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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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Rome, 30 January - 3 February 2017

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON GLOBAL NETWORKING ON *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND ON- FARM MANAGEMENT OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, at its last session in January 2015, considered options for better global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission requested FAO to convene before the Eighth Session of the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) an informal multi-stakeholder dialogue to discuss options for networking in these areas, its functions, governance and budgetary requirements, in particular to ensure its long-term funding.

The Informal Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on *In Situ* Conservation and On-Farm Management of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement, was held in Rome from 6 to 7 June 2016. The dialogue was open to Commission members and observers, including non-governmental, civil society organizations and the private sector. The dialogue reviewed and revised a set of goals, functions as well as the governance structure and budgetary requirements of a possible networking mechanism on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The multi-stakeholder dialogue was informal and did not adopt a report. However, a brief summary of the outcomes of the dialogue was presented in the last plenary session, for review and discussion by participants. The Chair of the Eighth Session of the Working Group, Mr. Don Mc Glashan (Jamaica), presented the summary, as revised in the light of comments received, to the Eighth Session of the Working Group as a Chair's non-paper.

This document contains a brief summary of the dialogue proceedings. The Chair's Non-Paper is contained in *Annex II* to this document. Documents and presentations prepared for the informal multi-stakeholder dialogue are available on the internet.¹

¹ <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/seeds-pgr/itwg/8th/en/#c441845>

I. OPENING

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), held an informal multi-stakeholder dialogue on global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) from 6 to 7 June 2016, in Rome. The agenda of the meeting is contained in *Annex I* to this document.
2. Ms Hanaiya El Itriby, Vice-Chair of the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), opened the multi-stakeholder dialogue. She stressed that the dialogue provided a welcome opportunity for diverse stakeholders to interact and formulate concrete options for partnerships and global networking.
3. Mr Hans Dreyer, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO welcomed participants and recalled that the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA) attaches high priority to *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA.
4. Ms Irene Hoffmann, Secretary of the Commission, in welcoming participants to the multi-stakeholder dialogue, stressed the need to include in any global networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management all the different actors involved in, and required for, the conservation of agricultural biodiversity.
5. Ms Isabelle Mialet-Serra, French Permanent Representation to the United Nations agencies in Rome, emphasized, on behalf of CIRAD, the importance of collaboration and welcomed the collaboration of FAO, CIRAD and other stakeholders on the dialogue.

II. EXISTING NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES

6. The informal multi-stakeholder dialogue focussed initially on setting the scene and providing an overview of the diversity of actors and activities in the areas of *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, and the initiatives that currently existed at national, regional or global levels.
7. Mr Chikelu Mba, FAO, provided an [overview](#) of the key elements of a concept note on *Global Networking on In Situ Conservation and On-Farm Management of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.
8. He recalled that the Commission, at its Thirteenth Regular Session in 2011, had reiterated the need for greater attention to crop diversity, essential for food security, and to on-farm management of PGRFA, and stressed the need for improved collaboration and coordination at national, regional and global levels in these areas. Recognizing that a global network can support the coordination of efforts, help raise resources and create more awareness, the Commission had requested FAO to elaborate on the means and opportunities for establishing a global network for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, in coordination with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty), the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant stakeholders, ensuring that efforts are not duplicated.
9. In response, FAO had initiated a consultation process, including through a global survey and the organization of two technical workshops. These consultations concluded that networking on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA was important and should be supported. The consultations had further stressed the need for the global mechanism to have a decentralized structure, build on existing initiatives, link and coordinate efforts, and develop capacity at national and local levels. He noted that there existed no other initiative to establish a global networking mechanism on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA.
10. At its Fifteenth Regular Session in 2015, the Commission had requested FAO to convene before the next session of the Working Group, the informal multi-stakeholder dialogue to discuss options for networking for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, in particular to

ensure its long-term funding. Subsequently, FAO would revise the concept note in the light of the outcomes of the multi-stakeholder dialogue, for consideration by the Commission, at its next session.

11. Mr Marciano Toledo da Silva, Movimento de los Pequeños Agricultores (MPA), Brazil highlighted the importance of a [farmer-driven approach](#) to crop conservation, breeding and seed systems. This was reiterated by Ms Maedeh Salimi, Cenesta, Islamic Republic of Iran who presented an [overview](#) of participatory plant breeding in Iran, and the role of farmers in this bottom-up approach. She attributed the success of the work to the high degree of ownership on the part of the farmers.

12. Mr Ehsan Dulloo, Bioersivity International, presented [key elements](#) to be considered in the development of a regional network for crop wild relatives. Referring to on-going efforts in Mauritius, South Africa and Zambia, he emphasized the importance of National Strategic Action Plans for the conservation and use of crop wild relatives across the Southern African Development Community region.

13. Ms Song Yiching, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, stressed the [importance of sharing](#) good practices among farmers, and the need for increased linkages between farmers and researchers. She underlined the need to document traditional knowledge which, although highly relevant to the sustainable use and adaptation of crop diversity, got often lost over time.

14. Ms Clelia Maria Puzzo, FAO, presented the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) Programme and how the initiative promoted the dynamic conservation of traditional agricultural systems and their related biodiversity, landscapes, natural resources and traditional practices. She discussed the [importance of protecting farming systems](#) that are reservoirs of important cultural and genetic resources.

III. GOALS AND FUNCTIONS OF GLOBAL NETWORKING ON *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

15. Mr Sélim Louafi, CIRAD, introduced the session by presenting the results of a [preliminary study](#) on existing networks for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA. The study aimed at identifying potential gaps and needs that could be addressed by a global networking mechanism. Of the 52 institutions reviewed, the majority (70%) focused its work on the varietal diversity level. In most cases, however, the work was complemented at inter-specific level (e.g. multi-cropping) while there was little work conducted at the ecosystem level. Some initiatives, however, did link the genetic, species, ecosystem and cultural levels together (e.g. GIAHS). He concluded that there was a strong need for the promotion of constructive ‘trialogues’ among scientists, policy makers and practitioners at the regional and global levels, in particular on policy issues such as access to germplasm and incentives for conservation. Mr Jean-Michel Cornu, an expert in collective cooperation, highlighted key elements for developing successful long-term networks.

16. Three working groups identified in breakout sessions possible goals of a global networking mechanism on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA. These included:

- Recognition and participation of farmers;
- Sharing knowledge;
- Facilitate policy development;
- Dialogue;
- Conservation through use;
- Maximize on-farm conservation through information; and
- Implementation of *in situ* conservation

17. In addition, the working groups identified a range of possible functions and activities of a global networking mechanism on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, including:

- Taking action in support of the role and important contribution of farmers and indigenous peoples and local communities to the conservation of PGRFA;
- Raising awareness about, and increase visibility of, the importance of *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA to policy makers at the national and international levels;
- Facilitating implementation of the Second GPA;
- Sharing knowledge, experiences and information within the network and with others on a voluntary basis;
- Increasing collaboration among stakeholders;
- Providing and coordinating capacity building opportunities;
- Influencing policy development and facilitating participation of stakeholders in policy development and decision-making at national, regional and international level;
- Providing match-making mechanism(s);
- Reinforcing the implementation of Farmers' Rights;
- Providing a platform for dialogue on an equal footing among stakeholder groups;
- Connecting and strengthening existing stakeholders, projects, and networks;
- Promoting the monitoring of trends;
- Mobilizing resources; and
- Defining areas of work, work programme and clusters of work.

IV. GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT OF GLOBAL NETWORKING ON *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT OF PANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

18. The three working groups identified possible governance, structure and management options for global networking on *in situ* conservation and on farm management of PGRFA, including:

- Platform for a global centralized system for the conservation of CWR;
- Overarching framework with two components, for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management, respectively;
- Network of networks;
- Coordination with existing networks;
- National focal points;
- Overall accountability with the Commission;
- Decentralized network;
- Trust-building governance structures;
- Government led-system for standardized data at the field level;
- Use existing platforms, i.e. a network of networks; and
- Participation of actors/farmers in sustainable use of crop germplasm.

V. PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING FOR GLOBAL NETWORKING ON *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

19. The three working groups identified options for leveraging partnerships and initiatives to develop and maintain the network. A concrete proposal was the creation of a small facilitation group, which could be hosted at FAO. The group would develop a roadmap for network development, identify gaps in existing networking efforts and create the necessary linkages among stakeholders. The facilitation group would identify projects which could be linked and built upon. The information gathered through the network activities and during the regular events could also feed into the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

20. The multi-stakeholder dialogue identified and discussed a range of possible options for partnerships and funding of the network, including leveraging existing initiatives, such as platforms and projects to engage stakeholders in the network, including through holding regular (annual or biannual) face-to-face or virtual meetings of the network. The dialogue highlighted the need to develop a step-by-step process in initiating activities, generating interest and mobilizing resources, e.g. organizing partnerships around a specific crop species.

VI. NEXT STEPS

21. The multi-stakeholder dialogue was informal and did not adopt a formal report. However, a brief report on the outcome of the dialogue was presented in the last plenary session, for review and discussion by participants. The Chair of the Eighth Session of the Commission's Working Group, Mr. Don Mc Glashan (Jamaica), presented the summary, as revised in the light of comments received, to the Eighth Session of the Working Group as a Chair's non-paper. The Chair's non-paper is contained in *Annex II* to this document.

ANNEX I

**AGENDA OF THE INFORMAL MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON IN SITU
CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT OF PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE



AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
FOR DEVELOPMENT

MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

**IN SITU CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT OF PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – OPTIONS FOR GLOBAL
NETWORKING**

Rome, 6 - 7 June 2016

FAO Headquarters, IRAQ Room (A235)

AGENDA

MONDAY, 6 June 2016	
10:00 – 11:00	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p><i>Ms Hanaiya El Itriby, President, National Gene Bank of Egypt, Agricultural Research Center</i></p> <p><i>Mr Hans Dreyer, Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO</i></p> <p><i>Ms Irene Hoffmann, Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO</i></p> <p><i>Ms Isabelle Mialet-Serra, French Permanent Representation to the UN agencies in Rome</i></p>
EXISTING NETWORKS AND INITIATIVES	
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Improving global networking for <i>in situ</i> conservation and on-farm management</p> <p><i>Mr Chikelu Mba, Leader, Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Team, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO</i></p> <p>Decentralized networks: farmers as key actors for on-farm management</p> <p><i>Mr Marciano Toledo da Silva, Movimiento de los Pequeños Agricultores - MPA, Brazil</i></p> <p>Building on-farm resilience through genetic diversity</p> <p><i>Ms Maedeh Salimi, Program Manager for Participatory Plant Breeding, Cenesta, Iran</i></p> <p><i>In situ</i> conservation and use of crop wild relatives in three countries of the Southern African Development Community region</p> <p><i>Mr Ehsan Dulloo, Component Leader, Bioversity International</i></p> <p>Biocultural Heritage Territories and the <i>in situ</i> conservation of plant genetic resources</p> <p><i>Ms Song Yiching, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China</i></p> <p>Dynamic conservation of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage systems (GIAHS)</p> <p><i>Ms Clelia Maria Puzzo, GIAHS Consultant, FAO</i></p>

13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14:30 – 15:30	Existing networks for <i>in situ</i> conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture <i>Mr Sélim Louafi, Researcher, and Ms Nohemi Voglozin, Researcher, Cirad, France</i>		
	A global network for what: experiences with network management <i>Mr Jean-Michel Cornu, Consultant, Collective intelligence and cooperation, France</i>		
GOALS AND FUNCTIONS OF GLOBAL NETWORKING ON <i>IN SITU</i> CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT			
15:30 – 16:30	Working Group 1 IRAQ Room (A235) <i>(FR/EN/ES)</i>	Working Group 2 Ethiopia Room <i>(C285/9)</i>	Working Group 3 Philippines Room <i>(C277/281)</i>
GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT OF GLOBAL NETWORKING ON <i>IN SITU</i> CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT			
16:30 – 17:30	Working Group 1	Working Group 2	Working Group 3
TUESDAY, 7 June 2016			
10:00 – 11:00	Working Group reports and discussion		
11:00 – 12:00	The 4 steps for an efficient network <i>Jean-Michel Cornu, Consultant, Collective intelligence and cooperation, France</i>		
PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING FOR GLOBAL NETWORKING ON <i>IN SITU</i> CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT			
12:00 – 13:00	Working Group 1	Working Group 2	Working Group 3
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14:30 – 15:15	Working Group reports and discussion		
15:15 – 17:00	A roadmap for global networking <i>Plenary discussion</i>		
17:00 – 17:30	Closing remarks		

ANNEX II

CHAIR'S NON-PAPER

OUTCOME OF THE INFORMAL MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON GLOBAL NETWORKING ON IN SITU CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Fifteenth Regular Sessions, requested the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to convene before the Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) an informal multistakeholder dialogue to discuss options for networking for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management and the functions, governance and budgetary requirements of a networking mechanism. The multistakeholder dialogue took place on 6 and 7 June 2016 at FAO headquarters in Rome.

The multistakeholder dialogue was informal and did not adopt a report. This report is therefore informal and does not necessarily express the views of all participants of the dialogue or of FAO or any of its Members.

The multistakeholder dialogue discussed global networking options. It concluded that the Working Group should consider recommending to the Commission to request FAO to facilitate the convening of a first network meeting which could further discuss and refine the goals, functions and governance structure of a global networking mechanism. The dialogue reviewed and revised a set of goals, functions as well as the possible governance structure of a possible network, which a first network meeting may wish to use as a basis for further discussions.

Goal

As a possible goal of a network, the multistakeholder dialogue identified:

Contribute to the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Target 2.5 by strengthening on-farm management and *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), taking into account the complementarity of different conservation approaches and the need to balance them.

Functions/Activities

The multistakeholder dialogue also identified a range of possible functions and activities of the network, including:

- Taking action in support of the role and important contribution of farmers and indigenous peoples and local communities to the conservation of PGRFA;
- Raising awareness about, and increase visibility of, the importance of *in situ* conservation and on farm management of PGRFA to policy makers at the national and international levels;
- Sharing knowledge, experiences and information within the network and with others on a voluntary basis;
- Increasing collaboration among stakeholders;
- Providing and coordinating capacity building opportunities;
- Influencing policy development and facilitating participation of stakeholders in policy development and decision-making at national, regional and international levels;
- Reinforcing the implementation of Farmers' Rights;
- Providing the platform for dialogue on an equal footing among stakeholder groups;
- Connecting and strengthening existing stakeholders, projects and networks;
- Promoting the monitoring of trends;

- Mobilizing resources; and
- Defining areas of work, work programme and clusters of work.

Governance, structure and management

The multistakeholder dialogue characterized the network as an evolving stakeholder-policy interface with specialized, interacting networks (*in situ* and on-farm). The network could build bridges and partnerships with other communities of practice. It should be open to all stakeholder groups. It should be transparent. And it should have meetings, possibly back to back with other meetings.