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Commission on  
Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture

Rome, Italy  
26-28 October 2005

**Intergovernmental  
Technical  
Working Group  
on Plant Genetic  
Resources  
for Food and  
Agriculture**

Third Session



*Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*



**CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/REPORT**

**COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION**

**OF THE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL**

**WORKING GROUP ON**

**PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**Rome, Italy, 26-28 October 2005**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**Rome, 2005**

The documents prepared for the Third Session of the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are available on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/FAOINFO/AGRICULT/AGP/AGPS/PGR/ITWG3RD/docsp1.htm>

They may also be obtained from:

Mr Arturo Martínez  
Chief  
Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service (AGPS), Agriculture Department  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
00100 Rome, Italy

E-mail: [arturo.martinez@fao.org](mailto:arturo.martinez@fao.org)

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## COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Rome, Italy 26-28 October 2005

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Third Session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) met at FAO headquarters in Rome. The list of delegates and observers is attached as *Appendix E*.

#### II. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIRS

2. The Vice-Chair (Ms Grethe-Helene Evjen, Norway) opened the Session and introduced the agenda for the meeting and the duties of the Working Group.

3. On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, Mr Mahmoud Solh, Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, welcomed delegates and observers to the session. He highlighted the importance of the session in helping to develop a smooth and effective relationship between the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the International Treaty), especially concerning technical cooperation. Mr Solh noted the importance of the *Global Plan of Action* and the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* in considering capacity development for sustainable management and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. He outlined several emerging issues that will be discussed and acknowledged the work of all the partners in preparing for this meeting.

4. The Working Group elected Ms Zofia Bulinska-Radomska (Poland) as Chair, and Mr Kazutoshi Okuno (Japan) and Mr Cesar Tapia (Ecuador) as Vice-Chairs.

5. Mr Wee Beng Ee (Malaysia) was elected *Rapporteur*.

6. Mr Emile Frison, Director General of IPGRI,<sup>1</sup> representing the Future Harvest Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), explained the role of the Centres in working on many of the issues to be considered by the Working Group, including capacity-building, the setting of genebank standards and principles to address the possibility of unintended presence of transgenes in genebank collections. He noted the role of the Centres in the context of the Global Crop Diversity Trust. He also noted the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the link between genetic resources and nutrition, in which IPGRI and FAO were leading.

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<sup>1</sup> International Plant Genetic Resources Institute.

7. Mr Martin Smith, on behalf of the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including in its role as Interim Secretariat of the International Treaty, noted that the Working Group was meeting against a background of two important developments: the preparation by FAO of a draft Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Commission and the first session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, which would take place in Madrid, Spain on 12 to 16 June 2006, preceded by two days of regional consultations.

8. The Working Group adopted its Agenda, as given in *Appendix A*.

### **III. 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**

9. The supporting components of the International Treaty are: the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*; *ex situ* collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture held by the centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other international institutions; international plant genetic resources networks; and the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including the *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. The Working Group considered the document, *FAO activities in relation to the supporting components of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and preliminary analysis on how technical cooperation between the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture may be advanced*<sup>2</sup>, a review of FAO's relevant activities undertaken under each of the supporting components of the International Treaty between 2002 and 2005, which also detailed the responsibilities of the Commission in relation to the components, and options on how technical cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body could be developed within a wider cooperation framework between the two.

10. The Working Group considered that cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body is essential to ensure full synergy in developing the supporting components of the International Treaty. This relationship should avoid overlap or duplication. Arrangements should be flexible and cooperation should be encouraged, recognising that such cooperation will depend on decisions taken by both the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

#### ***The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture***

11. The Working Group noted that, in accordance with Article 14 of the International Treaty, its Contracting Parties should promote the effective implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, including through international cooperation. The Working Group suggested that the Commission should encourage countries to establish or strengthen national committees to support such implementation. Cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty in facilitating the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* is also required. Adoption of the International Treaty's Funding Strategy is important to this process.

12. The Working Group noted that the success of the Facilitating Mechanism for implementing the *Global Plan of Action* will depend on its capacity to carry out its activities in a way that complements and does not overlap with implementation of the International Treaty, in the context

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<sup>2</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/2 Rev.1.



of the relationship between the Commission and the International Treaty. The Working Group recommended to the Commission that:

- a) The Facilitating Mechanism should report periodically on its activities to the Commission and its Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources. The reports should include information about priorities for action that have been identified by stakeholders, and project proposals developed with the assistance and coordination of the Facilitating Mechanism upon request from stakeholders;
- b) On this basis, the Commission could propose priorities to the Governing Body of the International Treaty for consideration as appropriate under the Treaty's Funding Strategy; and
- c) The Facilitating Mechanism should take into account priorities established and activities carried out by the Governing Body under the Funding Strategy.

13. The Working Group noted that national governments are responsible for monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* through the Commission, which could report progress in implementing the *Global Plan of Action* to the Governing Body of the International Treaty. The Working Group recommended to the Commission that in monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, countries could provide information on their financial needs and expenditures, and that the Commission could make this information available to the Governing Body of the International Treaty, thereby helping it to define needs and priorities and to set a target for its Funding Strategy. Cooperation in updating the *Global Plan of Action* could be considered in the future.

#### ***Ex Situ* Collections of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Held by the Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and Other International Institutions**

14. The Working Group noted that international institutions which will sign agreements pursuant to Article 15 of the International Treaty will recognize the authority of its Governing Body to provide policy guidance relating to the *ex situ* collections they hold. It acknowledged that policy guidance outside the scope of the agreement may also be provided by other sources. The Working Group recommended that the Commission should continue to provide technical assistance, particularly in relation to monitoring and updating genebank standards to be used by such international centres.

#### **International Plant Genetic Resources Networks**

15. The Working Group recommended that the Commission continue to promote support for effective networks through surveys and case studies as needed, and other innovative approaches, and that the results be made available to the Governing Body of the International Treaty. It recommended that the Commission invite the Governing Body to provide information to the Commission on activities carried out by Contracting Parties to promote international networks, including encouraging the participation of relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions.

#### **Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

16. The Working Group recommended that the Commission invite the Governing Body of the International Treaty to develop the partnership required for the development of a Global Information System, through a series of consultations to address pertinent issues, in association

with the Commission, in order to benefit from synergy with FAO's World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS).

17. The Working Group recommended that the Commission invite the Governing Body to utilise the new approach for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, with its main outputs (the establishment of National Information Sharing Mechanisms and capacity-building, as well as the information provided) as an essential element contributing to the Global Information System.

18. The Working Group considered that some means of pooling or connecting existing information systems (e.g., through a distributed system such as used by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility) is essential to the development of the Global Information System and, in countries devoid of adequate information infrastructure, programmes for strengthening institutions, training staff and establishing partnerships for information flow and exchange at national and sub-regional levels are vital. Pooling existing information systems would be greatly facilitated by the adoption of common basic standards and carefully formulated flexible guidelines to encourage sharing and exchange of information by providers and users.

#### **Issues Common to all Four Supporting Components**

19. Recognising the importance of the supporting components of the International Treaty, the Working Group recommended that the Commission inform FAO governing bodies that these should be considered as a priority for future FAO activities, with additional support from its Regular Programme Budget, and also recommended that the Commission appeal for extra-budgetary resources. The Working Group recognised that in-kind assistance among countries may reduce the amount of additional financial resources needed.

20. The Working Group recommended that the Secretariat take the above recommendations into account as inputs in the preparation of a paper on actions taken by the Commission, and on its future work in relation to the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

#### **IV. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION, AND PREPARING THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

21. The Working Group considered the document *Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and preparing the second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>3</sup> It expressed appreciation for the progress made in applying the new monitoring approach, which is a participatory, country-driven and capacity-building process, based on commonly agreed indicators. The Working Group reiterated the importance of this process, in terms of planning, setting priorities and strengthening collaboration and commitment among stakeholders at national, regional and global levels, including those in the private sector. It recommended that the Commission invite FAO and IPGRI to continue providing technical support for the world-wide application of the new monitoring approach and promoting use of nationally developed expertise to assist other countries in its implementation.

22. The Working Group welcomed the completion of the Guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports on the state of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture<sup>4</sup> and the initiation of two thematic background studies,<sup>5</sup> which will contribute both to the preparation of the second

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<sup>3</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/3.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.5.

<sup>5</sup> On "Plant genetic resources of forage crops, pasture and rangelands", and on "Interactions between plant and animal genetic resources and opportunities for synergy in their management".

*Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and interaction with the management of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

23. In considering the application of the new monitoring approach and the preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* a high priority, the Working Group recommended that the Commission invite FAO to make all efforts in order to streamline these processes, in particular by writing to countries to encourage them to undertake these processes and to name or confirm National Focal Points. Relevant information, including the report of the workshop on these two subjects held at FAO Headquarters on October 25, 2005 (see *Appendix D*), should also be made available to countries.

24. The Working Group recommended that the Commission appeal to donor countries as well as international bodies, such as other UN agencies, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility, to assist by providing financial support for the world-wide application of the new monitoring approach and to enable the full participation of all countries in the preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. If the required financial resources are not all forthcoming, the Commission may need to consider extending deadlines or reducing activities.

25. Acknowledging the efforts made by three Future Harvest Centres<sup>6</sup> in monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, the Working Group encouraged all Centres, as well as other relevant international organisations involved in conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, to provide pertinent information using the new monitoring approach.

#### **V. FAO'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**

26. The Working Group considered the document *FAO'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*.<sup>7</sup> The Working Group confirmed the importance of strengthening capacity building in plant breeding, particularly participatory plant breeding, and including through seed systems, as a means of contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and ensuring food security. It expressed concern about the decreasing trends of plant breeding activities shown by the surveys carried out by FAO, and stated that new opportunities for effective partnerships could be identified between the public and the private sector and with the involvement of the Future Harvest Centres. The Working Group stressed the importance of FAO's efforts in order to increase the market share of farmers and seed producers in developing countries, particularly in fragile agro-ecosystems, and encouraged the development, as appropriate, of mechanisms and legislation towards this end. The Working Group recognized the need for a balanced approach between the use of traditional and modern technologies, including biotechnology in plant breeding. The Working Group recommended that the Commission request FAO to prepare an options paper, taking into account the views expressed above and aimed at strengthening plant breeding, including, *inter alia*, all issues related to capacity-building, and recommended that further activities on plant breeding be included in the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Commission.

27. The Working Group recalled the need for a gap analysis in the seed sector, and recommended that the Commission request FAO to develop a draft plan to formulate appropriate seed policy

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<sup>6</sup> International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

<sup>7</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/4.

and regulatory regimes. The Working Group further recommended that the Commission prepare guidelines, taking into account lessons learned and best practices on seed relief and rehabilitation during and after disaster situations.

## **VI. SUPPORT FOR COUNTRIES TO GENERATE, COMPILE AND DISSEMINATE NUTRIENT COMPOSITION DATA OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

28. The Working Group considered the document *Support for countries to generate, compile and disseminate cultivar-specific nutrient composition data, and the relative priority of obtaining cultivar-specific dietary consumption data*,<sup>8</sup> and the associated information document, *FAO activities in nutrition and biodiversity*.<sup>9</sup> The Working Group noted FAO's long-standing activities in food composition and consumption in relation to agriculture, health, environment and trade.

29. The Working Group recommended that the Commission request FAO to prepare a draft action plan to better support countries to generate, compile and disseminate cultivar-specific nutrient composition and consumption data. The draft action plan should focus upon:

- a) Generating baseline nutritional data for local, regional and/or specialty foods, from under-utilised crops, species utilised by local and indigenous communities, and wild food plants, taking into account local customs on food preparation. This work should be carried out consistent with national law. The species and target nutrients should be carefully chosen and sampling plans carefully formulated;
- b) Cataloguing and compiling existing cultivar-specific nutrient data into more readily accessible databases or publications;
- c) Identifying germplasm and generating experimental crop populations with very high and very low levels of "bioactive compounds" that may be useful for testing hypotheses about whether such compounds are nutrients, and whether they are "bioavailable" when consumed;
- d) Assisting countries, in particular developing countries, to build capacity to enhance the use of nutritional genetic diversity in breeding new cultivars of major crops;
- e) Assessing genetic resources in relation to nutrient uptake and bioavailability of nutrients, with a view to improved sustainable agriculture;
- f) Assisting INFOODS Regional Data Centres in their efforts to increase the quality and quantity of food composition data on individual cultivars and under-utilized species, and to compile and disseminate those data in national and regional food composition tables and databases;
- g) Enabling the *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis* to provide an international, peer-reviewed forum for publishing high quality scientific papers on nutrition and biodiversity, with particular attention to papers from developing countries; and
- h) Developing communications plans for information on nutritional values of different cultivars at the national, regional and international levels.

30. The draft action plan could also include the following, lower priority, activities:

- a) Developing a biodiversity training module on nutrient composition, focusing largely on developing sampling plans in order to generate cultivar-specific data, which should be complementary to existing training courses;

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<sup>8</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/5.

<sup>9</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.9.

- b) Providing support to, and building capacity of, existing food control chemical laboratory facilities, to enable them to more economically and efficiently generate cultivar-specific nutrient data;
- c) Increasing the coverage of FAO's Technical Cooperation Projects to strengthening laboratory capacity for nutrient analyses, in order to generate, compile and disseminate cultivar-specific nutrient data for national food composition databases and published food tables, in particular for under-utilised crops and cultivars developed by local and indigenous communities;
- d) Organizing national level sensitization, advocacy, and policy workshops, thereby supporting countries in their proposals for projects in the area of food composition and consumption, in the context of agricultural biodiversity, and publishing country-specific communication materials;
- e) Conducting an expert consultation or technical workshop on addressing biodiversity in consumption survey methodologies, including an ecosystem approach to population sample stratification; and
- f) Mainstreaming food composition biodiversity data into nutrition education, food security, emergency preparedness, community nutrition, activities related to indigenous knowledge, and other applied nutrition projects and programmes, consistent with national law.

31. The Working Group considered that conducting broad-scale studies of cultivar-specific differences in nutrient content should have low priority, because of high costs, difficulties with logistics and feasibility, and in some cases, potentially limited scientific utility resulting from significant variation caused by environmental differences (during cultivation, storage, post-harvest processing) and by interactions between genotypes and environments.

32. The Working Group proposed that the Commission should be kept aware of the development of the *Cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition* that would be carried out within the existing programme of work on agricultural biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in particular of the activities of FAO and the CGIAR that could be important in this regard (such as the Bio-fortification Challenge Programme).

## **VII. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE FUTURE HARVEST CENTRES TO ADDRESS THE POSSIBILITY OF UNINTENDED PRESENCE OF TRANSGENES IN *EX SITU* COLLECTIONS**

33. The Working Group considered the document *Consideration of draft Guiding Principles for the Future Harvest Centres to address the possibility of unintended presence of transgenes in ex situ collections*,<sup>10</sup> which was prepared with the assistance of IPGRI.

34. The Working Group recognised the importance of the Guiding Principles presented in the Annex of the document, to avoid the unintentional presence of transgenes in genebank accessions and the introgression of those transgenes into other accessions. The Guiding Principles would help maintain the integrity of the genetic resources, in particular in centres of origin, and in the collections of the Future Harvest Centres.

35. The Working Group stressed that the integrity of accessions is not only threatened by transgenes but also by unsuitable genebank management practices and genetic erosion. It reaffirmed that the integrity of genetic resources is important and noted the proactive approach taken by some of the Future Harvest Centres to address the risks associated with transgenes. It noted that the Guiding Principles arose from extensive expert consultation and guidance and that this approach should be continued.

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<sup>10</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/6.

36. The Working Group agreed on the relevance of the Guiding Principles as a good basis for crop-specific guidelines. It acknowledged the need to take existing national law and regulations, as well as international agreements, in particular the Biosafety Protocol, into account in developing guiding principles or guidelines. It noted that each country is responsible for managing its *ex situ* collections.

37. The Working Group recommended that the Commission consider these Guiding Principles and the development of crop-specific guidelines to address the integrity of genetic resources in *ex situ* collections.

38. The Working Group further recommended that, in order to ensure synergy and complementarity, relevant sections of these Guiding Principles be considered in due time in the development of the draft *Code of Conduct on Biotechnology* and the *Code of Conduct on Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer* if and when it is updated.

39. At the suggestion of IPGRI, the Working Group recommended that the Commission consider whether the database on the global status of research and development in genetic modification, described in paragraph 12 of the Guiding Principles, should be placed under international auspices, so that it will be publicly accessible internationally.

#### **VIII. DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST, ITS RELATIONSHIP AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL WITH FAO AND IPGRI, AND ITS INTER-RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER ON-GOING INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES**

40. The Working Group considered the document *Development of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, its relationship at the technical level with FAO and IPGRI, and its inter-relationship with other on-going international processes*.<sup>11</sup> The Working Group stressed the important role of the Trust in supporting the long-term conservation of the world's most strategic germplasm collections, and gave its full support to the development of crop and regional conservation strategies by the Trust. It acknowledged the contribution of plant genetic resources networks in the development of crop and regional conservation strategies. The Working Group fully supported and welcomed the technical cooperation among the Trust, FAO and IPGRI, and recommended it be continued and broadened as appropriate. The Working Group thanked these two organizations for their support to the Trust. It recommended that the Commission continue monitoring the progress of the Trust.

#### **IX. INPUT OF THE WORKING GROUP TO THE COMMISSION'S MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK**

41. The Working Group considered the document, *Input of the Working Group to the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work*.<sup>12</sup> The Tenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture had requested the FAO to submit a draft Multi-Year Programme of Work to its Eleventh Session, for consideration. In preparing the draft Multi-Year Programme of Work, the Secretariat was asked to take into account inputs from, *inter alia*, the Working Group, in the field of its expertise.

42. The Working Group noted the importance of a Multi-Year Programme of Work in order to focus the work of the Commission, to increase efficiency and effectiveness, and to improve interaction and coordination with other international forums. It also noted the difficulty in establishing priorities for the future work of the Commission at a time when there was considerable on-going work, the outcomes of which were still unclear, and many emerging issues, including

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<sup>11</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/7.

<sup>12</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/8.

developments on related issues in other international forums. However, in considering this agenda item, the Working Group:

- a) Placed emphasis on the agro-ecosystem approach to biodiversity for food and agriculture, including the integrated management of genetic resources, while noting the need to maintain a sectoral focus and a value-chain approach, and to address the Millennium Development Goals;
- b) Noted the importance of many on-going issues relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including:
  - The relationship between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty;
  - The Global Crop Diversity Trust;
  - Monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*;
  - The preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*;
  - The evaluation of the Programme of Work on Agricultural Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
  - *In situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
  - Farmers' Rights, as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in the International Treaty; and
  - Sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through breeding and seed systems.
- c) Identified important emerging issues, including:
  - The unintended presence of transgenes in *ex situ* collections;
  - Nutrition and biodiversity; and
  - The biological impact of micro-organisms of agricultural importance on sustainable agriculture and quality food production.

43. In the light of the need to take into account developments as and when they occur, the Working Group also noted the need for flexibility in the Multi-Year Programme of Work and for its periodic review.

## X. OTHER BUSINESS

### **Information on a Proposal to Establish a Long -Term Germplasm Conservation Facility in Svalbard, Norway**

44. The document *Information on a proposal to establish a long-term germplasm conservation facility in Svalbard, Norway*<sup>13</sup> was presented by the delegation of Norway. The Working Group strongly welcomed the planned establishment of the facility at Svalbard. It commended the Government of Norway for its intention to consider the establishment of an international advisory committee for the facility.

## XI. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

45. The Working Group adopted its report on 28 October. It expressed its appreciation for the work of the Secretariat and its collaborators in the preparation of its working and information documents, and in the organisation of the session. The Chair closed the session at 18:30.

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<sup>13</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.11.





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**APPENDIX A**

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON  
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE****Third Session**

Rome, Italy, 26-28 October 2005

**AGENDA**

1. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair(s)
2. Election of the *Rapporteur*
3. Adoption of the agenda and timetable
4. 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*
5. Monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, and preparing the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*
6. FAO'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
7. Support for countries to generate, compile and disseminate cultivar-specific nutrient composition data, and the relative priority of obtaining cultivar-specific dietary consumption data
8. Guiding principles to address the possibility of unintended presence of transgenes in *ex situ* collections
9. Development of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, its relationship at the technical level with FAO and IPGRI, and its inter-relationship with other on-going international processes.
10. Input of the Working Group to the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work
11. Other Business:  
Information on a proposal to establish a long-term germplasm facility in Svalbard, Norway
12. Adoption of the Report of the Working Group



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**APPENDIX B**

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**LIST OF DOCUMENTS****WORKING DOCUMENTS**

CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/1	Draft Provisional Agenda
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/1Add.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/2	FAO activities in relation to the supporting components of the <i>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> and preliminary analysis on how technical cooperation between the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Governing Body of the <i>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> may be advanced
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/3	Monitoring the implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i> and preparation of the second <i>Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/4	FAO'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
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/5	Support for countries to generate, compile and disseminate cultivar-specific nutrient composition data, and the relative priority of obtaining cultivar-specific dietary consumption data
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/6	Consideration of draft Guiding Principles for the Future Harvest Centres to address the possibility of unintended presence of transgenes in <i>ex situ</i> collections
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/7	Development of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, its relationship at the technical level with FAO and IPGRI, and its inter-relationship with other on-going international processes
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/8	Input of the Working Group to the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work

**INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.1	Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and Members elected by the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.2	Monitoring the implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i> and preparation of the second <i>Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Relevant activities and processes in other forums including linkages to work in FAO</i>
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.3 (English only)	The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.4 (English only)	The <i>Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> and the Ecosystem Approach
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.5	Preparation of the Second <i>Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Guidelines for Country Reports</i>
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.6 (English only)	Summary report of a workshop for countries of West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula: Technical support to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Creating an “intersectorial” dialogue on plant genetic resources conservation, breeding and seeds
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.7 (English only)	Summary report of a workshop for countries of North Africa and the Nile Valley: Technical support to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Creating an “intersectorial” dialogue on plant genetic resources conservation, breeding and seeds
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.8 (English only)	Reports from organisations – capacity-building activities that support the utilisation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.9 (English only)	FAO's activities in nutrition and biodiversity
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.10 (English only)	Development of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, its relationship at the technical level with FAO and IPGRI, and its inter-relationship with other on-going international processes
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.11 (English only)	Information on a proposal to establish a long-term germplasm conservation facility in Svalbard, Norway
CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.12	List of documents

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**APPENDIX C**

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**MEMBERS OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING  
GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ELECTED AT THE TENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Rome, Italy, 8-12 November 2004

<i>Composition (no. of countries per region)</i>	<i>Country</i>
<b>Africa</b> <b>(5)</b>	Algeria Cameroon Guinea Uganda Zimbabwe
<b>Asia</b> <b>(5)</b>	India Indonesia Japan Korea, Republic of Malaysia
<b>Europe</b> <b>(5)</b>	Italy The Netherlands Norway Poland Spain
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b> <b>(5)</b>	Brazil Ecuador Mexico Peru Venezuela
<b>Near East</b> <b>(3)</b>	Egypt Iran, Islamic Republic of Jordan
<b>North America</b> <b>(2)</b>	Canada United States of America
<b>Southwest Pacific</b> <b>(2)</b>	New Zealand Samoa

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**APPENDIX D**

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**TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE *GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION* AND PREPARATION OF THE COUNTRY  
REPORTS FOR THE SECOND *REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S  
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE***

FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, 25 October 2005

Chair Arturo Martinez  
Secretary Brad Fraleigh  
FAO, Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Service

**Objectives and agenda of the workshop and introduction of the participants**

1. The delegates were welcomed. This workshop represented a warm-up for discussing these issues at the meeting of the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources, with the hope it would facilitate identification of priorities and linkages in conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The activities discussed may assist countries to formulate policies to implement the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
2. The approximately thirty participants, from all regions of the world, introduced themselves.

**General context**

3. FAO presented a synopsis of the first *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (the first *Report*) and events over the past ten years leading to the development of the second *Report* (see Figure 1 below). The workshop agenda was outlined and the expected results indicated.
4. FAO presented the new approach to monitor implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. It is country-driven, participatory, transparent, and supports capacity-building. FAO detailed the indicators and reporting format, the computer application and the process for applying the new approach. A pilot phase had allowed these tools to be refined.
5. The *Global Plan of Action* and the *Report* are supporting components of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. FAO discussed the outline of the second *Report*, thematic studies, and timing. Features of the Guidelines for preparing Country Reports were highlighted and how these are fully integrated with the *Global Plan of Action* monitoring process.
6. IPGRI described the contributions of the Future Harvest Centres. He voiced the support of the Future Harvest Centres for the *Global Plan of Action* monitoring. IPGRI, IIRRI and ICRISAT<sup>14</sup> are applying the information sharing mechanism.

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<sup>14</sup> International Rice Research Institute, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics

### **Sharing experiences in monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*: Establishment of a National Information Sharing Mechanism and Preparation of the Country Report**

7. A series of country presentations were given by participants from countries, outlining experiences in monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* in the Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt and Malaysia. FAO presented experiences in India and Tanzania.

8. Common experiences showed:

- improvement in the quality of information
- assistance in identifying information and programme gaps
- improvement in cooperation within and among countries
- increased stakeholder awareness and participation

### **Thematic Information-Sharing Experiences contributing to Monitoring the *Global Plan of Action* and to the Second Report**

*Assessment and strategies to strengthen national plant breeding and biotechnology capacity:*

9. FAO described the process comprising three components: assessment, strategy design and implementation. There are breeders in all countries surveyed, but the numbers differ considerably among them and are often decreasing. Agricultural research budgets have been falling, particularly allocations to plant breeding. More training is needed at doctoral level.

10. Awareness of the use and benefits of plant breeding must be increased. Orphan crops need more attention from plant breeders, and conventional and advanced breeding, particularly biotechnology, have to be integrated. Policy makers have to be made aware of the current situation and trends, and the need for long-term support for plant breeding.

*SADC experience on seed information exchange:*

11. FAO described the SADC<sup>15</sup> Seed Security Network. It addresses disaster preparedness requiring seed interventions and harmonization of seed regulations, and collects and disseminates seed-related information. A regional information system for seed data management and exchange is being set up. Much of the information can contribute to the *Global Plan of Action* monitoring and preparation of the second Report.

### **Means to facilitate application of the new monitoring approach and the preparation of Country Reports**

12. Four countries that provided financial resources briefly described their contributions.

13. Italy supports a project on “Strengthening plant genebanks of the national system” concerning native agrobiodiversity in Bolivia, providing technical support and capacity building to genebanks. The project helped monitor the *Global Plan of Action* and establish the National Information Sharing Mechanism. Italy is considering further support, including assistance in the preparation of the Country Report on the state of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

14. Japan: a project on “Implementing of the Global Plan of Action in Asia” has assisted seven Asian countries. The project will continue to May 2006.

15. The “FAO-Netherlands Partnership Programme on Agrobiodiversity” aims to establish effective partnerships and support the FAO reform process. The programme supported pilot

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<sup>15</sup> Southern Africa Development Community



testing for monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* in six countries and is continuing application of the monitoring approach in three other countries.

16. “Norway-FAO Programme Cooperation” provides assistance in line with FAO’s priorities to improve living conditions for the poorest countries and sectors. Norway supported two sub-regional meetings in the Near East region and an associate officer based in FAO’s Regional Office in Accra, Ghana to work with African countries.

17. In summary, relevant issues included appreciating the importance of National Focal Points and their capacity to manage new information technologies. Efforts have been made to increase transparency and ensure wide participation, but more work is required to include private sector stakeholders. There is a need to ensure that when developing countries have initiated a process of monitoring, they can sustain it, which will happen if the tools are useful on an ongoing basis. The monitoring and Country Reports help build dialogue among plant genetic resource, plant breeding and seed sectors, and have implications for environmental and trade issues. The work done so far is encouraging but there is a need for quicker results.

#### **Demonstration of the Information Sharing Mechanism on the *Global Plan of Action***

18. A brief overview of the Information Sharing Mechanism on the *Global Plan of Action* was presented by FAO, showing examples from the data entered to date.

#### **Closing remarks**

19. It was indicated that there remained much to do to involve more countries in monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* and the preparation of the Country Reports for the second *Report*. The Chair closed the meeting.

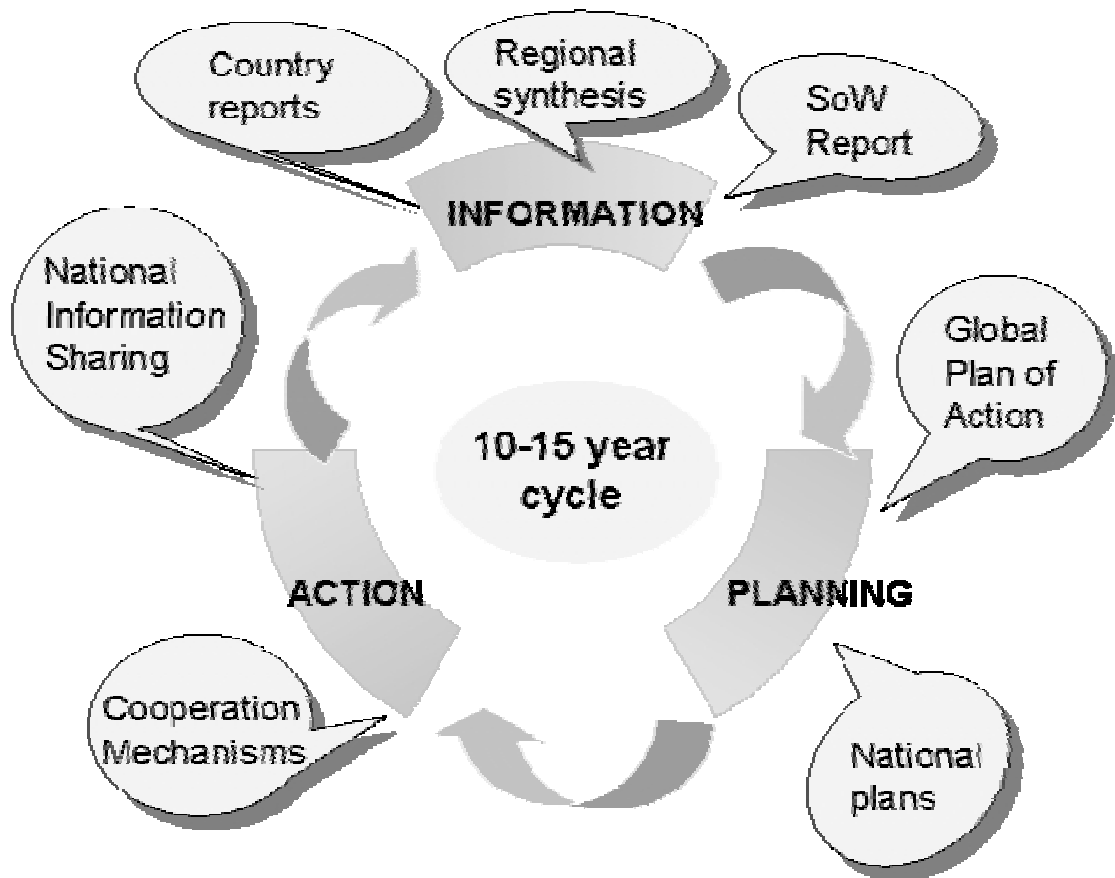


Figure 1:  
Ten-to-fifteen year cycle of activities in assessing the state of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, planning action for their conservation and sustainable use, and implementation.

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**المرفق حاء**

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  - ANNEXE E
  - APÉNDICE E
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**قائمة المندوبين والمراقبين****LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS  
LISTE DES DELEGUES ET OBSERVATEURS  
LISTA DE DELEGADOS Y OBSERVADORES**

سي ئللا	:	
Chair	:	Ms. Zofia BULINSKA-RADOMSKA
Président	:	(Poland – Pologne – Polonia)
Presidente	:	
نائب الرئيس	:	Cesar TAPIA
Vice-Chairs	:	(Ecuador – Équateur – Ecuador)
Vice-Présidents	:	Kazutoshi OKUNO
Vicepresidentes	:	(Japan – Japon – Japón)
المقرر	:	
Rapporteur	:	WEE Beng Ee
		(Malaysia – Malaisie – Malasia)

أعضاء جماعة العمل الفنية الحكومية الدولية المعنية بالموارد الوراثية النباتية للأغذية والزراعة  
**MEMBERS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON  
 PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
**MEMBRES DU GROUPE DE TRAVAIL TECHNIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTAL  
 SUR LES RESSOURCES PHYTOGENETIQUES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET  
 L'AGRICULTURE**  
**MIEMBROS DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO TECNICO INTERGUBERNAMENTAL  
 SOBRE RECURSOS FITOGENETICOS PARA LA ALIMENTACION Y LA  
 AGRICULTURA**

**ALGERIA – ALGÉRIE - ARGELIA -  
 الجزائر**

Salah CHOUAKI  
 Coordinateur des Ressources  
 Phytogénétiques  
 Chargé de recherche  
 Institut National de la  
 Recherche Agronomique d'Algérie  
 Cité 536 logements,  
 bâtiment 25 b n°8, Rouiba,  
 Alger  
 Algérie  
 Tel: +213 71 37 26 51  
 E-mail: [chouaki\\_salah@yahoo.fr](mailto:chouaki_salah@yahoo.fr)

Sra. Ana Carolina BELISÁRIO  
 Analista do Comércio Exterior  
 Esplanada dos Ministérios  
 Bloco D – Sala 348  
 Brasília  
 Brazil  
 E-mail:  
[carolinabelisario@agricultura.gov.br](mailto:carolinabelisario@agricultura.gov.br)

Roberto Lorena SANTOS  
 Fiscal Federal Agropecuário  
 Esplanada dos Ministérios – MAPA  
 Anexo A – Sala 247 CEP 70043-900  
 Brasília  
 Brazil  
 E-mail:  
[robertolorena@agricultura.gov.br](mailto:robertolorena@agricultura.gov.br)

**BRAZIL – BRÉSIL - BRASIL**

Roberto Fontes VIEIRA  
 EMBRAPA - Recursos Genéticos e  
 Biotecnologia  
 PqEB Final W5 Norte,  
 Caixa Postal 02372  
 Brasília, DF, 70770-990, Brazil  
 Tel.: +55-61-34484788  
 Fax: +55-61-33483624  
 Cell.: 61-99700389  
 E-mail: [rfvieira@cenargen.embrapa.br](mailto:rfvieira@cenargen.embrapa.br)

Saulo A. CEOLIN  
 Alternate Permanent Representative of  
 Brazil to FAO  
 Via di Santa Maria dell' Anima, 32  
 00186-Rome  
 Tel.: +39-06 68307576  
 E-mail: [rebrafao@brafao.it](mailto:rebrafao@brafao.it)

**CANADA - CANADÁ**

Campbell G. DAVIDSON  
 Director  
 Intergovernmental Relations  
 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
 930 Carling Ave., Room 755  
 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5  
 Canada  
 Tel.: +1 (613) 694-2521  
 Fax: +1 (613) 759-7771  
 Cell: +1 (613) 240-4945  
 E-mail: [cdavidson@agr.gc.ca](mailto:cdavidson@agr.gc.ca)

Ms Kathryn McKINLEY  
 Alternate Permanent Representative of  
 Canada to FAO  
 Via Zara, 30  
 00198 Rome  
 Tel.: +39 06445982552  
 Fax: +39 06445982930  
 E-mail:  
[kathryn.mckinley@international.gc.ca](mailto:kathryn.mckinley@international.gc.ca)

**ECUADOR – EQUATEUR**

Cesar TAPIA  
Instituto Nacional Autónomo de  
Investigaciones Agropecuarias  
(INIAP)  
Departamento Nacional de Recursos  
Fitogenéticos y Biotecnología  
(DENAREF)  
Panamericana sur km 1  
Quito  
Ecuador  
Tel.: +593 22693359  
E-mail: [denaref@ecnet.ec](mailto:denaref@ecnet.ec)

Sra. Patricia BORJA  
Representante Permanente Adjunto de  
Ecuador ante la FAO  
Via A. Bertoloni, 8  
00197 Roma  
Tel.: +39-06 45439007  
E-mail: [mecuroma@ecuador.it](mailto:mecuroma@ecuador.it)

**EGYPT – EGYPTE – EGIPTO - مصر**

Mohamed Abdel Hamid KHALIFA  
President, National Genebank of  
Egypt  
9 Gama'a Street  
Giza 12619  
Egypt  
E-mail: [info@ngb.gov.eg](mailto:info@ngb.gov.eg)

**INDIA – INDE - INDIA**

J. L. KARIHALOO  
Director  
National Bureau of Plant Genetic  
Resources  
New Delhi 10012  
India  
E-mail: [jlkarihaloo@rediffmail.com](mailto:jlkarihaloo@rediffmail.com) or  
[directornbpg@rediffmail.com](mailto:directornbpg@rediffmail.com) or  
[directornbpg@yahoo.co.in](mailto:directornbpg@yahoo.co.in)

**INDONESIA – INDONÉSIE -  
INDONESIA**

Ms. HINDARWATI.  
Director  
Centre for Plant Variety Protection  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Building E 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Jl. Harsono RM  
No. 3  
Ragunan  
Jakarta Selatan  
Indonesia  
Tel.: +62 217816386  
Cell.: 0811810058  
Email: [hindarwati@deptan.go.id](mailto:hindarwati@deptan.go.id)

**IRAN - IRÁN**

Javad MOZAFARI  
Head, National Gene Bank  
Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture  
Teheran  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
Tel.: +98-2122419707  
Cell.: +98-912-3018753  
E-mail: [jmozafar@yahoo.com](mailto:jmozafar@yahoo.com)

**ITALY – ITALIE - ITALIA**

Alessandro GASTON  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Piazzale della Farnesina, 1  
00194 Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 0636911  
E-mail: [cdr@esteri.it](mailto:cdr@esteri.it)

Mario MARINO  
Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Policies  
Via XX Settembre, 20  
00187 Rome  
Italy  
E-mail :  
[m.marino@politicheagricole.it](mailto:m.marino@politicheagricole.it)

Ms. Petra ENGEL  
 Officer  
 Istituto Sperimentale per la  
 Frutticoltura  
 Via Fioranello, 52  
 00134 Rome  
 Italy  
 E-mail : [petra.engel@libero.it](mailto:petra.engel@libero.it)

#### **JAPAN – JAPON - JAPÓN**

Takao NIINO  
 Research Leader of Gene Bank,  
 National Institute of Agrobiological  
 Sciences  
 Kannondai 2-1-2  
 Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8602  
 Japan  
 E-mail: [niinot@affrc.go.jp](mailto:niinot@affrc.go.jp)

Kazutoshi OKUNO  
 Director of Genebank  
 National Institute of Agrobiological  
 Sciences  
 Kannondai 2-1-2  
 Tsukuba, 305-8602  
 Japan  
 E-mail: [okusan@affrc.go.jp](mailto:okusan@affrc.go.jp)

#### **JORDAN – JORDANIE – JORDANIA ندرأا**

Mousa AL-FAYAD  
 Director of Biodiversity and Genetic  
 Resources Program  
 Baqá 19381  
 Amman  
 Jordan  
 Tel.: +962 64725071  
 Fax: +962 64726099  
 Cell: +962 777850914  
 E-mail: [musaf20022002@yahoo.com](mailto:musaf20022002@yahoo.com)

Hussein MIGDADI  
 Researcher  
 National Center for Agricultural  
 Research and Technology Transfer  
 (NCARTT)  
 Baqá 19381  
 Jordan  
 E-mail: [Hussmigd@yahoo.com](mailto:Hussmigd@yahoo.com)

#### **MALAYSIA – MALAISIE - MALASIA**

WEE Beng Ee  
 Deputy Undersecretary  
 Strategic Planning and International  
 Division  
 Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-  
 based Industry  
 Level 14, Wisma Tani, Lot 4G1  
 Precint 4  
 Federal Government Administrative  
 Centre  
 62624 Putrajaya  
 Malaysia  
 Tel: +603 8870 1204  
 Fax: +603 8870 1088  
 E-mail: [bewee@agri.moa.my](mailto:bewee@agri.moa.my)

Wan Darman WAN ABDULLAH  
 Assistant Director  
 Department of Agriculture  
 Wisma Tani, 4G2, Precint 4  
 Federal Government Administrative  
 Centre  
 62632 Putrajaya  
 Malaysia  
 Tel: +603 8870 3206  
 Fax: +603 8888 9295  
 E-mail: [darman@doa.gov.my](mailto:darman@doa.gov.my)

Mohd Shukor NORDIN  
 Deputy Director (Biological Resource  
 Program)  
 Strategic Resource Research Centre  
 Malaysian Agricultural Research and  
 Development Institute  
 Mardi Headquarters  
 General Post Office - P.O. Box 12301  
 50774 Kuala Lumpur  
 Malaysia  
 Tel : +603-89437391  
 Fax : +603-89487639  
 E-mail: [dino@mardi.my](mailto:dino@mardi.my)

Johari RAMLI  
 Agricultural Attaché  
 Embassy of Malaysia  
 Via Nomentana 297 - 00162 Rome  
 Tel: +39 06 8419296  
 Fax: +39 06 8555110  
 E-mail: [malagrirm@virgilio.it](mailto:malagrirm@virgilio.it)

**MEXICO – MÉXIQUE - MÉXICO**

Juan Celestino MOLINA MORENO  
Presidente  
Sociedad Mexicana de Fitogenética  
Chapingo  
Texcoco, Méx.  
México  
E-mail: [molmor@colpos.mx](mailto:molmor@colpos.mx)  
[presidente@somefi.org](mailto:presidente@somefi.org)

**NETHERLANDS – PAYS-BAS –  
PAÍSES BAJOS**

Dirk DE JONG  
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and  
Food Quality  
Department of International Affairs  
P.O. Box 20401  
2500 EK The Hague  
Netherlands  
Tel.: +31 70 3784310  
E-mail: [d.j.de.jong@minlnv.nl](mailto:d.j.de.jong@minlnv.nl)

**NORWAY – NORVÈGE –  
NORUEGA**

Ms Grethe Helene EVJEN  
Senior Adviser  
Royal Ministry of Agriculture and  
Food  
Akersgt. 59 - P.O. Box 8007  
Dep 0030  
Oslo  
Norway  
Tel. +47 22249311  
Fax: +47 22242753  
Email: [grethe-  
helene.evien@lmd.dep.no](mailto:grethe-helene.evien@lmd.dep.no)

Asmund ASDAL  
Research Officer  
Norwegian Crop Research Institute  
Division Landvik  
4886 Grimstad  
Norway  
Tel.: +47 37257700  
Fax: +47 37257710  
E-mail:  
[aasmund.asdal@planteforsk.no](mailto:aasmund.asdal@planteforsk.no)

**PERU – PÉROU - PERÚ**

Segundo Manuel SIGUEÑAS  
SAAVEDRA  
Funcionario, Instituto Nacional de  
Investigacion y Extensión Agraria  
(INIEA)  
Av. La Molina 1981  
La Molina  
Lima 12  
Peru  
Tel.: +51 1 349-5646 / 348-2703  
E-mail: [msiguenas@inia.gob.pe](mailto:msiguenas@inia.gob.pe)

**POLAND – POLOGNE - POLONIA**

Ms. Zofia BULINSKA-RADOMSKA  
National Coordinator for PGR  
Programme  
Plant Breeding and Acclimatization  
Institute  
05-87 Btonie  
Poland  
E-mail: [z.bulinska@ihar.edu.pl](mailto:z.bulinska@ihar.edu.pl)

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA –  
RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE –  
REPÚBLICA DE COREA**

Hae-Sung HWANG  
Senior Research Scientist  
Genetic Resources Division  
National Institute of Agricultural  
Biotechnology  
Rural Development Administration  
250 Seodun-dong, Gwonseon-Gu  
Suwon 441-707  
Korea  
Tel.: +82-31-299-1820  
Cell : 011-476-5903  
E-mail : [hae0323@rda.go.kr](mailto:hae0323@rda.go.kr)

Wan-Soon KIM  
Deputy Director  
International Technical Cooperation  
Center  
Rural Development Administration  
250 Seodun-dong, Gwonseon-Gu  
Suwon 441-707  
Korea  
Tel.: +82-31-299-2279  
Fax: +82-31-293-9359  
Cell.: +82-16-341-4560  
E-mail: [wskim2@rda.go.kr](mailto:wskim2@rda.go.kr);  
[wskim2@hotmail.com](mailto:wskim2@hotmail.com)

Patrick J. CLERKIN  
Technical Advisor  
Office of the Deputy Administrator,  
CMP  
FAS/USDA  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
Tel.: +1 202 720 5060  
Fax: +1 202 690 3606  
E-mail: [patrick.clerkin@fas.usda.gov](mailto:patrick.clerkin@fas.usda.gov)

### **SPAIN – ESPAGNE - ESPAÑA**

Ernesto RIOS  
Representante Permanente Adjunto  
de España ante la FAO  
Largo dei Lombardi 21  
00186 Roma  
Tel.: +39 06 6869539  
E-mail: [repfao@maparoma.191.it](mailto:repfao@maparoma.191.it)

### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE – ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA**

Peter BRETTEING  
USDA/ARS, National Program Staff  
GWCC  
5601 Sunnyside Ave.  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
United States of America  
Tel.: +1 301.504.5541  
Fax : +1 301.504.6191  
Cell: +1 301.346.7719  
E-mail: [pkb@ars.usda.gov](mailto:pkb@ars.usda.gov)

Doug NEUMANN  
Senior Conservation Officer  
US Department of State  
Washington, DC 20520  
United States of America  
Tel.: +1 202 647 1804 /  
202 736 7351  
E-mail: [neumanndb@state.gov](mailto:neumanndb@state.gov)



المراقبون من الدول الأعضاء في هيئة الموارد الوراثية للأغذية والزراعة  
**OBSERVERS FROM COUNTRIES MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON  
GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
**OBSERVATEURS DE PAYS MEMBRES DE LA COMMISSION DES RESSOURCES  
GENETIQUES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE**  
**OBSERVADORES DE PAISES MIEMBROS DE LA COMISION DE RECURSOS  
GENETICOS PARA LA ALIMENTACION Y LA AGRICULTURA**

**AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE -  
AUSTRALIA**

Ms Judy BARFIELD  
Counsellor Agriculture and Alternate  
Permanent Representative to FAO  
Embassy of Australia  
Via Antonio Bosio, 5  
00161 Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 85272376-852721  
E-mail: [judy.barfield@dfat.gov.au](mailto:judy.barfield@dfat.gov.au)

Ms Shannon TORRENS  
Intern  
Embassy of Australia  
Via Antonio Bosio, 5  
00161 Rome  
Italy  
Tel: +39 06 85272376-852721  
E-mail:  
[Shannon.Torrens@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Shannon.Torrens@dfat.gov.au)

**GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE -  
ALEMANIA**

Siegfried HARRER  
Documentation Officer/Technical  
Advisor  
Information Center for Biodiversity  
ZADI  
Villichgasse 17  
D-53177 Bonn  
Tel: +49 (0)228/ 9548-211  
Fax: +49 (0)228/ 9548-111  
E-mail: [Harrer@zadi.de](mailto:Harrer@zadi.de)

**SWITZERLAND – SUISSE - SUIZA**

François PYTHOUD  
Swiss Federal Office of Agriculture  
Mattenhofstrasse 5  
CH-3003 Bern  
Tel: +41(0)31/323 44 45  
Fax: +41(0)31/322 26 34  
E-Mail:  
[francois.pythoud@blw.admin.ch](mailto:francois.pythoud@blw.admin.ch)

المراقبون من المنظمات غير الحكومية  
**OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**  
**OBSERVATEURS DES ORGANISATIONS NON GOUVERNEMENTALES**  
**OBSERVADORES DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES NON GUBERNAMENTALES**

**CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
LAW (CISDL) –  
CENTRE DE DROIT  
INTERNATIONAL DU  
DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE –  
CENTRO DE DERECHO  
INTERNACIONAL DEL  
DESARROLLO SUSTENTABLE**

Ms Christine FRISON  
CISDL Representative  
122 rue Commandant Porthier  
1040 Bruxelles  
Tel.: + 32 473 886873  
E-mail: [secretariat@cisdl.org](mailto:secretariat@cisdl.org) or  
[cfrison@cisdl.org](mailto:cfrison@cisdl.org)

**GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY  
TRUST –  
FONDS FIDUCIAIRE MONDIAL  
POUR LA DIVERSITÉ DES  
CULTURES –  
FONDO MUNDIAL PARA LA  
DIVERSIDAD DE CULTIVOS**

Cary FOWLER  
Executive Secretary  
Global Crop Diversity Trust  
Food and Agriculture Organization of  
the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 53841  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [Cary.Fowler@fao.org](mailto:Cary.Fowler@fao.org)

**INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY  
DEVELOPMENT GROUP (ITDG)**

Patrick MULVANY  
ITDG  
Schumacher Centre  
Bourbon  
Rugby CV23 9QZ  
United Kingdom  
Tel.: +44 (0) 1926 634469  
Fax: +44 (0) 870 127 5420  
E-mail: [Patrick.Mulvany@itdg.org.uk](mailto:Patrick.Mulvany@itdg.org.uk)

**INTERNATIONAL SEED  
FEDERATION –  
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DES SEMENCES –  
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL  
DE SEMILLAS**

Radha RANGANATHAN  
Technical Director  
International Seed Federation (ISF)  
7 Chemin du Reposoir  
1260 Nyon  
Switzerland  
Tel.: + 41 22 365 4420  
Fax: + 41 22 365 4421  
E-mail: [isf@worldseed.org](mailto:isf@worldseed.org)

**NORDIC GENE BANK**

Ms Lene Krol CHRISTENSEN  
Section Leader  
The Nordic Genebank  
Box 41  
S-230 53 Alnarp  
Sweden  
Tel.: +46(0) 40536646  
Fax: +46(0) 40536650  
E-mail : [Lene@ngb.se](mailto:Lene@ngb.se)

ي ع ا ر ز ل ا ش و ح ب ل ل ة ي ل و د ل ا ز ا ا ر م ل ا  
**INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRES –  
CENTRES INTERNATIONAUX DE RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE –  
CENTROS INTERNACIONALES DE INVESTIGACION AGRICOLA**

**INTERNATIONAL PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES INSTITUTE –  
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DES RESSOURCES PHYTOGENETIQUES –  
INSTITUTO INTERNACIONAL DE RECURSOS FITOGENETICOS**

Via dei Tre Denari, 472  
00057 Maccarese  
Fiumicino  
Italy  
Tel.: +39 06 6118.1  
Fax: +39 06 61979661  
E-mail : [ipgri@cgiar.org](mailto:ipgri@cgiar.org)

Emile FRISON  
Director General  
E-mail : [e.frison@cgiar.org](mailto:e.frison@cgiar.org)

Jan ENGELS  
Genetic Resources Management  
Advisor  
E-mail : [j.engels@cgiar.org](mailto:j.engels@cgiar.org)

Michael HALEWOOD  
Head, Policy and Law Unit  
E-mail : [m.helewood@cgiar.org](mailto:m.helewood@cgiar.org)

Ms. Elizabeth GOLDBERG  
Head, Capacity Development and  
Research Unit  
E-mail : [e.goldberg@cgiar.org](mailto:e.goldberg@cgiar.org)

Elliot Nyasha CHISHAKWE  
[n.chishakwe@cgiar.org](mailto:n.chishakwe@cgiar.org)

Ms. Francisca SMITH  
Honorary Nutrition Fellow  
E-mail : [f.smith@cgiar.org](mailto:f.smith@cgiar.org)

قدحتمدلا مألل ةعارزل او ةىذغألا ةمظنم  
**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 AGRICULTURE Y LA**  
**ALIMENTACION**

Mahmoud SOLH  
 Director, Plant Production and  
 Protection Division  
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
 United Nations  
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
 00100 – Rome  
 Tel.: +39 06 570 53363  
 Fax: +39 06 570 55609  
 E-mail.: [mahmoud.solh@fao.org](mailto:mahmoud.solh@fao.org)

Arturo MARTÍNEZ  
 Chief, Seed and Plant Genetic Resources  
 Service, AGPS  
 Food and Agriculture Organization  
 of the United Nations  
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
 00100 – Rome  
 Tel.: +39 06 570 56574  
 Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
 E-mail.: [arturo.martinez@fao.org](mailto:arturo.martinez@fao.org)

Eric A. KUENEMAN  
 Chief, Crop and Grassland Service,  
 AGPC  
 Food and Agriculture Organization  
 of the United Nations  
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
 00100 – Rome  
 Tel.: +39 06 570 54930  
 Fax: 39 06 570 56347  
 E-mail.: [eric.kueneman@fao.org](mailto:eric.kueneman@fao.org)

Brad FRALEIGH  
 Senior Officer  
 Seed and Plant Genetic Resources  
 Policy, AGPS  
 Food and Agriculture Organization  
 of the United Nations  
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
 00100 – Rome  
 Tel.: +39 06 570 53675  
 Fax: 39 06 570 56347  
 E-mail.: [brad.fraleigh@fao.org](mailto:brad.fraleigh@fao.org)

Clive STANNARD  
 Senior Liaison Officer  
 Secretariat, Commission on Genetic  
 Resources for Food and Agriculture  
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
 United Nations  
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
 00100 – Rome  
 Tel.: 39 06 57055480  
 Fax: 39 06 57053057  
 E-mail.: [clive.stannard@fao.org](mailto:clive.stannard@fao.org)

Martin Eric SMITH  
 Senior Officer, AGDD  
 Secretariat, Commission on Genetic  
 Resources for Food and Agriculture  
 Food and Agriculture Organization  
 of the United Nations  
 Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
 00100 – Rome  
 Tel.: +39 06 570 53445  
 Fax: +39 06 570 53057  
 E-mail.: [martineric.smith@fao.org](mailto:martineric.smith@fao.org)

Ms Linda COLLETTE  
Senior Officer, Crop Biodiversity, AGPS  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 52089  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [linda.collette@fao.org](mailto:linda.collette@fao.org)

Elcio GUIMARAES  
Senior Officer (Cereals Breeding), AGPC  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 53728  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [elcio.guimaraes@fao.org](mailto:elcio.guimaraes@fao.org)

Ms Barbara BURLINGAME  
Senior Officer (Nutrition Assessment and  
Evaluation), ESNA  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 53926  
Fax: +39 06 570 54593  
E-mail.: [barbara.burlingame@fao.org](mailto:barbara.burlingame@fao.org)

Ms Nuria URQUIA  
Seed and Plant Genetic Resources Officer,  
AGPS  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 53751  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [nuria.urquia@fao.org](mailto:nuria.urquia@fao.org)

Michael LARINDE  
Agricultural Officer (Seed Production),  
AGPS  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 53969  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [michael.larinde@fao.org](mailto:michael.larinde@fao.org)

Stefano DIULGHEROFF  
Information Management Officer,  
PGR/AGPS  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 55544  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [stefano.diulgheroff@fao.org](mailto:stefano.diulgheroff@fao.org)

Tom OSBORN  
Agricultural Officer (Seed Security), AGPS  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 55407  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [tom.osborn@fao.org](mailto:tom.osborn@fao.org)

NeBambi LUTALADIO  
Agricultural Officer, AGPC  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 54233  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [nebambi.lutaladio@fao.org](mailto:nebambi.lutaladio@fao.org)

Gouantoueu Robert GUEI  
Agricultural Officer, AGPS  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 54920  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [gouantoueu.guei@fao.org](mailto:gouantoueu.guei@fao.org)

Juan FAJARDO  
Seed and Plant Genetic Resources  
Information Officer, AGPS  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 53559  
Fax: 39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [juan.fajardo@fao.org](mailto:juan.fajardo@fao.org)

Álvaro TOLEDO  
Associate Professional Officer, AGD  
Secretariat, Commission on Genetic  
Resources for Food and Agriculture  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 54497  
Fax: +39 06 570 53057  
E-mail.: [alvaro.toledo@fao.org](mailto:alvaro.toledo@fao.org)

Bart BARTEN  
Associate Professional Officer, AGPS  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 53230  
Fax: 39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [bart.barten@fao.org](mailto:bart.barten@fao.org)

Ms Marie SCHLOEN  
Associate Professional Officer, AGPS  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel: + 39 06 570 53069  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
Email: [marie.schloen@fao.org](mailto:marie.schloen@fao.org)

Jonathan ROBINSON  
Consultant, AGPS  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
E-mail.: [jonathan.robinson@fao.org](mailto:jonathan.robinson@fao.org)

Ms Nadine AZZU  
Crop Biodiversity Officer  
Food and Agriculture Organization, AGPS  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 – Rome  
Tel.: +39 06 570 56795  
Fax: +39 06 570 56347  
E-mail.: [nadine.azzu@fao.org](mailto:nadine.azzu@fao.org)