems.<sup>4</sup>

2. This document provides information on FAO activities in support of the implementation of the Second GPA, for consideration by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group). An assessment of the implementation of the Second GPA by countries, based on targets and indicators endorsed by the Commission, is provided in the document, *Summary Assessment of the Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2012/2014*<sup>5</sup>.

## II. IN SITU CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT

### A. Multistakeholder dialogue on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

3. The Commission, at its Fifteenth Regular Session, took note of the concept note, *Global networking on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*<sup>6</sup>. It requested FAO to convene before this session of the Working Group an informal multistakeholder dialogue to discuss options for networking for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management, its functions, governance and budgetary requirements, in particular to ensure its long-term funding<sup>7</sup>. The Commission requested FAO to revise the concept note in the light of the outcomes of the multistakeholder dialogue, for consideration by the Commission at its next session.

4. In response to the Commission's request, FAO will hold an informal multi-stakeholder dialogue immediately prior to this session of the Working Group. The dialogue, co-organized by FAO and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), will be held in Rome from 6 to 7 June 2016 at FAO headquarters. A summary of the outcomes of the dialogue will be presented to the Working Group during the session. In the light of the outcomes of the dialogue, the Working Group may wish to make recommendations regarding global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management and suggest that these recommendations be reflected in the revised concept note to be considered by the Commission at its next session.

### B. Technical support

5. In response to the Commission's request, FAO continued supporting, in collaboration with international and local partners, several activities on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). In Moldova, FAO's support resulted in

---

<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 50.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 53.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 51.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 52.

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-8/16/3.

<sup>6</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-8/16/Inf.2

<sup>7</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 51.

better coordination of efforts amongst partners, improved efficiency in the conservation of PGRFA and enhanced exchange of materials, knowledge and experience among stakeholders<sup>8</sup>.

6. FAO supported Albania's efforts aimed at the sustainable management of local crop varieties through strengthening Albania's capacity in surveying and collecting PGRFA, and for the characterization and evaluation of target crops<sup>9</sup>. Ecuador, with FAO's technical support as the implementing agency of a project funded by the Global Environment Facility, mainstreamed crop diversity conservation and use into public policies and plans, including those related to land use. The resulting 'Participatory Guarantee Systems' ensures compliance of products with good agricultural practices<sup>10</sup>. Crop diversity was promoted for pest and disease management and linkages to value chains were fostered for incorporating products into local markets and agro-tourism initiatives.

7. FAO, in collaboration with Bioversity International and other partners, continues to provide support to Mauritius, South Africa and Zambia in the conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives (CWR) through strengthening of capacities in areas, such as predictive characterization of CWR and their use in pre-breeding. Leveraging FAO's *Guidelines for Developing a National Strategy for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*<sup>11</sup>, the three countries are currently developing National Strategic Action Plans for *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of CWR.

### C. Landraces and crop wild relatives

8. The Commission, at its Fifteenth Regular Session, invited the Working Group to review and revise two draft technical guidelines, *National level conservation and use of landraces*<sup>12</sup> and *National level conservation of crop wild relatives*<sup>13</sup>, considering inputs received from Members and stakeholders, such as smallholders and indigenous peoples and local communities<sup>14</sup>. The Working Group may wish to review and revise the guidelines, as appropriate, and recommend that the Commission endorse them.

## III. EX SITU CONSERVATION

9. At its Fifteenth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to continue supporting countries in the implementation of the *Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*<sup>15</sup>.

10. FAO provided during the reporting period support to the establishment of field genebanks for germplasm, including of CWR, of apricot and grape in Armenia, a centre for genetic diversity for both plants<sup>16</sup>. Certain germplasm accessions of Armenian origin were repatriated from other countries.

11. Somalia received support from FAO in the training of genebank personnel and the characterization and evaluation of germplasm accessions. Safety duplications of important PGRFA of Somali origin were deposited in genebanks of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the International Center for Tropical

---

<sup>8</sup> TCP/MOL/3504 *Support to the development of a National Programme for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Moldova*.

<sup>9</sup> TCP/ALB/3401 *Development of an improved and resilient system for managing local crop varieties in place, which contributes directly to sustainable crop production intensification*.

<sup>10</sup> GCP/ECU/086/GFF *Mainstreaming the use and conservation of agrobiodiversity in public policy through integrated strategies and in situ implementation in four Andean Highlands provinces*.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/20217930-4d14-4e87-b144-8e0adb6828a7/>

<sup>12</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-8/16/Inf.3

<sup>13</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-8/16/Inf.4

<sup>14</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 51

<sup>15</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 51

<sup>16</sup> TCP/ARM/3502. *Support for the Establishment of Apricot Collection Orchards for the Purpose of Genetic Fund Preservation* - Phase II of TCP/ARM/3302; TCP/ARM/3503. *Grape Genetic Resources Conservation and Sustainable Use in Armenia*.

Agriculture (CIAT) and the Genetic Resources Research Institute (formerly the National Genebank of Kenya)<sup>17</sup>.

12. Through FAO support in the collection, characterization and evaluation of germplasm of 15 regionally important crops, 210 new accessions were added to the collection of the National Germplasm Bank of Ecuador<sup>18</sup>.

#### IV. SUSTAINABLE USE

13. The Commission, at its Fifteenth Regular Session, reaffirmed the need for technical support in the area of crop improvement and for plant breeding capacity and seed systems' development in support of the implementation of the Second GPA and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty), taking into account the work of the Treaty<sup>19</sup>. During the reporting period, FAO continued and intensified its technical support to crop improvement, seed delivery and better coordination between the two as well as its support to the development of related policies.

##### A. Voluntary Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation

14. The Commission, at its last Session<sup>20</sup>, endorsed the *Voluntary Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation*<sup>21</sup> (Voluntary Guide) which is currently available in English, French and Spanish, with translations in other languages pending. Since its publication, the Voluntary Guide has received considerable attention and is being used by an increasing number of policy makers and administrators. FAO presented the Voluntary Guide at an international conference on *Seeds: the solution to current and future food challenges*, co-organized in October 2015 by the French Groupement National Interprofessionnel des Semences et Plants (GNIS) and FAO under the auspices of the Expo 2015 that was held in Milan, Italy under the theme "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life". The Guide has since been presented to various stakeholders and expert forums, including an expert meeting, co-organized by the Third World Network, South Centre and Oxfam Novib in March 2016. In establishing its National Seed Policy, the government of Costa Rica uses the Voluntary Guidelines.

##### B. Strengthening seed systems

15. In 2015, FAO continued to provide support to the strengthening of seed systems in various countries, including through partnerships at national, regional and international levels dedicated to the provision of quality seeds and planting materials. Relevant seed sector activities have been implemented especially in developing countries through a combination of Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs) and Trust Fund projects. Countries supported by FAO in the development or revision of seed legislation include: Azerbaijan<sup>22</sup>, Benin<sup>23</sup>, Burkina Faso, Chad<sup>24</sup>, Georgia<sup>25</sup>, Guinea<sup>26</sup>, Guinea Bissau<sup>27</sup> and Haiti<sup>28</sup>, Nicaragua, Republic of Georgia and Ecuador<sup>29</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> OSRO/SOM/516/EC *Improving the genetic quality of seeds in Somalia*

<sup>18</sup> GCP/ECU/086/GFF *Mainstreaming the use and conservation of agrobiodiversity in public policy through integrated strategies and in situ implementation in four Andean Highlands provinces.*

<sup>19</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 53.

<sup>20</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 52.

<sup>21</sup> Available online from: <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/272c15fb-0949-479d-aba9-72d918891fc5/>

<sup>22</sup> TCP/AZE/3503 *Support to Seed Sector Development in Azerbaijan.*

<sup>23</sup> TCP/BEN/3402 *Projet d'Appui au Développement de la Filière Semence Maïs (PADFSM).*

<sup>24</sup> TCP/CHD/3403 *Appui à l'élaboration d'une politique semencière au Tchad.*

<sup>25</sup> GCP/GEO/004/AUT *Capacity Development of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia: Improved Policy Making and Effective Implementation of the Strategy for Agricultural Development (contribution to ENPARD Georgia Programme).*

<sup>26</sup> TCP/GUI/3402 *L'objectif global du projet est de contribuer à améliorer la sécurité alimentaire et l'état nutritionnel de la population par une augmentation durable de la production et de la productivité des cultures vivrières.*

<sup>27</sup> TCP/GBS/3503 *Appui au développement durable d'un secteur semencier performant en Guinée Bissau.*

<sup>28</sup> UTF/HAI/033/HAI *Appui à la relance du secteur semencier.*

<sup>29</sup> TCP/ECU/3502 *Apoyo al fortalecimiento en los procesos de fomento de servicios especializados del Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuicultura y Pesca (MAGAP) en el ámbito de la innovación tecnológica y producción de semillas.*

16. FAO also continued to support community-level seed delivery systems, especially through the creation of an enabling environment for the establishment of small- and medium-size seed enterprises. In Honduras, for example, small- and medium-size enterprises contributed to a significant increase in the production of maize, beans, rice and sorghum by making available to about 300 000 mainly smallholder farmers, including indigenous peoples, quality seeds and planting materials of well-adapted crop varieties.<sup>30</sup> Similar support was provided in Ecuador<sup>31</sup>. In Somalia, landraces of maize, sorghum and cowpea were purified, bulked and distributed to farmers with the support of FAO<sup>32</sup>. In Georgia, FAO helped to improve significantly the overall seed delivery system by strengthening the national capacity for seed certification and, in addition, increasing the capacity of farms to multiply early generation seeds, i.e. breeder and foundation seeds<sup>33</sup>.

17. FAO contributed, through a project for seed sector development funded by the Government of Turkey<sup>34</sup>, to the development of a Regional Seed Agreement and a related implementation strategy, aiming at facilitating seed trade in the ECO region consisting of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

18. In partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), FAO currently supports efforts to improve crop production in Mozambique by making available quality seeds and establishing Farmer Field Schools<sup>35</sup>. Through the South-South Cooperation mechanism and in collaboration with the government of Venezuela, FAO also supports the strengthening of capacities in the rice production of ten countries in Africa (Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda<sup>36</sup>).

### C. Rehabilitation of seed systems

19. In order to ensure that emergency seed relief interventions form part of the overall seed sector development in the long term, FAO supports the use of better seed system security assessment methodologies in countries that are affected by, or prone to, natural disasters and conflicts. FAO carried out seed security assessments and seed relief operations in collaboration with partners in Chad, Mali and Uganda, with further activities planned for Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan. In partnership with WFP, FAO provides agricultural inputs and assets to approximately 125 000 at-risk households in Nepal following the April 2015 earthquake<sup>37</sup>.

20. To mitigate the effects of economic turmoil caused by insurgency and natural catastrophes in Pakistan, FAO currently supports the restoration of cropping systems, including by improving access to quality inputs (seed and fertilizers) and the rehabilitation of fruit orchards<sup>38</sup>. In response to similar pressures, Madagascar received assistance with the development of a new agricultural extension system and the rehabilitation of seed systems<sup>39</sup> while the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

<sup>30</sup> TCP/HON/3501 *Desarrollo de las Capacidades de Gestión Empresarial y Competitividad de las Redes de Empresas de Producción de Semilla.*

<sup>31</sup> TCP/ECU/3502 *Apoyo al fortalecimiento en los procesos de fomento de servicios especializados del Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca (MAGAP) en el ámbito de la innovación tecnológica y producción de semillas.*

<sup>32</sup> OSRO/SOM/516/EC *Improving the genetic quality of seeds in Somalia.*

<sup>33</sup> GCP /GEO/003/AUS *National programme for rehabilitation of seed production system in Georgia.*

<sup>34</sup> GCP /INT/123/MUL *Seed Sector Development in Countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization.*

<sup>35</sup> GCP /MOZ/111/EC *National Programme on Food security - (EU-MDG Initiative - Agriculture, food security, rural development and natural resource management.*

<sup>36</sup> GCP/RAF/489/VEN *Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in Sub-Saharan Africa.*

<sup>37</sup> OSRO/NEP/504/CAN *Restoring agricultural-based livelihoods of vulnerable earthquake-affected smallholder farmers in Sindhupalchowk, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, Rasuwa and Dolakha; OSRO/NEP/501/BEL Emergency assistance for the restoration of earth affected agricultural system in central Nepal for food and livelihood security; TCP/NEP/3504 (E) Emergency response to restore the rural livelihoods of earthquake affected farmers.*

<sup>38</sup> OSRO/PAK/502/JPN *Project for Assistance to the Recovery and Development of the Agricultural Economy in Federally Administered Tribal Areas.*

<sup>39</sup> GCP /MAG/081/EC *Actions Intégrées en Nutrition et Alimentation.*

received similar support in response to the significant decreases in harvest following the severe drought of 2014<sup>40</sup>.

21. Other emergency-related seed interventions in 2015 included support provided to: (i) farmers in the Philippines affected by civil unrest and natural disasters<sup>41</sup>; (ii) over 15,000 smallholder farmers in Ethiopia affected by drought in 2015 caused by El Niño<sup>42</sup>; (iii) vulnerable farming households affected by Hurricane Fred in Cape Verde in 2015; (iv) 2400 vulnerable Syrian households affected by snow storms and unusually low temperatures in January 2015<sup>43</sup>; (v) farmers affected by severe flooding in Malawi<sup>44</sup> and Ghana<sup>45</sup> in December 2014 and June 2015, respectively; and (vi) farmers in Yemen who received quality seed<sup>46</sup>.

22. FAO also supported Sudan<sup>47,48</sup> and South Sudan<sup>49</sup> through enhancing their capacities to adopt climate smart agricultural production systems. In Sudan, this included the procurement and distribution of quality seeds and planting materials.

23. FAO continued to foster and strengthen partnerships with relevant regional and international organizations with seed sector development related mandates. These include especially the Africa Seed Trade Association, International Seed Federation (ISF), International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), OECD Seed Schemes, and the Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV).

#### **D. Strengthening plant breeding**

24. The Commission, at its last session, reaffirmed the need for technical support in the area of crop improvement and plant breeding capacity.<sup>50</sup> During the reporting period, FAO continued to implement several regular programme and trust fund activities to strengthen capacities for developing well-adapted crop varieties that are most suited to local agroecologies and farming systems:

- With FAO's support, root and tuber crops value chains are being strengthened in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi, Rwanda, and Uganda,<sup>51</sup>. The interventions included strengthening capacities for the development, handling and dissemination of disease-free planting materials for cassava, yam and potatoes.
- In Bangladesh, FAO assists national partners in developing capacity for crop variety development and adaptation and defining the best framework for quality assurance, in partnership with the private sector and seed producers<sup>52</sup>.

<sup>40</sup> TCP/DRK/3505 (E) *Support to vulnerable farmers to mitigate the impact of drought in North and South Hwanghae provinces of the DPR Korea.*

<sup>41</sup> TCP/PHI/3504 (E) *Emergency response to restore the livelihoods of conflict affected communities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and in Region XII.*

<sup>42</sup> TCP/ETH/3504 (15/XII/ETH/232) *Emergency assistance for vulnerable smallholder households affected by El Niño-induced drought in eastern Amhara and southern Tigray Regions.*

<sup>43</sup> TCP/SYR/3502 *Emergency assistance to restore the livelihoods of vulnerable greenhouse vegetable crop producers affected by the snow storm.*

<sup>44</sup> OSRO/MLW/502/BEL *Emergency assistance for resuming smallholder crop production in flood affected districts of Malawi.*

<sup>45</sup> TCP/GHA/3506 *Restoration of productive capacities of flood affected agricultural households in Ghana.*

<sup>46</sup> TCP/YEM/3503 *Emergency livelihood support to Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and vulnerable host communities living in conflict affected areas of Al Dhale Governorate.*

<sup>47</sup> OSRO/SUD/506/ITA *Integrated Food Security and Livelihoods Project (IFSLP) in Eastern Sudan.*

<sup>48</sup> OSRO/SUD/507/CHA *Life-saving food assistance and livelihood support to IDPs and vulnerable households affected by conflict in North Darfur State.*

<sup>49</sup> TCP/SSD/3405 *Emergency livelihood support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and vulnerable host community families affected by the recent crisis.*

<sup>50</sup> CGRFA-15/15 Report, paragraph 53.

<sup>51</sup> GCP/RAF/448/EC *Strengthening linkages between small actors and buyers in the Roots and Tubers Sector in Africa.*

<sup>52</sup> UTF/BGD/044/BGD *Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project Technical Assistance and Capacity Development Component.*

- In Zambia, FAO supports efforts to genetically improve rice<sup>53</sup>. The interventions include the production of enhanced breeder and foundation seeds.
- FAO, together with other organizations, also promotes crop diversification in Ethiopia through integration of adaptable crops and new varieties into the existing farming systems<sup>54</sup>. The focus is on nutrition-based agriculture based on the growing of nutritionally rich crops and varieties, post-harvest management and loss reduction.

25. As contribution to enhanced nutrition, FAO also continued to build upon the success of the International Year of Quinoa by promoting the production, evaluation, management, utilization, and marketing of the crop under diverse farming systems and agroecological regions in 26 countries across Africa, the Near East and Asia.

26. In February 2016, the FAO International Symposium on “The Role of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition” was held in Rome at FAO headquarters<sup>55</sup>. The symposium’s objective was to explore the application of biotechnologies for the benefit of family farmers in. Over 400 participants took part in the symposium, which highlighted successful case studies for the application of biotechnologies in developing sustainable food systems and improved nutrition. Intellectual Property Rights, funding and scientific and technical capacities were identified as important factors in the adoption of diverse agricultural biotechnologies.

27. The Joint Division of FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture (AGE) supported 99 countries in the implementation of 72 crop-improvement related TCPs. Additionally, through the Coordinated Research Projects mechanism of the IAEA, AGE networked with researchers from 44 different countries to collaborate on six crop improvement-themed collaborative projects. These efforts have resulted in the development of about 4241 mutant lines in 17 different crops in 32 Member States and 64 publications. 337 trainees acquired enhanced relevant skills both at AGE’s Agricultural and Biotechnology Laboratory in Seibersdorf, Austria and other advanced training facilities around the world. An updated version of the Mutant Variety Database, which is a searchable online tool for over 3 200 officially released mutant crop varieties worldwide, became available in May 2015<sup>56</sup>.

## V. BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN CAPACITIES

### A. National Strategy for PGRFA

28. The Commission, at its last session, endorsed as a voluntary reference tool *Guidelines for Developing a National Strategy for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. These guidelines have been published and are available in English, French and Spanish, with translations in other languages pending<sup>57</sup>.

29. Increasingly, regions develop strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. Examples include the *Strategic action plan to strengthen conservation and use of Mesoamerican plant genetic resources in adapting agriculture to climate change* (SAPM) 2014-2024. In the Near East, FAO worked with four countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Iran) on the development of National

---

<sup>53</sup> TCP/ZAM/3501 *Strengthening Rice Seed Production and Enhancing Extension Services to Increase Rice Production in Zambia*.

<sup>54</sup> GCP /ETH/085/MUL *Increase the production and productivity of poor and vulnerable smallholder farmers and hence increase the availability of diversified livelihood through increased production in crop and livestock products for household consumption as well cash generation from market sales of these products*.

<sup>55</sup> Symposium website <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/agribiotechs-symposium/en/>

<sup>56</sup> Available online from: <http://mvd.iaea.org/#!Home>

<sup>57</sup> Available online from: <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/20217930-4d14-4e87-b144-8e0adb6828a7/>

PGRFA Strategies that identify priority activities for the conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA in the countries<sup>58</sup>.

30. Efforts are underway in Moldova for the establishment of a national programme for the long-term conservation and sustainable utilization of the diversity of PGRFA. The work addresses the four main areas of the Second GPA: *in situ* conservation, *ex situ* conservation, sustainable use and institution and capacity building.

31. In collaboration with the Treaty, FAO supported capacity development in 15 countries in Asia, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, to develop a cooperative framework to accelerate cross-border flow of PGRFA among the countries<sup>59</sup>.

## **B. National Focal Points**

32. The Commission at its last session, invited all countries that have not yet done so to nominate a National Focal Point (NFP) for reporting on the implementation of the Second GPA<sup>60</sup>. In response to this request, a total of 100 NFPs have been officially appointed for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA and for the preparation of country reports for *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. This might reflect both, a strong commitment by countries to the implementation of the Second GPA and a common interest of countries in the status and trends of the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

## **C. World Information and Early Warning System on PGRFA**

33. Overall progress on the implementation of the rolling Second GPA and the related follow-up processes are monitored and guided by governments and other FAO Members through the Commission. The Commission, at its last session, welcomed the upgrading of the computer application for the National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISMs) and its full integration with the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) to facilitate reporting on the implementation of the Second GPA<sup>61</sup>.

34. Since their establishment in 2006-2008, countries have used their NISMs for publishing publicly accessible information on PGRFA. NISMs are useful for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA and the preparation of periodic global assessments of the state of the world's PGRFA. FAO has for the past ten years hosted on its web servers<sup>62</sup> NISM databases for all countries and NISM portals for countries that had requested FAO to do so. Following the implementation of a new information technology policy at FAO in June 2015, the domain at which the NISM were hosted was discontinued. The NISMs have been archived and migrated to a new address under FAO domain where they will be maintained for historical reasons.<sup>63</sup> Effective 1 March 2017, only the archived NISM databases will be accessible while the individual country NISM portals will be discontinued on FAO's web servers. Countries wishing to keep their NISM portals should inform FAO before 1 March 2017 to facilitate a smooth transition of their NISM portals to an alternative web server.

35. The restructuring of the new WIEWS, which was published recently<sup>64</sup>, is making progress. Delays were caused by the implementation of a new policy for the FAO website that coincided with the first restructuring phase of WIEWS and by limited human resources available for the restructuring task. Currently, WIEWS serves primarily the purpose of providing the Second GPA Reporting

---

<sup>58</sup> TCP/SNO/3401 *Optimizing the Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for Adaptation to Climate Change*.

<sup>59</sup> GCP/RAS/284/JPN *Enhancing Understanding and implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Asia*.

<sup>60</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 18.

<sup>61</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 56

<sup>62</sup> [www.pgrfa.org](http://www.pgrfa.org)

<sup>63</sup> [www.fao.org/pgrfa-gpa-archive](http://www.fao.org/pgrfa-gpa-archive)

<sup>64</sup> [www.fao.org/wiews](http://www.fao.org/wiews)

System, a password protected system for reporting on the implementation of the Second GPA and for managing country data in WIEWS by officially appointed National Focal Points. The outcome of country reporting on the implementation of the Second GPA is summarized in the document, *Summary Assessment of the Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2012/2014*<sup>65</sup>.

## VI. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

36. The Working Group may wish to:

### IN SITU CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT OF PGRFA

- Make recommendations regarding global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management, taking into account the outcomes of the multistakeholder dialogue and suggest that its recommendations be reflected in the revised concept note to be considered by the Commission at its next session;
- Recommend that the Commission request FAO to support countries in their efforts to conserve PGRFA *in situ*, including crop wild relatives;
- Review and revise, as appropriate, the two draft technical guidelines on *National level conservation and use of landraces and on National level conservation of crop wild relatives* and recommend that the Commission endorse them at its next session.

### EX SITU CONSERVATION

- Recommend that the Commission request FAO to continue to provide support to countries in their efforts to maintain genebanks for the continued collecting, conservation, characterization and evaluation of crop germplasm;

### SUSTAINABLE USE

#### *Strengthening of Seed Systems*

- Recommend that the Commission request FAO to continue assisting countries in strengthening national seed systems for the delivery of quality seeds and planting materials, in particular, to smallholder farmers;

#### *Strengthening of Plant Breeding*

- Recommend that the Commission request FAO to continue supporting countries in strengthening their crop improvement capacity, including through the Joint Programme of FAO and the IAEA and, in particular, in support of the implementation of the Second GPA and Article 6 of the Treaty;

### BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN CAPACITIES

#### *National Strategy for PGRFA*

- Recommend that the Commission call for extra-budgetary funds to support countries in the implementation of the Second GPA, including through the development and implementation of national strategies for PGRFA, taking into account the Commission's *Guidelines for Developing a National Strategy for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

#### *National Seed Policies*

---

<sup>65</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-8/16/3

- Recommend that the Commission request FAO to support countries in the development or revision of their national seed policy and legislation, taking into account the Commission's *Voluntary Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation*.
- Recommend that the Commission call upon donors for support of countries, including through extrabudgetary funds, in their development and implementation of national seed policy and legislation.

*World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS)*

- Recommend that the Commission request FAO to complete WIEWS and use it for the publication of information on the implementation of the Second GPA.