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# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

### Seventeenth Regular Session

Rome, 18–22 February 2019

## SUBMISSIONS BY COUNTRIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT THE INTEGRATION OF GENETIC DIVERSITY INTO NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING

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CGRFA 17

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission reviewed its Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and reiterated its invitation to countries to implement the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*<sup>1</sup> and to provide feedback in this regard to the Secretary.<sup>2</sup>

2. This document compiles submissions received by the Secretariat in response to Circulate State Letter C/CBD-7 issued by FAO on 22 May 2017, for information of the Commission. The submissions are presented in alphabetical order and in the language in which they were received.

## II. SUBMISSIONS

### i. India

Provision may be made and emphasis be given on the use of advanced technology and technology transfer for recognizing the importance of and use of GRFA for coping with climate change. In India programmes on Climate resilient agriculture were initiated during 2015 wherein focused collection on climate hotspots were undertaken and mini core / reference sets on heat stress and drought were developed in wheat and rice. Further work on the genomics of these traits is under way.

Discussions at the International Agro-biodiversity Congress held at New Delhi in 2016 led to a “Delhi Declaration” which recognizes the importance of traditional agrobiodiversity knowledge available with farm men and women, pastoralists, tribal and rural communities and its role in the conservation and use for a food secure and climate resilient world. This would help in attaining the sustainable Development Goals and the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### ii. Sweden

Sweden wishes to acknowledge

- that the National Programme for Diversity of Cultivated Plants (i.e. plant genetic resources) has as one of its 17 objectives to contribute to climate adaptation of Swedish agriculture and horticulture
- that the notion of the FAO *Voluntary Guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning* has been considered within the development of [the national action plan for climate adaptation](#) (in Swedish), developed by the Board of Agriculture in 2017, and
- that the outcome of the national plan is annually being monitored at the national level from a range of relevant aspects, including that of cultivated biodiversity.

### iii. Switzerland

Switzerland had elaborated a multi-sectorial and national strategy for climate change adaptation, before the CGRFA Voluntary Guidelines were published. This strategy consists of two parts:

- the first part, published in 2012, describes the goals, challenges and fields of action in adapting to climate change on Federal level, and
- the second part, published in 2014, defines the *Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2014-2019*.

Switzerland recognizes that genetic diversity is crucial to cope with the challenges identified in the first part of the strategy, such as increased droughts, decreased slope stability, adverse impact on water/soil/air quality, changes in habitats/species composition/landscape and the spread of

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/290cd085-98f3-43df-99a9-250cec270867/>

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-16/17 paragraph 29.

diseases/pests/invasive species. Therefore, the *Climate Change Adaptation Plan* recognizes the already existing *Swiss Plant Breeding Strategy* as well as the *National Action Plan on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (NAP-PGREL), as important means to increase the resilience of the crop systems to climate change (see Annex, p.73, a1). Coordination between those different means are encouraged to benefit from synergies and reach the defined goals.

Currently an evaluation of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan is undertaken to examine whether the goals are being reached with the defined measures. In case the results of this evaluation show a gap, there will likely be a revision of the *Climate Change Adaptation Plan* and this would allow the full integration of the recommendations contained in the CGRFA Voluntary Guideline for the period 2020 onwards.

Adaptation aux changements climatiques en Suisse. Plan d'action 2014–2019. Deuxième volet de la stratégie du Conseil fédéral du 9 avril 2014<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/fr/home/themes/climat/publications-etudes/publications/adaptation-changements-climatiques-suisse-2014.html>