Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Thirteenth Regular Session

Rome, 18 – 22 July 2011

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIME-TABLE

1. Adoption of the agenda and time-table

The present document contains the Provisional annotated agenda and time-table, for the consideration of the Commission. In view of the heavy agenda, provision has been made for additional sessions that could be held in the evening and night hours.

I. Multi-Year Programme of Work

In adopting its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), the Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, agreed to review progress made in the implementation of this programme at its Thirteenth and Fifteenth Regular Sessions. The structure of this section of the provisional agenda is intended to facilitate the review of the MYPOW. While working through agenda items 2-5, the Commission may wish to consider amendments to its programme of work, as appropriate, for each sector and each cross-sectorial matter, taking into account recommendations by its Working Groups. Under agenda item 6, the Commission may wish to consider the changes as a whole and consolidate existing and newly proposed outputs and milestones into a revised work programme. A Draft revised Multi-Year Programme of Work: Major outputs and milestones (2013-2021) is contained in the document, Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) (CGRFA-13/11/20).

2. Cross-sectorial matters

2.1 Ways and means of considering the application and integration of biotechnologies in the conservation and utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session in 2009, requested FAO to prepare a scoping paper describing the range of biotechnologies being applied to the conservation and utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, the current status of application of these technologies and matters relevant for their future development, including relevant policy developments in other...
international forums, for consideration at its next regular session.\(^2\) As indicated in the *Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (Strategic Plan)*, the Commission requested that the scoping paper be reviewed by its Working Groups.\(^3\)

The document, *Status and trends of biotechnologies applied to the conservation and utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture and matters relevant for their future development* (*CGRFA-13/11/3*), provides an overview of biotechnologies relevant to the conservation and utilization of genetic resources, and an update of developments in areas which the Commission, at its Tenth Regular Session, identified as most appropriate for further work. More detailed information is provided in the document, *Biotechnologies for the Management of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Background Study Paper No. 52)*. The Working Groups on animal, forest and plant genetic resources reviewed the document and provided a number of suggestions and recommendations that are available in the respective reports of their sessions.\(^4\)

The Commission, at its Twelfth Regular Session, welcomed the convening of the international technical conference, *Agricultural biotechnologies in developing countries: Options and opportunities in crops, forestry, livestock, fisheries and agro-industry to face the challenges of food insecurity and climate change (ABDC-10)*. It requested FAO to provide a report on the outcomes of the conference and relevant follow-up activities at its next regular session. The report of the conference is contained in the document, *CGRFA-13/11/Inf.8*. The proceedings of the conference are available in the publication, *Biotechnologies for agricultural development*.

The Commission may wish to make recommendations regarding its future activities in relation to biotechnologies, and with regard to FAO’s policies, programmes and activities in this field.

### 2.2 Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, recognized the need to address climate change, agreed to add to its MYPOW an additional milestone, and requested FAO to prepare a scoping study on climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture for consideration at the current session.\(^5\)

The document, *Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture* (*CGRFA-13/11/4*), presents possible elements of a roadmap to improve awareness of the roles and values of genetic resources in light of climate change and to ensure genetic resources receive adequate consideration in international discussions and debates that are addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and programmes. Advice from the Commission with regard to the proposed roadmap is sought.

Additional relevant information is contained in a number of sector-specific studies: *Climate change and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture: State of knowledge, risks and opportunities (Background Study Paper No. 53)*; *Climate change and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture: State of knowledge, risks and opportunities (Background Study Paper No. 54)*; *Climate change and aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture: State of knowledge, risks and opportunities (Background Study Paper No. 55)*; *Climate change and forest genetic resources for food and agriculture: State of knowledge, risks and opportunities (Background Study Paper No. 56)*; *Climate change and micro-organism genetic resources for food and agriculture: State of knowledge, risks and opportunities (Background Study Paper No. 57)*; *Climate Change and its Effect on Conservation and Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Associated Biodiversity for Food Security (Thematic Background Study)*; and, *Economics of PGRFA Management for adaptation to climate change: A review of selected literature (Background Study Paper No. 60)*. The document, *Genetic resources for food and agriculture and the international climate change policy agenda* (*CGRFA-13/11/Inf.10*), examines the international policy landscape for addressing climate change and the extent to which

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\(^2\) CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 72.
\(^3\) CGRFA-12/09/Report, Appendix G (*Strategic Plan*).
\(^4\) CGRFA-13/11/8; CGRFA-13/11/12; CGRFA-13/11/14.
\(^5\) CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 78.
genetic resources for food and agriculture are considered within the current climate change policy agenda.

2.3 Policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, considered policies and arrangements for access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission agreed on Resolution 1/2009, which formed the basis for FAO Conference Resolution 18/2009, *Policies and Arrangements for Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and requested its Secretariat to report to the current session on the results of the negotiations of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing.  

The document, *Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture* (*CGRFA-13/11/5*), introduces, with a focus on aspects relevant to food and agriculture, 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*, as adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2010, and provides options for future work in this area, for consideration by the Commission.

Additional relevant information is provided in the document, *Trends in intellectual property rights relating to genetic resources for food and agriculture* (*Background Study Paper No.58*), in the report of a multi-stakeholder dialogue on Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture – Current use and exchange practices, commonalities, differences and user community needs (*Background Study Paper No. 59*), and in the document, *Report of an international expert workshop: Exploring the need for specific measures for access and benefit-sharing of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture* (*CGRFA-13/11/Circ.1*).

3. Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

3.1 Consideration of the updated *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

The Commission, at its last session, agreed to update the rolling *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, based primarily on *The Second Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and, in particular, on the gaps and needs identified in that report, taking into account further contributions from Governments, as well as inputs received from regional meetings and consultations. It requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to review the draft updated Global Plan of Action and decided that it would be considered at this session.

The draft updated *Global Plan of Action*, as reviewed by the Commission’s Working Group, is given in the document, *Draft updated Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (*CGRFA-13/11/6*), for finalization by the Commission.

3.2 Review of cooperation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, emphasized the need for close cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body and requested the Secretariats of the Commission and the

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6 C 2009/REP, paragraph 174.
7 CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 12.
8 [http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1500e/i1500e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1500e/i1500e00.htm); for the synthetic account of the report, see: [http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/022/k9375e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/022/k9375e.pdf)
10 CGRFA-13/11/8.
International Treaty to jointly develop a vision paper with the aim of facilitating policy coherence and complementarity of the work of the two bodies, for consideration by the Commission at its Thirteenth Regular Session and the Fourth Session of the Governing Body.

The document, *Policy coherence and complementarity of the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and of the Governing Body of the International Treaty* (**CGRFA-13/11/7**), jointly prepared by the two Secretariats, presents the institutional framework relevant to both bodies, including the components of the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources, reviews on-going cooperation, provides an overview of the most relevant activities on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture by the Commission and the Governing Body and presents options and considerations to be taken into account to further facilitate policy coherence and complementarity of the work of the two bodies. A previous version of the document was reviewed by the Governing Body, at its Fourth Session. The Commission may wish to recommend next joint steps, taking into account the recommendations of the Governing Body.11

3.3 Progress since the Twelfth Regular Session, including Report of the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources

The Commission, at its last session, requested its Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources to meet prior to this session of the Commission to, inter alia, review the draft updated *Global Plan of Action* and consider the draft revised *Genebank Standards*.12

The Fifth Session of the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources was held from 27 to 29 April 2011 and its Report (**CGRFA-13/11/8**) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

In response to the Commission’s request,13 FAO, in cooperation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and other relevant international institutions, reviewed the Genebank Standards, for consideration by the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources. The *Draft Revised Genebank Standards*, as submitted by the Working Group, are given in the document, *Draft Revised Genebank Standards for the Conservation of Orthodox Seeds* (**CGRFA-13/11/9**), for consideration by the Commission.

The Commission, at its last Session, requested follow-up on a number of issues regarding plant genetic resources. The document, *Follow-up to other recommendations regarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture* (**CGRFA-13/11/10**), provides a summary of on-going work along with recommendations resulting from the Fifth Session of the Working Group and relevant decisions and requests of the Governing Body of the International Treaty. The Commission may wish to give guidance regarding the follow-up activities presented.

Additional relevant information is given in the documents, *Strengthening plant breeding capacities* (**CGRFA-13/11/Inf.12**), *Strengthening seeds systems: Gap analysis of the seed sector* (**CGRFA-13/11/Inf.13**) and in the study, *Options to promote food security: on-farm management and in situ conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture* (**Background Study Paper No. 51**).

4. Aquatic genetic resources: Review of information base for aquatic genetic resources, and key issues for *The State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources*

The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, recognized the importance and vulnerability of aquatic genetic resources, their roles in an ecosystem approach for food and agriculture and their contributions to meeting the challenges presented by climate change. In adopting its MYPOW, the Commission approved as a major milestone the presentation of a first report on *The State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources* (Sow AqGR).

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12 CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 33.
The document, *Preparation of The State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources (CGRFA-13/11/11)*, outlines the rationale and scope for the preparation of *The State of the World’s Aquatic Genetic Resources*, proposes a process for preparing the first report, and provides an indicative outline of chapters of the SoW AqGR. The Commission’s guidance is sought with regard to the contents and the process of preparation of the report.

Additional relevant information is provided in the document, *Improving collection and sharing of information on aquatic genetic resources (AqGR) for food and agriculture, (CGRFA-13/11/Inf.14)*.

5. Progress in other areas of the Multi-Year Programme of Work

5.1 Forest genetic resources, including Report of the First Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to prepare *The State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources*, for consideration at its Fourteenth Regular Session, as the first authoritative assessment of forest genetic resources of importance to sustainable forest management, food security, poverty alleviation, biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability. The Commission also endorsed the outline for the report and approved an indicative timetable for the preparatory process. Guidance for the preparation of Country Reports is provided in the document, *Guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports for The State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA-13/11/Inf.15)*.

The Commission, at its last session, established an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources. The First Session of the Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources was held from 4 to 6 April 2011 and its Report (CGRFA-13/11/12) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

The document, *Follow-up to recommendations regarding forest genetic resources, including The State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA-13/11/13)*, presents activities and financial needs required for the completion of the report, and seeks guidance from the Commission regarding the finalization of the report and follow-up to its findings.

5.2 Animal Genetic Resources, including Report of the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to prepare a progress report on FAO activities related to animal genetic resources and the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* and a progress report on the contributions of other international organizations to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. It also requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to meet prior to the current session of the Commission to review progress made and action taken to implement the *Global Plan of Action*, including the Funding Strategy.

The Sixth Session of the Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources was held from 24 to 26 November 2011 and its Report (CGRFA-13/11/14) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

In response to the Commission’s request, to make available status and trends reports on animal genetic resources at each regular session, the document, *Status and trends of animal genetic resources, including The State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA-13/11/Inf.15)*, presents activities and financial needs required for the completion of the report, and seeks guidance from the Commission regarding the finalization of the report and follow-up to its findings.

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14 CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 49.
15 CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 50.
16 CGRFA-12/09/Report, Appendix G (Strategic Plan), IV. Forest Genetic Resources.
17 CGRFA-12/09/Report, Appendix G (Strategic Plan), paragraph 10.
18 CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 46.
The document, *FAO Progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-13/11/15), provides an overview of FAO activities supporting the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* since the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission, including the preparation of draft technical guidelines. The draft technical Guidelines, as reviewed by the Working Group, are contained in the documents:

- **Draft guidelines on surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources** (CGRFA/13/11/Inf.18);
- **Draft guidelines on phenotypic characterization of animal genetic resources** (CGRFA-13/11/Inf.19);
- **Draft guidelines on molecular genetic characterization of animal genetic resources** (CGRFA-13/11/Inf.20);
- **Draft guidelines for the cryoconservation of animal genetic resources** (CGRFA-13/11/Inf.21); and
- **Draft guidelines on developing the institutional framework for the management of animal genetic resources** (CGRFA-13/11/Inf.22).

Information on relevant activities of other international organizations contributing to the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, is provided in the *Progress report of international organizations on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-13/11/Inf.16).

The document, *Funding Strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-13/11/16) provides information on the status of implementation of the Funding Strategy and seeks the Commission’s guidance with regard to the first call for proposals and the further development of the Funding Strategy.

### 5.3 Biodiversity of micro-organisms and invertebrates for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, considered two brief scoping studies describing the main functions and services provided by micro-organisms and invertebrates of relevance to food and agriculture and agreed that on the basis of these studies, additional information could be gathered between its Twelfth and Fourteenth Regular Sessions, to enable the review of key issues at its Fourteenth Regular Session, and to consider a more detailed overview of the overall status of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates at its Fifteenth Regular Session.

The document, *Progress in the review of key issues in micro-organisms and invertebrates for food and agriculture* (CGRFA-13/11/17) provides a brief progress report on the status of reviewing key issues in micro-organisms and invertebrates for food and agriculture, for consideration by the Commission.

### 5.4 Targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, noted that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting in 2010, would address a number of matters related to targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture, and the Commission agreed to take a lead role in the development and use of biodiversity targets and indicators related to the work of the Commission.

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19 CGRFA-12/09/15.1 and CGRFA-12/09/15.2
20 CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 68.
21 CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 98.
The document, *International targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture* (CGRFA-11/18) describes recent international developments on indicators that are of relevance to the Commission’s work, provides an overview of FAO’s main work in the area of international indicators and targets for biodiversity for food and agriculture, and seeks guidance from the Commission with regard to further work on international indicators and targets for biodiversity for food and agriculture to facilitate the review of this issue as scheduled in the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) at the Commission’s Fourteenth Regular Session.

6. Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work

6.1 Human and financial resources in FAO to support the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work

The Commission, at its last session, stressed that priority should be accorded to the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work within the Regular Programme of FAO and requested its Secretariat to present for its consideration at each regular session, a report on the human and financial resources to support the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work. The document, *Human and financial resources for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work* (CGRFA-13/11/19), contains this report, for consideration by the Commission.

6.2 Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work

In adopting its MYPOW, the Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, agreed to review progress made in the implementation of its MYPOW at its Thirteenth and Fifteenth Regular Sessions. The document, *Review of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW)* (CGRFA-13/11/20), provides an overview of the progress made in the implementation of the Commission’s MYPOW since its adoption in 2007. It assesses the extent to which MYPOW outputs and milestones foreseen for future sessions of the Commission are still relevant and may realistically be achieved. The Commission is invited to review the proposed *Draft Revised Multi-Year Programme of Work: Major outputs and milestones (2013-2021)* which is given in Appendix 2 to the document, taking into account: progress made; the achievability of planned milestones and outputs; and comments and suggestions received from the Commission’s Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups.

*The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* is an essential long-term goal of the MYPOW. The document, *Preparation of The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-13/11/Inf. 23), provides a concept note regarding the preparation of the report the presentation of which is scheduled for the Commission’s Sixteenth Regular Session.

II. COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

7. Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Commission plays a lead role in the cooperation between FAO and the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, and the Commission and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have regularly recognized the importance of their cooperation.

The document, *Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity* (CGRFA-13/11/21), which was jointly prepared with the Convention Secretariat, requests advice from the Commission on strengthening cooperation with the Convention in response to the various invitations arising...
from the tenth meeting of its Conference of the Parties, and within the context of the joint work plan with the CBD. The document, *Joint work plan with the Convention on Biological Diversity* (CGRFA-13/11/Inf. 11), contains the joint work plan 2012-2020.

8. **Cooperation with other international instruments and organizations**

Strengthening cooperation and partnership on biodiversity for food and agriculture is a strategic goal of the Commission. The document, *Cooperation with other international instruments and organizations* (CGRFA-13/11/22), summarizes the Commission’s cooperation and inputs received from international organizations with regard to the implementation of the MYPOW.

Additional relevant information is provided in the documents, *Submissions by International Organizations on the prioritised themes of the session* (CGRFA-13/11/Inf. 9), and, *Report from the Global Crop Diversity Trust to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-13/11/Inf. 24).

### III. THE COMMISSION’S MODE OF OPERATION

9. **Status and profile of the Commission**

The Commission, at its last session, emphasized the need for raising its profile. It stressed its important role within the institutional structure of FAO requested its Secretary to prepare an analysis of potential constraints of the Commission’s current status, and to analyze and assess the advantages and disadvantages of a possible change of the Commission’s status to a Technical Committee, as referred to in Article V.6 of the Constitution of FAO. The Commission also requested its Secretariat to explore creative and innovative mechanisms, approaches and tools to raise the profile of the Commission, in addition to reviewing its status within the constitutional framework of FAO. The FAO Conference, at its Thirty-sixth Session, welcomed the review of the status of the Commission within the constitutional framework of FAO as scheduled by the Commission for this session.

The document, *Status and profile of the Commission* (CGRFA-13/11/23), briefly considers the current status of the Commission within the constitutional framework of FAO; examines the status of Technical Committees under Article V, paragraph 6 (b) of the FAO Constitution; and provides some considerations, mainly of a procedural nature, regarding a possible change in status of the Commission into a Technical Committee. The document also considers other ways and means to raise the profile of the Commission, for consideration by the Commission.

### IV. OTHER MATTERS

10. **Other business**

11. **Date and place of the Commission’s Fourteenth Regular Session**

12. **Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs**

13. **Adoption of the Report**

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27 CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 102.

28 C 2009/REP, paragraph 172.
### PROVISIONAL TIME-TABLE

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### III. THE COMMISSION’S MODE OF OPERATION

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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Election of Chair and Vice-Chairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Friday, 21 July 2011 afternoon**

15:00 – 18:00 | 13 | Adoption of the Report |