



COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Eleventh Session

19 – 21 May 2021

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

1. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair(s) and *Rapporteur*

In accordance with its Statutes, “the Working Group shall elect its Chairperson and one or more Vice Chairpersons from among the representatives of Members of the Working Group at the beginning of each session. These officers shall remain in office until the next session of the Working Group and shall be eligible for re-election”.¹ The Working Group may also wish to appoint a *Rapporteur*.

2. Adoption of the agenda and timetable

The provisional agenda is contained in document **CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/1**. A provisional timetable is provided in Annex 1 to the present document, which provides annotations to the provisional agenda. The Eleventh Session will be held as a virtual meeting. Annex 2 outlines the special procedures proposed for virtual meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies in 2021.

3. Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

The Commission, at its Seventeenth Regular Session, called upon countries to continue implementing the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources for food and agriculture (Global Plan of Action), in order to contribute to global food security and sustainable rural development and, in particular, to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 15. It requested FAO to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders and donors to continue technical and policy support for country implementation of the Global Plan of Action.² The Working Group is invited to review progress in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action achieved since the Seventeenth Regular Session.

¹ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.1.

² CGRFA-19/19/Report, paragraph 86.

3.1 Review of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

The document *Review of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/2)*, provides an overview of FAO activities since the Commission's last session, including the preparation of technical guidelines, capacity development and training, and technical support to countries, and gives an update on the status of the Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action.³ The Working Group is invited to take note of the review of FAO's work and to guide the Commission on future work in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

FAO activities are grouped according to their relevance to the four Strategic Priority Areas of the Global Plan of Action in the document *Detailed FAO progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.2)*.

The Commission invited countries report on progress in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.⁴ The results of this reporting process are summarized in the document *Synthesis progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources – 2020 (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.3)*, for consideration by the Working Group.

3.2 Draft technical guidelines for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

The Commission requested FAO to continue developing and updating guidelines to facilitate the application of new scientific discoveries related to the identification, characterization and conservation of animal genetic resources.⁵ In particular, new developments and discoveries in biotechnologies have impacted the management of genetic resources for food and agriculture.⁶ In response to this request and in light of these developments and discoveries, FAO has developed two draft technical guidelines for review by the Working Group.

3.2.1 Innovations in cryoconservation

Technologies for conservation of animal genetic resources, especially for cryoconservation, are among those that have seen the greatest advancements in recent years. To facilitate adoption of recent advances in animal gene banking, innovations in cryoconservation are introduced in the document *Cryoconservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/3)*. More detailed guidance is contained in the document *Innovations in cryoconservation of animal genetic resources – Draft technical guidelines (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.4)*.

3.2.2 Genomic characterization

In few fields has technological development been more fast-paced or impactful than in genomics. To help countries to benefit from these technological advancements in the management of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, the document *Genomic characterization of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/4)* provides an introduction and overview of the topic. More detailed guidance is contained in the document *Genomic characterization of*

³ <http://www.fao.org/3/i1674e/i1674e00.pdf>

⁴ CGRFA-17/19/Report paragraph 85.

⁵ CGRFA-17/19/Report paragraph 84.

⁶ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/9; CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.12.

animal genetic resources – Draft updated technical guidelines (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.5).

3.3 Status of the development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System

The Commission stressed the importance of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) as the international clearing-house mechanism for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture and requested FAO to further maintain and develop DAD-IS and to develop and refine procedures for exchange of data with national systems. In response to the Commission's requests,⁷ FAO undertook multiple activities that are summarized in the document *Status of the development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/5)*.

The Commission requested information on population sizes and breed classifications, in order to ensure that decisions on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action are informed by the most up-to-date data and information available.⁸ Based on updates of national breed data and information in DAD-IS, the document *Status and trends of animal genetic resources – 2020 (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.6)* provides the requested information.

A majority of breeds in DAD-IS lack recent estimates of their population size, meaning that their status for risk of extinction is considered to be unknown. The Commission requested the Secretariat to develop an in-house analytical study on the factors influencing the high proportion of breeds with unknown status for risk of extinction.⁹ The results of this study, including proposed solutions, are given in the document *Detailed analysis of the factors influencing the reporting of information in the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.7)*.

4. Access and benefit-sharing for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission recalled that its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) foresees a review of its work on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) for its Eighteenth Regular Session and requested its Secretary to prepare, for review by the Commission's Working Groups:

- (i) a review of the Commission's work on ABS for genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA);
- (ii) an overview of developments under other international agreements and instruments relevant to ABS for GRFA;
- (iii) an up-to-date survey of existing legislative, administrative and policy approaches, including best practices, for ABS for the different subsectors of GRFA and traditional knowledge associated with GRFA held by indigenous peoples and local communities, with the aim of identifying typical approaches and lessons learned from their implementation, as well as challenges and possible solutions; and
- (iv) a proposal for options for future work of the Commission on ABS for the different subsectors of GRFA.¹⁰

The document *Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture: Review and outlook (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/6)* responds to the above requests. Inputs by Members on the above deliverables are contained in the document *Inputs by Members on access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.8)*. The *Draft survey of access and benefit-sharing country measures accommodating the distinctive features of genetic resources for food and agriculture and associated traditional knowledge* is made available as document **CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.9**.

⁷ CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraphs 88-92.

⁸ CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 89.

⁹ CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 90.

¹⁰ CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 19.

5. “Digital sequence information” on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission agreed that there is a need for further review of “Digital sequence information” (“DSI”) on GRFA. It agreed to address, at its next session, the innovation opportunities “DSI” on GRFA offers, the challenges of capacity to access and make use of it and its implications for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA and the sharing of benefits derived from GRFA. It requested its Working Groups to consider these matters with regard to existing subsector-specific examples related to conservation, sustainable use and development of genetic resources, food security and nutrition, food safety, and efforts to combat crop and animal pests and diseases.¹¹

In response to the Commission’s request, document “*Digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture: Innovation opportunities, challenges and implications* (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/7), reviews the innovation opportunities “DSI” on GRFA offers and identifies challenges associated with the capacity to access and make use of it and its implications for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA and the sharing of benefits derived from GRFA. The Working Group is invited to provide guidance with regard to future work on “DSI”.

6. The role of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change

The Commission requested FAO to prepare a scoping study on the role of GRFA in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, including knowledge gaps, taking into account the special reports on terrestrial and marine systems by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other available relevant sources, including examples from different regions and subsectors. The Commission requested its Working Groups to review the study and, if a global assessment of the role of GRFA is considered pertinent, to provide guidance to the Commission on its preparation.¹²

In response to the Commission’s request, the Secretariat updated, in collaboration with relevant units of FAO and partners, the study *Coping with climate change – The roles of genetic resources for food and agriculture*,¹³ prepared in 2015 on the basis of thematic studies commissioned by the Secretariat in preparation of the Commission’s Thirteenth Regular Session in 2013.¹⁴ The updated study *The role of genetic resources for food and agriculture in climate change adaptation and mitigation* (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.11) has been prepared for review by the Working Groups.

In addition, the Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft work plan, including for the preparation of a global country-driven assessment, for review by its Working Groups at their next sessions.¹⁵ The draft work plan can be found in the document *Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture* (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/8). The document *FAO activities on climate change* (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.10) gives an overview of FAO activities on climate change, in the context of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change¹⁶.

7. Review of the work on biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission’s MYPOW foresees for its next session a review of the work on biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA.¹⁷

In response to the Commission’s request, the Secretariat updated the document *Application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food*

¹¹ CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 23.

¹² CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 29.

¹³ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3866e.pdf>

¹⁴ See Background Study Papers Nos. 53–57.

¹⁵ CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 30.

¹⁶ <http://www.fao.org/3/i7175en/I7175EN.pdf>

¹⁷ CGRFA-17/19/Report, Appendix F, Annex 1.

and agriculture,¹⁸ which was provided to the Commission's Fifteenth Regular Session. The document *Review of the work on biotechnologies for the sustainable use and conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/9)* summarizes FAO's technical activities specifically related to biotechnology and reviews relevant work of FAO and the Commission's Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of GRFA, for review by the Working Groups. The reporting period spans from July 2014 to October 2020 and thus comprises the period of the last six years that was not covered by the previous report.

Technical developments are reported in the document *Recent developments in biotechnologies relevant to the characterization, sustainable use and conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.12)*.

8. Future organization of intersessional work

The Commission requested its Secretary to prepare an options paper setting out different options (and their financial implications) for the future organization of the Commission's intersessional work, for consideration by the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions,¹⁹to:

- (i) address in a coherent, integrated and consistent way, biodiversity for food and agriculture, including micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources; and
- (ii) consider how to enhance coordination and communication among the Commission's Working Groups, to raise awareness on subsectoral issues and strengthen coherence on cross-sectoral matters to effectively address the Commission's mission and goals.²⁰

The document *Possible re-organization of the Commission's future intersessional work (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/10)* presents an overview of options for consideration by the Working Group.

9. Any other business

10. Adoption of the Report

¹⁸ CGRFA-15/15/7.

¹⁹ CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 97.

²⁰ <http://www.fao.org/cgrfa/overview/vision-mission/en/>

Annex 1. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE.

Date and time	Agenda item	Title	Working document
Wednesday, 19 May 2021			
Morning			
10.00– 13.00	1	Election of Chair, Vice-Chair(s) and <i>Rapporteur</i>	
	2	Adoption of the agenda and timetable	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/1 CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/1 Add.1
	3	Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources	
	3.1	Review of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/2
Wednesday, 19 May 2021			
afternoon			
14:30– 17:30	3.2	Draft technical guidelines for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/3 CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/4
	3.3	Status of the development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/5
Thursday, 20 May 2021			
morning			
10.00– 13.00	4	Access and benefit-sharing for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/6
	5	“Digital sequence information” on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/7
	6	The role of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/8
Thursday, 20 May 2021			
Afternoon			
14:30– 17:30	7	Review of the work on biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/9
	8	Options for the organization of the Commission’s future intersessional work	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/10
	9	Any other business	
Friday, 21 May 2021			
Afternoon			
14:30– 17:30	10	Adoption of the Report	

Annex 2. SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR A VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE EXCEPTIONAL TO ITS ELEVENTH SESSION.

1. The procedures outlined in this document apply on an exceptional basis to the Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) in light of the measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting virtual modality of this Session. The adoption of such procedures shall not create a precedent for the working methods of the Working Group or any other subsidiary body of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) for their future meetings.

FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

2. The Working Group, as laid down in its Statutes, shall:
 - review the situation and issues related to agrobiodiversity in the area of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture and advise and make recommendations to the Commission on these matters;
 - consider the progress made in implementing the Commission's programme of work on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as any other matters referred to the Working Group by the Commission; and
 - report to the Commission on its activities.
3. In order for the Working Group to carry out this mandate, the Commission assigns specific tasks to the Working Group.
4. The virtual modality of the Eleventh Session of the Working Group does not alter any of the functions of the Working Group outlined above.

CONDUCT OF SESSIONS

5. All plenary meetings of the Eleventh Session of the Working Group will be conducted through the **Zoom platform**. Members and Observers of the Working Group will be granted equal accessibility and capability inside the Zoom platform, ensuring their ability to be seen, and to view who is in attendance in the virtual meeting, and to address the Working Group.
6. Participants may **request the floor** by using the 'raise hand' function in the Zoom platform. This will draw up a list of speakers that the Chairperson will use to call participants to take the floor.
7. The **Members of the Working Group** are listed in the document **CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Inf.1**.
8. **Simultaneous interpretation** in all six languages of the Organization will be provided during the Eleventh Session of the Working Group, in accordance with confirmation of participation by Members of the Working Group.
9. Given the virtual modality of the Eleventh Session of the Working Group and the need to streamline the proceedings to ensure sufficient time during the session to complete all agenda items, participants are encouraged to **limit interventions** to three minutes, and regional interventions to five minutes. Regional statements are particularly encouraged to maximize the efficiency of the proceedings.
10. To facilitate interpretation and reporting, all participants are requested to provide written copies of their statements to the secretariat of the Working Group prior to the Eleventh Session or as early as possible thereafter. Statements should be sent to: ITWG-AnGR@fao.org.

11. Participants may use the **chat function of the Zoom platform** for exchanging information. However, views that should be taken into account in the preparation of the meeting report need to be orally expressed during the session.

AGENDA, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

12. All the **documents** for the session are prepared and made available as per established practice on the website of the Working Group.²¹

13. The **time zone applicable** to the Eleventh Session of the Working Group will be Central European Summer Time (UTC +2). This is the time zone of the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the location of the Session as if it were held as a physical meeting.

14. The **meeting** of the Eleventh Session of the Working Group will be scheduled from 10:00 to 13:00 hours and from 14:30 to 17:30 hours on Days 1 and 2 of the session. On Day 3, the afternoon session will run from 14:30 to 17:30 hours, unless it is decided otherwise.

15. The Chairperson of the Working Group may call for a **short break** of up to ten minutes at any time during the session.

16. All other **working methods** of the Working Group outlined in this Note, in relation to the agenda, timetable and documentation, will be applied to the Eleventh Session of the Working Group in accordance with established practice.

REPORTS AND RECORDS

17. The draft meeting report will be prepared by the *Rapporteur* of the Working Group, circulated by email to all participants and made available on the webpage of the Working Group on Day 3 at 13:30 hours. The Report will record the Working Group's consensus on the amended modalities for the session outlined in this Note.

18. All other working methods of the Working Group outlined in this Note, in relation to Reports and records of the session, will be applied to the Eleventh Session of the Working Group in line with established practice.

²¹ <http://www.fao.org/animal-genetics/events/events-detail/en/c/1369166/>