



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS

ORGANISATION  
DES NATIONS  
UNIES POUR  
L'ALIMENTATION  
ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION  
DE LAS NACIONES  
UNIDAS PARA  
LA AGRICULTURA  
Y LA ALIMENTACION

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Invitation to the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group  
on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, Italy, 26-28 October 2005

Reply requested by 26 September 2005

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to announce that the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 26 to 28 October 2005. The opening meeting will begin at 10.00 hours on Wednesday, 26 October 2005.

The Session is being convened under the Regular Programme of the Organization. It will be conducted in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

The Tenth Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture agreed that the Working Group should meet to identify and advise on activities undertaken by FAO, including through its Commission, to support the work of the Governing Body of the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, in relation to the Supporting Components of the *Treaty*; review and provide guidance on monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, and provide guidance concerning the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*; review and provide guidance on the Organization's initiatives for capacity-building to support the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, through seed systems and plant breeding and genetic enhancement; be informed of the proposal to establish a long-term germplasm facility in Svalbard, Norway; consider the development of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and its relationship at the technical level with FAO and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) in particular; consider the document prepared by IPGRI entitled *Draft Guiding Principles for the Future Harvest Centres to Address the Possibility of Unintended Presence of Transgenes in Ex Situ Collections*; provide guidance to FAO on how it could best support countries, on request, to generate, compile and disseminate cultivar-specific nutrient composition data; and provide input on the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work.

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The members of the Working Group, elected at the Tenth Session of the Commission, to represent the regions are as follows: Algeria, Cameroon, Guinea, Uganda and Zimbabwe; India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea and Malaysia; Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Spain; Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela; Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Jordan; Canada and the United States of America; and New Zealand and Samoa. In composing their delegations, Members of the Working Group are invited to consider the breadth and diversity of the agenda as concerns conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Members of the Commission that are not members of the Working Group may participate in the work of the Working Group in an observer capacity, upon request to the Commission Secretariat. Experts, as well as representatives of specialized international organizations, may also be invited by the Working Group, or the bureau on behalf of the Working Group, to attend its meetings as observers.

... The Provisional Agenda is enclosed. Further documents will be despatched as soon as they are available.

The Director-General would appreciate receiving by 26 September 2005 the names, official titles and addresses of the representatives or observers designated to attend.

Attention is drawn to the strict provisions in force regarding entry into Italy, including the refusal of entry to persons not having the required visas. Participants requiring entry visas must obtain these from the Italian Consulate or Diplomatic Mission in their country before leaving for Rome. It should be noted that, since Italy's adherence to the Schengen Agreement, the issuance of an Italian entry visa may require up to three weeks. Those participants travelling from a country where there is no Italian Consulate or Diplomatic Mission may obtain a visa on arrival in Rome provided that they advise the FAO Protocol Branch, Rome, by fax of their arrival. Participants must provide their full name, date and place of birth, nationality, passport number, flight number, date of arrival and their travel itinerary. This information must reach FAO at least three weeks before the arrival of participants to permit the Protocol Branch to request the issue of an entry visa at Rome airport or other point of entry into Italy. Participants failing to comply with the above will not be allowed by the Italian authorities to enter Italy.

FAO is a smoke-free area. Smoking is not permitted inside any of the FAO buildings.