



1 April 2015

Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Nomination of National Focal Points to the Commission

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to refer to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) established in accordance with Article VI.1 of the Constitution of the Organization. The Commission is an intergovernmental forum for discussion and negotiation by governments on matters related to biodiversity for food and agriculture.

... The Commission, at its Fifteenth Regular Session (Rome, 19 - 23 January 2015), invited Members to nominate National Focal Points to the Commission on the basis of terms of reference provided in the *Annex* to this letter.

The National Focal Points to the Commission are not necessarily the same as the focal points nominated by Commission Members for the preparation of country reports on animal, forest, plant and aquatic genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture, and for monitoring the implementation of the global action plans adopted by the Commission.

In line with the Commission's request, the nominated National Focal Points will be published on the Commission's web site:

<http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa>

Members of the Commission are kindly invited to inform the Secretary of the Commission, Ms Linda Collette, of the name, official title and address, including telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address, of their National Focal Point by email to: cgrfa@fao.org.

This communication is sent to addressees of Members of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as prescribed in the official channels of communication of FAO, as follows:

For ACTION/INFORMATION, as appropriate:

- Main Addressees (Ministers for Foreign Affairs or Agriculture or other addressees selected by the Government);
- Permanent Representatives to FAO/Embassies.

Annex

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS TO THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Recognizing that Commission Members identify their National Focal Points to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (National Focal Points) and determine their specific responsibilities, the primary function of National Focal Points is to act as liaisons with the Secretary of the Commission on behalf of their Members and in so doing, they are responsible for:

- (i) Coordinating with and strengthening the collaboration of national focal points designated for specific tasks of the Commission;
- (ii) Ensuring that relevant institutions in their country are timely informed of dates and agendas of upcoming Commission meetings;
- (iii) Supporting, as appropriate, identification of experts and stakeholders to participate in meetings, consultations and assessment processes initiated by the Commission;
- (iv) Receiving information related to the Commission and disseminating it to the relevant institutional actors such as ministry offices, experts, stakeholders, indigenous people and local communities and others, as appropriate;
- (v) Responding to requests for input from the Commission and its Secretary including through, as appropriate, coordinating a joint reply with relevant experts or institutions;
- (vi) Initiate and coordinate, as appropriate, a consultation between relevant national stakeholders on preparatory documents for the regular sessions of the Commission;
- (vii) Provide support to Bureau Members to ensure a two-way flow of information between the national and the regional level on matters related to the Commission;
- (viii) Collaborating with National Focal Points in other countries to facilitate the work of the Commission and the implementation of instruments developed by the Commission;
- (ix) Collaborating and coordinating work with the primary and other national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity^[1], the national focal points of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture^[2] and other relevant national focal points; and
- (x) Support raising awareness at national level for the Commission's strategic goals and objectives.

[¹] <https://www.cbd.int/information/nfp.shtml>
[²] <http://www.planttreaty.org/nfp>