

PC 130/7 – Information Note - March 2021

2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy

on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors

1. The Council, at its 163rd Session, adopted the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (Strategy). According to the Strategy, FAO will develop an Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy (Action Plan), including a timetable, to operationalize the Strategy, for consideration by the FAO Technical Committees and approval by the Council.
2. The Council, at its 165th Session, “recommended that an open, transparent and Member-led consultation process be convened to finalize the draft Action Plan to implement the strategy, including inputs from all Technical Committees as well as the group of national focal points for biodiversity for food and agriculture of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).”
3. The first part of the Second Meeting of the Group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture was held virtually from 2 to 4 March 2021¹. This document contains relevant extracts from the report of the Meeting. The Group of National Focal Points also noted that Members of the Commission may submit comments by 10 March 2021 on the latest version of the draft Action Plan and requested the Secretariat to compile country submissions and forward them to the Programme Committee.

Report of the first part of the Second Meeting of the Group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture of the Commission of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Extract)

4. The Group of National Focal Points considered the document *Review of the draft 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*². It welcomed the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (FAO Strategy) and took note of the progress made in the development of the *Draft 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*³ (Action Plan) as a means to better coordinate and strengthen FAO's biodiversity-related work, as well as its support to national and regional biodiversity mainstreaming efforts, including support to national fundraising efforts for biodiversity.
5. The Group of National Focal Points noted the important role of the FAO Strategy and its Action Plan in guiding and facilitating FAO's support to Members in mainstreaming biodiversity across their agricultural sectors and conserving and sustainably using biodiversity for food and agriculture. It further noted the importance of ensuring harmony, complementarity and mutual support of the Action Plan and other activities undertaken under other instruments and organizations, including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic

¹ <http://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/detail/en/c/1257654/>

² CGRFA/NFP-BFA-2/21/3

³ CGRFA/NFP-BFA-2/21/Inf.5

Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty), the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission.

6. The Group of National Focal Points welcomed the opportunity to take note of the draft Action Plan and provided comments. It recommended that in the future the Commission itself should be fully involved in the implementation, review and updating of the FAO Strategy and its Action Plan. The Group of National Focal Points also recommended that a report on the implementation of the FAO Strategy and its Action Plan be made available to the Commission at each session.
7. The Group of National Focal Points stressed that FAO, through established instruments and bodies, including the Commission and the International Treaty, already provides a global framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including genetic resources, which should be brought to bear for FAO's work on biodiversity. The Group of National Focal Points recommended that, upon review of the FAO Strategy, these Statutory Bodies be explicitly mentioned in the section on "effective governance".
8. The Group of National Focal Points recommended that biodiversity be integrated into FAO policies, programmes and activities and regularly be considered by relevant Governing and Statutory Bodies of FAO. It stressed the important role of collaboration and partnerships for the implementation of the FAO Strategy and its Action Plan and requested FAO and its Governing and Statutory Bodies to closely collaborate in this regard with relevant international organizations and instruments and national, regional and international research institutes, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.
9. The Group of National Focal Points stressed the importance of complementarity of the FAO Strategy, the Action Plan and post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, currently under development under the Convention on Biological Diversity and emphasized the need to closely coordinate monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the different instruments. The Group of National Focal Points noted with appreciation that the Commission's policy response to the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, the FAO Strategy and its Action Plan will strengthen FAO's role in the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
10. In addition, comments on the draft Action Plan, which do not reflect the consensus of the Group of National Focal Points, were made by some participants. These included suggestions to:
 - a) stress the importance of supporting Members, upon request, in mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors;
 - b) adjust the timetable for review and monitoring and explicitly reference the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (section 5);
 - c) avoid language that could be misunderstood as to prejudge the outcome of other ongoing policy processes;
 - d) clarify that there is no peer-reviewed evidence demonstrating that geographical indications contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
 - e) stress that capacity-building (Outcome 1) should include building capacity to conduct participatory assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including impact assessments, with relevant stakeholders and partners; and

- f) stress the importance of better tackling issues related to incentives, risks associated with pesticides, and sustainable production practices and supply chains.
11. The Group of National Focal Points noted that the draft Action Plan, as revised in the light of comments received from the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), Committee on Forestry (COFO), Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and individual Members, has recently been made available for the forthcoming 130th Session of the Programme Committee.⁴ It noted that Members of the Commission may submit comments by 10 March 2021 on the latest version of the draft Action Plan and requested the Secretariat to compile country submissions⁵ and forward them to the Programme Committee, for its consideration.

⁴ [PC 130/7](#)

⁵ [Compiled countries' submission-the Second Meeting of the Group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for CGRFA](#)