



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October – 3 November 2017

Draft Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-2025

Executive summary

This document contains the updated draft Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-2025 with a list of activities, outputs, outcomes and cost estimates. As requested by the Governing Body, through Resolution 13/2015, the document incorporates the inputs received during the biennium and refers to comments and suggestions made by Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders.

Guidance sought

The Governing Body is invited to consider and adopt the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-2025 as contained in the *Appendix* to this document.



I. Introduction

1. By Resolution 13/2015, Multi-Year Programme of Work of the International Treaty (2016-2025), the Governing Body:

Request[ed] *the Secretary to develop, with inputs from Contracting Parties, a MYPOW for 2018-2025 for consideration at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body. This should include expected outputs, outcomes and milestones and be prepared according to the principles of efficiency and cost-effectiveness. It should contain an indication of the donor-supported activities and expected additional financial and human resources required.*

2. In early 2016, the Secretariat issued a notification inviting Contracting Parties to provide inputs for the further development of the draft MYPOW with the view to facilitate the early preparation of the first updated version of the document.¹ As of 1 February 2017, only one submission had been received, supporting the structure and formulation of the MYPOW.

3. In further developing the draft MYPOW, the Secretariat took into account the structure and level of detail of similar multi-year programmes elaborated for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) and the FAO Council. The resulting draft provided estimates of the cost required for the implementation of the proposed activities, in addition to those covered by the regular budget of the International Treaty.

4. To facilitate the participation of Contracting Parties in the further development of the MYPOW, and following the advice provided by the Bureau at its second meeting, the Secretariat translated and published the updated draft MYPOW on the Treaty's website,² and issued a second notification inviting further inputs and comments to the draft.

5. The Secretariat has incorporated, in the draft appended to this document, the additional inputs received up to 15 July 2017. In cases where the inputs could not be directly inserted into the text, for instance where the inputs are of a general nature or would have prevented the inclusion and consideration of other inputs, the Secretariat has reflected them in this document under the relevant section, particularly sections III and IV.

II. Principles and structure

6. As described in the documentation presented to the Governing Body at the Sixth Session, the Multi-Year Programme of Work is a multi-purpose document guided by several objectives and principles,³ to:

- 1) streamline the heavy agenda of the Governing Body and increase efficiency of the Sessions of the Governing Body through further improved preparation, coherent scheduling and progression, rational organization and implementation of its work, in conjunction with funding needs and resource availability (Efficiency and cost-effectiveness);
- 2) deal with the in-depth reviews of relevant provisions and mechanisms of the International Treaty taking into account cross-cutting issues like finance, technology transfer, capacity development, awareness raising, training and information sharing (Monitoring and Assessments).

¹ See notification GB7-006 MYPOW inputs. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/notifications/detail-events/en/c/430808/>

² See notification GB7-022 Inputs MYPOW. Available at <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/notifications/detail-events/en/c/880816/>

³ Section II of document IT/GB-6/15/22, *Key Principles and Coverage*

- 3) become a community-driven vehicle to strengthen cooperation with other relevant international instruments and organizations and with all communities of practice and actors involved in the value-added chain of product development based on PGRFA, taking into account all uses of PGRFA from research to plant breeding (Cooperation and coordination);
- 4) provide Contracting Parties with a tool for mainstreaming PGRFA considerations, through a staged approach, into national policies and plans (Mainstreaming and awareness-raising);
- 5) provide donors with a timeframe for the implementation roadmap and facilitate resource mobilization and planning of communication activities (Outreach and resource mobilization).

7. Regarding the primary purpose of the MYPOW, one region has emphasised that the most important function of the MYPOW is to better structure the International Treaty's work programme, particularly the work to be done in inter-sessional periods by the committees established by the Governing Body and the support activities of the Secretariat. The preparatory work will also help the Governing Body to structure its discussions. The same region indicated that it should also help prioritising the different topics at the various sessions of the Governing Body and reflect the previous decisions and resolutions adopted.

8. Following the guidance of the Bureau of the Sixth Session, the outputs of the draft MYPOW were organized in three clusters and presented to the Governing Body at its Sixth Session:

Cluster 1: Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and emerging policy and governance issues within the global development agenda;

This cluster would help the Governing Body to better integrate considerations related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the global agricultural development agenda in relation to food and nutrition security, climate change, nutrition and other important issues. It would also create opportunities to establish an overall framework for a more effective and coherent multilateral policy dialogue with partner organizations for the implementation of the International Treaty.⁴ The programme elements under Cluster 1 are aligned with the theme of each Session and are expected to be dealt with under the section of the agenda on general policy matters. The relevant inputs will be collected in the form of views and submissions from governments and relevant stakeholder organizations.

Cluster 2: Scientific, technical and technological matters;

This cluster groups outcomes that are closely connected with the ongoing programmes of work adopted by the Governing Body for Sustainable Use and the Global Information System, among others. It would allow an assessment of how these new scientific and technical developments respond to the demands of farmers, plant breeders, the food industry, the consumer and how they impact on the environment and on society. It will also analyse, taking into account the economic and social perspectives, how the International Treaty brings innovation to users and how it contributes to add value to the use of PGRFA. By appraising scientific, technical and technological development, the Governing Body will be able to structure programmes of work that integrate the relevant developments into inter-sessional activities, including those provisions that the Governing Body has not fully dealt with so far. In that respect, the programme elements of Cluster 2 provide a bridge between the other two clusters. At each session, the Governing Body may make adjustments based on global trends matched with actual progress made with the implementation of the International Treaty.

⁴ The goals and structure of the draft MYPOW should take into account those of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol and the Strategic Framework of FAO. Activities such as the review of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and the Third Report on the State of the World on PGRFA are currently under the MYPOW of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Cluster 3: Progress and review of the main components of the International Treaty

This cluster would help the Governing Body to deal, in a more systematic way, with some of the reviews foreseen in the text of the International Treaty and in the Resolutions of the Governing Body, taking into account the period of time needed to collect sufficient information and avoiding of the repetition of these reviews on the agenda at each session. This cluster also groups other follow-ups activities to decisions and Resolutions adopted in the past Sessions. The programme elements under this cluster will be inserted into the section of the agenda dealing with the implementation of the main systems, programmes and components of the International Treaty.

III. Themes

9. All the submissions and inputs received by the Secretariat underlined the value of establishing themes as a means to increasing the visibility and importance of the work of the Governing Body as a forum for global policy discussions.

10. Regarding the theme for the 9th Session, two submissions provided text proposals to make it more specific and highlight the role of farmers as custodians and developers of PGRFA. The theme has been reviewed and it now reads "Supporting farmers as custodian and developers of biodiversity".

11. There was no theme for the 11th Session and a submission proposed to include "The International Treaty after one generation: looking to the next generation", which has been reflected in the draft.

IV. Other inputs received

12. Recognizing that there are ongoing processes to enhance the Multilateral System (MLS) and update the Funding Strategy, foreseen under Cluster 3 activities for the 10th Session (2022-23), a submission from a Contracting Party noted that the timing of subsequent reviews of the MLS and Funding Strategy will depend on when the Governing Body adopts decisions regarding these elements of the International Treaty.

13. One region expressed its expectation for the MYPOW to be a simple and focussed planning and budgeting tool for the International Treaty's future work, based on the Business Plan framework, and adding activities to be held, outputs to be achieved including indicators and milestones for monitoring and evaluation.

14. The same region indicated that the MYPOW should incorporate a timetable and the financial resources needed to implement the listed activities, including possible partnerships or synergies with other international organizations, and it should ideally be presented in a table format. The same region did not agree with the new conceptual framework proposed, and it suggested the deletion of Clusters 1 and 2. According to the same submission, the proposed activities in Clusters 1 and 2, if relevant and prioritised by the Governing Body, could be moved to Cluster 3, or otherwise deleted.

V. Guidance sought

15. The Governing Body is invited to consider and adopt the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2018-2025 as contained in the *Appendix* to this document.

**Appendix 1 - THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK (MYPOW) – 2018-2025 -
OVERVIEW**

	8th Session (2018-19)	9th Session (2020-21)	10th Session (2022-23)	11th Session (2024-25)
THEMES:	<i>Increasing agricultural productivity by integrating PGRFA along the product development chain</i>	<i>Supporting farmers as custodians and developers of biodiversity</i>	<i>Biodiversity and climate change adaptation</i>	<i>The International Treaty after one generation: looking to the next generation</i>
Cluster 1: PGRFA policy and governance issues within the global development agenda	-PGRFA access, benefit sharing and global food and nutrition security	- The role of farmers as custodians and developers of PGRFA -Landscape of national policy and plans on conservation and use of PGRFA	- Incentives to reduce loss of and promote sustainable utilization of PGRFA in an era of climate change	- Contribution of PGRFA to agriculture, environment and commerce
Cluster 2: Scientific, technical and technological matters	- Broadening the genetic base of crop production to reduce crop vulnerability and genetic erosion - Advances in characterization, evaluation and documentation	- Breeding strategies to meet the needs of farmers - Management of crop wild relatives		
Cluster 3: Progress and review of the main components of the Treaty	- Review of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance - Review of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use	- Review of the Global Information System - Review of implementation of Farmers' Rights	- Review of Multilateral System - Review of the Funding Strategy	- Review of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK 2018-2021

8th Session (2018-19)

THEME:	Increasing agricultural productivity by integrating PGRFA along the product development chain
<i>Cluster 1:</i> <i>PGRFA policy and governance issues within the global development agenda</i>	- PGRFA access, benefit-sharing and global food and nutrition security
<i>Cluster 2:</i> <i>Scientific, technical and technological matters</i>	- Broadening the genetic base of crop production to reduce crop vulnerability and genetic erosion - Advances in characterization, evaluation and documentation
<i>Cluster 3:</i> <i>Progress and review of the main components of the Treaty</i>	- Review of the Procedures and mechanisms on compliance - Review of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA

Cluster 1: PGRFA policy and governance issues within the global development agenda

Outcome: Enhanced policy framework on access and benefit-sharing of plant genetic resources affecting global food and nutrition security.

Output: The Governing Body considers decisions on access and benefit sharing related to biodiversity and plant genetic resources taken by other international organizations for policy coherence.

Activity:

- Prepare a report on measures taken by Contracting Parties related to PGRFA, including the consideration of recent and ongoing developments in other international fora related to access and benefit sharing relevant for the work of the International Treaty, including a gap analysis. The report will be based on the inputs submitted by Contracting Parties in their Country Reports pursuant to Article 21 and on other inputs collected during the biennium from Contracting Parties. It will contain a review to identify trends, based on facts, figures and statistics.
- Review available information on access and benefit sharing measures undertaken by Contracting Parties based on the inputs received through the various reporting channels and discuss possible progress indicators.

Estimated cost: US\$ 20,000 for the commissioning of a report and reviewing relevant information.

Milestone and indicator:

- A report on major access and benefit-sharing decisions taken in other global policy fora concerning plant genetic resources and food and nutrition security.

- Review of existing information sources on access and benefit-sharing measures related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture adopted by Contracting Parties at domestic level.

Cluster 2: Scientific, technical and technological matters

Outcome: Contracting Parties are better informed on how to reduce the crop vulnerability and genetic erosion through a base-broadening use of well characterized and evaluated varieties in the context of the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty.

Output: Recommendations from the Governing Body on how to foster public-private partnerships on pre-breeding operating within the framework of the International Treaty.

Activity:

- Develop an input paper on public-private partnerships for pre-breeding, including information and lessons from similar initiatives in other fora on the interactions with relevant stakeholders. The paper will contain information on the current roles of public and private sector institutions in pre-breeding, and assess the value and the need for a Global Initiative on Public-Private partnerships for Pre-breeding, including the definition of its objectives and goals.
- With inputs from Contracting Parties and available in WIEWS, prepare a report on advances in characterization, evaluation and documentation of genetic material available in the Multilateral System and the Global Information System of the International Treaty.
- Develop a plan on how to further characterize and possibly expand current PGRFA collections.
- Organize an international symposium under the auspices of FAO and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on public-private partnerships on pre-breeding in the framework of the International Treaty to sharing information and examples on public-private partnerships for PGRFA.

Estimated cost: US\$ 200,000 for the elaboration of an input paper, a technical report and the organization of an international symposium.

Milestone and indicator:

- One input paper on public-private partnerships for pre-breeding.
- One report on the advances in characterization, evaluation and documentation.
- An international symposium.

Cluster 3: Progress and review of the main components of the Treaty

Outcome:

- Procedures and operational mechanisms function well and enable compliance to be promoted and issues of non-compliance to be addressed.
- Elaborate a study of material that Contracting Parties have already notified to be available in the Multilateral System, analysis of the procedures to get access to it and a set of recommendations for improvement.
- Update on the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use.

Output:

- The Governing Body makes decisions based on the recommendations received for the Compliance Committee for improvement of the procedures and operational mechanisms.
- The Governing Body makes decisions on Programme of Work on Sustainable Use.

Activity:

- The Compliance Committee reviews the procedures and the operational mechanism to promote compliance and address issues of non-compliance and makes recommendations for improvement to the Governing Body through its Report.
- The Programme of Work on Sustainable Use is reviewed by the relevant Committee and a proposal is sent to the Governing Body for its consideration and approval.

Estimated cost: No additional resources.

Milestone and indicator:

- Recommendations by the Compliance Committee to the Governing Body on the procedures and operational mechanisms on monitoring and reporting, including a review of the Standard Reporting Format, for its consideration.
- Decisions by the Governing Body for improved procedures and operational mechanisms.
- Provision of guidance and recommendations on the operations and continuity of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use.

9th Session (2020-21)

THEME:	<i>Supporting farmers as custodians and developers of biodiversity</i>
<i>Cluster 1:</i> PGRFA policy and governance issues within the global development agenda	-The role of farmers as custodians and developers of PGRFA -Landscape of national policy and plans on conservation and use of PGRFA
<i>Cluster 2:</i> Scientific, technical and technological matters	- Breeding strategies to meet the needs of farmers - Management of crop wild relatives
<i>Cluster 3:</i> Progress and review of the main components of the Treaty	- Review of the Global Information System of Article 17 - Review of implementation of Farmers' Rights

Cluster 1: PGRFA policy and governance issues within the global development agenda

Outcome: Enhanced recognition of the role and contributions of farmers as custodians and developers of PGRFA.

Output: The Governing Body provides information to Contracting Parties on possible options to recognise in national policies and plans the contribution and role of farmers to on-farm conservation and use of PGRFA.

Activity:

- Gather, compile and analyse inputs from Contracting Parties, on the understanding of custodian farmer attributes, roles and responsibilities. Elaborate a global landscape report on national policies, plans and implementation recognising and promoting the role of farmers in the conservation and use of PGRFA.
- A study, with analysis and recommendations, on the most efficient ways of conserving PGRFA and the balance between *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation with a view to support the development of policies that support complementarity. The study would develop or take into account case studies on situations and circumstances where both conservation strategies and policies support each other in an efficient way.
- Organise at least one regional consultation on the role of farmers in the conservation and use of crop biodiversity and their role in the discovery and development of PGRFA.

Estimated cost: US\$ 150,000 for the preparation of a landscape report on national policies and plans and the organization of a least one regional consultation.

Milestone and indicator:

Global landscape report on national policies and plans and a report on the role of farmers as custodians and developers of PGRFA from regional meetings.

Cluster 2: Scientific, technical and technological matters

Outcome: Gaps and needs of the smallholder farmers coping with the on-farm and *in-situ* conservation are addressed.

Output:

- The Governing Body provides guidance on efficient management of crop wild relatives and promotion of neglected and underutilized species (NUS).
- The Governing Body supports efforts to gather information about different breeding strategies and breeding techniques, including successes, failure and lessons learned.

Activity:

- Review of breeding strategies with a view to identify best practices for the promotion of neglected and underutilized species and identify potential incentives for growing and conserving them.
- Review a background study on the management of crop wild relatives in the context of plant breeding and resilience to climate change.
- Organize a Technical Conference on how to protect and promote the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, neglected and underutilized species.

Estimated cost: US\$ 135,000 for the organization of a technical conference on crop wild relatives and the preparation of a report on best practices on the promotion of neglected and underutilized species.

Milestone and indicator:

- Background study on neglected and underutilized species and breeding strategies.
- Guidance and recommendations for the conservation and use of neglected and underutilized species .

Cluster 3: Progress and review of the main components of the Treaty

Outcome:

Update on the Programme of Work on the Global Information System of Article 17 and review of the implementation of Farmers' Rights.

Output:

- The Governing Body makes decisions on the Programme of Work on the Global Information System of Article 17.
- Lessons learned and national options presented regarding the implementation of Farmers' Rights.

Activity:

- The Programme of Work on the Global Information System of Article 17 is reviewed.

- Review of national experiences on the implementation of Farmers' Rights by the Governing Body based on inputs collected from national reports on the implementation of the International Treaty and inputs and submissions received from relevant stakeholders.

Estimated cost: No additional resources.

Milestone and indicator:

Provision of guidance and recommendations on the operations and continuity of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System and on the implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights.