



COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE



newsletter

Launched on the occasion of the Third Session of the Governing Body of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
TUNIS, TUNISIA, 1-5 JUNE 2009

Commission to convene in October 2009

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture will hold its Twelfth Regular Session from 19 to 23 October 2009, at FAO headquarters in Rome. The Commission will address a comprehensive range of issues. Highlights of the provisional agenda include: the presentation of the draft second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*; the cross-sectoral issue of access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture; the follow-up to the Interlaken Conference on Animal Genetic Resources; analyze key issues for *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* and the draft Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work. The Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission will be preceded by one day of Regional Consultations (on 18 October) and a one-day special information seminar on access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture (on 17 October). The Session will be held in all six UN languages. The provisional agenda of the meeting is available on the Commission's new website at: www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa

MYPOW Consultations on draft Strategic Plan

In 2007, the Commission launched its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), a rolling 10-year work plan on biodiversity for food and agriculture. Through the MYPOW, the Commission develops sectoral programmes of work for plant genetic resources; animal genetic resources; aquatic genetic resources; forest genetic resources, and invertebrate and micro-organism genetic resources. The MYPOW also covers a number of cross-sectoral matters, such as access and benefit-sharing; biotechnologies and biodiversity

targets and indicators. In adopting its MYPOW, the Commission also stressed the need to develop a detailed plan to achieve the agreed outputs and milestones. At the Commission's request, the Secretariat and the Bureau of the Commission have developed a Draft Strategic Plan for the implementation of the MYPOW. The Regional Groups of FAO were first consulted on an outline of the Strategic Plan. At the beginning of May, the Regional Groups received the Draft Strategic Plan, for comments. The Commission's Secretariat and the Bureau will consolidate the Draft Strategic Plan based on the comments received from the Regions, the Commis-

sion's intergovernmental technical working groups and international organizations. The Commission will consider the Strategic Plan at its forthcoming session in October.

The Commission's Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources to review draft SoW PGR II

On 15-17 July 2009, the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, a subsidiary advisory body of the Commission will review the first



draft of the second *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. ("SoW PGR II"). FAO's first report on *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* was submitted in 1996 to the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, held in Leipzig, Germany. The Conference also adopted the rolling *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. At the request of the Commission, the Working Group, at its forthcoming meeting, will also consider elements of a plan for updating the *Global Plan of Action*, in the light of the findings of the SoW PGR II. The draft SoW PGR II and other documents of the Working Group meeting will be available at: www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa

Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources: Towards a Funding Strategy

The International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, held in 2007 in Interlaken, Switzerland, adopted the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*. The Conference also requested the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to develop a Funding Strategy for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. The Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources, at

its fifth session (28 - 30 January 2009), considered the main elements of a Funding Strategy and recommended that FAO prepare a first draft Funding Strategy. The Working Group also provided advice to the Commission on a number of other matters in the follow-up to the Interlaken Conference, including on modalities for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, the format of status and trends reports, the development of country-based early-warning systems and the role of small-scale livestock keepers as custodians of animal genetic resources. The report of the Working Group's fifth session is available at: www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa

ITPGRFA/CGRFA Joint report

The Secretariats of the International Treaty and of the Commission have collaborated closely in the preparation of the Third Session of the Governing Body. The document, *Cooperation between the Governing Body and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and coordination of their fields of intergovernmental work* (IT/GB-3/09/17), prepared jointly by the two Secretariats provides an overview of joint activities, fields of cooperation and lays out a range of issues that require close coordination between the two bodies.

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The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Maintaining biodiversity for food and agriculture is a global responsibility. FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is a permanent intergovernmental forum where policies relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture are discussed and negotiated. The main objectives of the Commission are to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, for present and future generations.