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# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 9.4 of the Provisional Agenda

### Seventeenth Regular Session

Rome, 18–22 February 2019

## PREPARATION OF COUNTRY REPORTS FOR *THE THIRD REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

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CGRFA 17

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) endorsed the revised timeline for the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report).<sup>1</sup> The preparation of the Third Report, according to the agreed timeline, is synchronized with country reporting on the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA).
2. As agreed under the Second GPA, governments and other FAO Members monitor and guide its implementation and the related follow-up processes through the Commission. Accordingly, the Commission adopted a monitoring framework for the Second GPA, which is based on a set of indicators for monitoring the implementation of its 18 Priority Activities. A reporting format for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA<sup>2</sup> was developed to collect the information through government-appointed National Focal Points (NFPs).
3. Countries agreed to report by the end of 2017 on their implementation of the Second GPA for the period of January 2012 to June 2014. According to the agreed timeline, a second monitoring report covering the period from July 2014 to December 2019 and a country report are due by the end of 2020.

## II. THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

4. Countries should continue reporting on the implementation of the Second GPA through the *ad hoc* reporting tool of the World Information and Early Warning System on PGRFA (WIEWS reporting tool). Complementary to this ongoing exercise, it is proposed that countries provide additional information for the preparation of the Third Report through the same WIEWS reporting tool. Country reports will be based on data provided on the implementation of the Second GPA for the two reporting cycles.
5. Moreover, for each country, a summative narrative is requested, describing the progress made in the implementation of the Second GPA between January 2012 and December 2019 and the remaining gaps and constraints. The summative narrative will complement the information provided in the course of the two reporting cycles. This complementary information will be submitted through WIEWS for each Priority Activity of the Second GPA. More specifically, NFPs will be requested to provide summative information on:
  - (i) **key achievements** during the reporting period;
  - (ii) **changes and trends** during the reporting period; and
  - (iii) **gaps and needs/possible remedial actions**.

Additional information may be added by NFPs if considered essential for the Third Report.

6. Leading questions will guide NFPs in the preparation of the summative narratives, as appropriate and necessary. The summative narrative may also be used by NFPs for the preparation of a stand-alone country report, if they wish to prepare such report. However, stand-alone country reports will not be required for the preparation of the Third Report.

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 66.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm294e.pdf>

### III. SAMPLES OF GUIDANCE TO BE GIVEN TO COUNTRIES FOR PREPARING SUMMATIVE NARRATIVES

7. Examples for the additional fields and corresponding leading questions are presented below for three Priority Activities of the Second GPA. They illustrate the proposed reporting approach for the summative narratives. NFPs will have the option of providing the required summative narrative online through the WIEWS reporting tool or in a Word document, which will be made available under the WIEWS portal in due course.

#### *Sample 1. Conservation*

##### *Priority Activity 2: Supporting on-farm management and improvement of PGRFA* (Indicators 4–6)

###### ***Key achievements since January 2012***

- Please summarize the key achievements with respect to on-farm management of PGRFA and crop improvement activities.

###### ***Changes and trends since January 2012***

- Please describe any notable changes and/or trends with respect to the number and type of activities supporting on-farm management of PGRFA and crop improvement. These may include initiatives, such as market incentives, awareness raising efforts and supportive policies.
- Have there been significant changes in the: (i) number, average age and gender composition of farmers that undertake on-farm management and improvement of PGRFA; and (ii) coverage of geographical areas where these activities are practised?
- Have there been changes in the number of farmers' varieties or landraces distributed to farmers by national or local genebanks, including community genebanks?
- Concerns about the impact of climate change on agriculture have grown substantially over the past decade. As such, farmers may no longer be able to grow their own traditional varieties/landraces, and they will therefore need access to adapted germplasm. How have farmers' responses to climate change affected on-farm management and improvement of PGRFA? What trends have been observed?

###### ***Gaps and needs as at December 2019***

- Please list any significant gaps and needs (e.g. policies; institutional capacity; extension; others) in the area of on-farm PGRFA management and improvement in your country.
- Did you undertake any action(s) since January 2012 to address gaps and/or needs?
- Have you set any priorities for the next decade? Please specify.

###### ***Additional relevant information*** (optional)

**Sample 2. Sustainable use****Priority Activity 8: Expanding the characterization, evaluation and further development of specific collection sub-sets to facilitate use** (Indicators 30–34)**Key achievements since January 2012**

- Please describe the key achievements in the characterization and evaluation of PGRFA held *ex situ* and the development of trait-specific subsets.
- Please indicate new characterization and evaluation methodologies or techniques that have been applied over the past years to the collections held in your genebank(s) specifying the main crops that were addressed.

**Changes and trends since January 2012**

- Please describe changes, other than the key achievements already itemized above, that have occurred with the morphological and molecular characterization and evaluation of germplasm, including the number of descriptors used and/or traits evaluated of the *ex situ* collections conserved in the country. Please specify the status for relevant species/crops, taking into account crop wild relatives and neglected and underutilized species.
- Please specify the trends in the number of accessions of PGRFA held *ex situ* that have been characterized and evaluated and/or the development of trait-specific subsets.
- This Priority Activity addresses the improvement and facilitation of the exchange of, and access to, quality characterization and evaluation data across genebank collections, including through national, regional and global information systems. Were newly generated data on characterization/evaluation easily accessible? Did they facilitate the use of germplasm through the identification of collections subsets and, if so, which ones?

**Gaps and needs as at December 2019**

- Please report any significant gaps and needs observed or constraints faced in the country with regard to the characterization, evaluation and distribution of germplasm accessions.
- Did you undertake any action(s) since January 2012 to address gaps and/or needs?
- Have you set any priorities for the next decade? Please specify.

**Additional relevant information** (optional)**Sample 3. Capacity****Priority Activity 13: Building and strengthening national programmes** (Indicators 45–48)**Key achievements since January 2012**

- Please describe the key achievements in building and strengthening national programmes including development, implementation and harmonization of policy and institutional framework(s).

***Changes and trends since January 2012***

- Please report any major changes with regard to the number and composition of different national stakeholders (e.g. breeders, farmers, private sector, universities, national genebanks, etc.) actively involved in building and strengthening national programmes.
- Please describe the changes in cooperation among institutions and sectors with respect to the national programme. Include linkages to, or support by, regional or international institutions to facilitate regular national planning, priority setting and coordinated fundraising.

***Gaps and needs as at December 2019***

- National programmes should have a formally recognized status and be given high priority within the national development agenda. Please identify any significant gaps and needs observed or constraints faced in the country in developing or strengthening the national programme.
- Did you undertake any action(s) since January 2012 to address gaps and/or needs?
- Have you set any priorities for the next decade? Please specify.

***Additional relevant information*** (optional)