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



**The International Treaty**  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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

### **FIRST ELECTRONIC CONSULTATION OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

8 – 26 April 2019

### **POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND SUPPORTING INITIATIVES -POW (2020 – 2023)**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Through the Resolution 4/2015, the Governing Body adopted an updated version of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2016–2019) with additional areas for supporting initiatives by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders.<sup>1</sup>
2. Given that the current Programme of Work will conclude this year, there is need for the Governing Body to consider and decide how and on what issues further work could be undertaken in regard to conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). This could involve the consideration of a succeeding programme of work for the next few years.
3. These elements for a draft Programme of Work are being provided to the Members and Experts of the Committee with the aim to invite their comments and advice on a new version of the Vision, Mission, and Goals and of the Components and expected Results for a draft Programme of Work for the period, 2020 – 2023, that could be considered by the Governing Body at its Eighth Session.

#### **II. NEW PROGRAMME OF WORK ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND SUPPORTING INITIATIVES (2020 – 2023)**

4. Through Resolution 4/2015, the Governing Body endorsed the revised Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) for the period 2016–2019. Consequently, the current Programme of Work, as approved, will expire this year, thus providing an opportunity for the Governing Body to consider future work on Sustainable Use including, possibly, a new multi-year programme of work to succeed the current one.
5. It is to be noted that the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, at its second meeting in March 2019, approved the Provisional Agenda for the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, and included an Agenda Item on “Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”. This implies that the documentation and information to be prepared to assist the discussion of this Agenda item shall encompass both conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

<sup>1</sup> RESOLUTION 4/2015, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl143e.pdf>

6. The elements of a draft Programme of Work 2020 – 2023 provides a more comprehensive linkage between the “conservation” and “sustainable use” of PGRFA in accordance with the recognition that sustainable use should not be considered as a stand-alone activity but rather linked to the conservation of PGRFA. Therefore, the “Vision, Mission and Goals” as well as the “Components and expected results (2021 – 2023) have been adapted accordingly.

7. Additionally, some components have been streamlined and some expected results updated. That is the case, for instance, of the Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies that, unfortunately, has not received much support, in this biennium, from the Contracting Parties while more emphasis has been given to the training and capacity building components.

8. In preparation for the discussion on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA and possible future work by the Governing Body, indicative elements of a draft of a Programme of Work for 2020 – 2023 are included in this document. The Committee is invited to review them and provide comments and suggestions to enable the preparation of a draft Programme of Work on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Eighth Session.

### **III. EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A JOINT PROGRAMME ON BIODIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA**

9. Through Resolution 6/2017, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to “explore the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA involving relevant international organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to enhancing the mission and goals of the PoW beyond 2019 through the establishment of a long-term programme 2020-2030, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Eighth Session”.

10. In this regard, an Informal meeting of experts on the implementation of the sustainable use of PGRFA and the Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture was organized in Bari, Italy, from 23 to 25 May 2018 with the generous support of the Government of Italy and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM), as a contribution to the process of exploring the possibilities of establishing of a Joint Programme, as requested by the Governing Body. The Proceedings of the Informal meeting are available in the library of the online platform as document, ACSU-Electronic Consultation 1/19/Inf.2.

11. The Secretariat has also facilitated further consultation, in order to reach more stakeholders, by carrying out an online survey on exploring the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The analysis of the results of the survey is contained in the document, ACSU–Electronic Consultation 1/19/Inf.4.

12. Consequently, a component has been introduced to the elements for the draft Programme of Work dedicated to the Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA. Such a Joint Programme can offer an opportunity to build on the work of the current programmes and form broader partnerships that raise the profile of PGRFA and the Treaty. It could also support the integration and mainstreaming of PGRFA with a more holistic approach into sustainable development. It could further support other processes and engagement with partners where there are important synergies and PGRFA connections, in particular, for the implementation of Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty.

13. The possible Joint Programme has been listed as a component element of the potential Programme of Work on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA 2020 – 2023.

**DRAFT VISION, MISSION AND GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK  
ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC  
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND SUPPORTING  
INITIATIVES (2020 – 2023)**

**VISION**

Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are conserved and used sustainably in farming systems in accordance with Articles 5 and 6, to enable more inclusive, sustainable and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels.

**MISSION**

To enhance the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through effective measures that translate Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty into country-level impact.

**GOALS**

**Monitoring, implementing and ensuring technical support**

**Goal 1:** To provide support to Contracting Parties and stakeholders to implement the provisions of Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, based on national priorities and needs.

**Goal 2:** To provide policy direction and guidance by monitoring the implementation of the Treaty in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

**Goal 3:** To continue enhancing and monitoring the technical support and expertise provided by FAO in the area of conservation and sustainable use, as foreseen in Article 5 and 6 of the Treaty.

**Cooperating and improving partnerships**

**Goal 4:** To strengthen collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders participating in projects and programmes relevant to conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Goal 5:** To implement the objectives of non-monetary benefit-sharing, and the Priority Activities of the *Second Global Plan of Action*, regarding the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

**Draft Components and expected results of the Programme of Work on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2020-2023)**

*(Subject to the availability of resources)*

<b>Components</b>	<b>Expected Results GB 9 (2021)</b>	<b>Expected Results GB 10 (2023)</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<u><i>Part A: agreed by the Governing Body</i></u>			
1. Implementing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, as per Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty	a. Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations implement and report on activities, projects, and programmes for the achievement of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. The Secretariat monitors technical and policy developments, and report back to the Governing Body.	b. Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations implement and report on activities, projects, and programs for the achievement of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. The Secretariat monitors technical and policy developments, which are referred to the Governing Body for guidance.	Contracting Parties, International Organizations, and relevant stakeholders
2. Toolbox for Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA	a. Information collected on additional elements for the expansion of the Toolbox in the Treaty website	b. Information collected on additional elements for the expansion of the Toolbox in the Treaty website	Contracting Parties, International Organizations, and relevant stakeholders
<u><i>Part B: Supporting Initiatives undertaken by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders voluntarily</i></u>			
3. Exchange of Information and Access to and transfer of technology in the context of non-monetary benefit-sharing	a. Catalogues of inventories, information on technologies, results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, including characterization, evaluation, and utilization of PGRFA under the Multilateral System.	b. Catalogues of inventories, information on technologies, results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, including characterization, evaluation, and utilization of PGRFA under the Multilateral System.	Contracting Parties, International Organizations, and relevant stakeholders

4. Training and capacity building on conservation, sustainable use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Raising awareness of the actual and potential value of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development</li> <li>– Linkages between in situ conservation /on-farm management and community-based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Raising awareness of the actual and potential value of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development</li> <li>– Linkages between in situ conservation /on-farm management and community- based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species</li> </ul>	Contracting Parties, International Organizations, and relevant stakeholders
5. Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Involving and coordinating with relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to enhancing the mission and goals through the establishment of a long-term programme 2020-2030</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Involving relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, with a view to enhancing the mission and goals through the establishment of a long-term programme 2020-2030</li> </ul>	Contracting Parties, International Organizations, and relevant stakeholders

<sup>2</sup> In this Table, “Farmers’ Rights” refers to Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty.