

May 2014



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**FIRST MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP TO
ENHANCE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM**

Geneva, Switzerland, 14-16 May 2014

**INFORMATION FROM AND CONSULTATIONS WITH
RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS**

Addendum 1

Note by the Secretary

1. In Resolution 2/2013, the Governing Body requested the Working Group to consult relevant stakeholder groups and requested the Secretariat, as a basis for such consultations, to prepare short, strategic preliminary studies, taking into account all relevant information from stakeholders.
2. Accordingly, the Secretary invited Contracting Parties and stakeholder groups to make available any information relevant to the above studies. This document contains the submission by Bioversity International.

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12 May 2014

*Improving lives
through
biodiversity
research*

Dr. Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy

Dear Shakeel,

Following discussions between Bioversity International and the Secretariat of the International Treaty, I am pleased to confirm that Bioversity will participate in the development of research papers for the future consideration of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. To that end, both institutions have agreed that Bioversity International will, subject to availability of resources, gather and synthesize information from a number of sources about the interests and demands of developing countries for combinations of capacity building, technology transfer and information-sharing related to PGRFA. This research will draw on experiences and insights from Treaty implementation work currently being conducted with partners in a number of countries supported by the FAO/Bioversity/Treaty Secretariat Joint Program, the Benefit Sharing Fund, and other sources. We will also engage in a comparative analysis of how technology transfer, information sharing and capacity building have been approached or promoted under other international conventions.

Bioversity is also developing a study of countries' interdependence on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as evidenced through the global patterns of acquisition and distribution of germplasm by the international ex situ collections hosted by the CGIAR centres. We hope that this study will provide useful background information for consideration by the Working Group. Finally, Bioversity could usefully draw on its network of partners to contribute to the other papers, including the paper on factors influencing the stakeholder' willingness to make contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund and to access materials from the multilateral system.

I look forward to the opportunity to further discuss Bioversity International's contributions to these papers following the outcomes of the first meeting of the Working Group.

I wish you and the Working Group every success at this very important first session.

Sincerely yours,



M. Ann Tutwiler
Director General