



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

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

Genetic resources and food security: the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

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Overview of the presentation

- **Genetic Resources for Food Security**
- **Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**
- **Overview of Commission's work**
- **Commission and the Committee on World Food Security**
- **Way Forward**



Genetic resources for food security



Genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA)

- Raw material that farmers, fishers, foresters, breeders and researchers rely upon to improve the quality and the amount of food produced, and to respond to new conditions
- Crops, livestock, forest and aquatic resources, micro-organisms...
- Basis for food security and nutrition – globally
- Contributes to the four dimensions of food security

Sustainable management of GRFA

- Ensure the genetic diversity needed for coping with changes
- Improve sustainability and resilience of production systems
- Enhance and protects ecosystems and landscapes



Genetic resources for food security



Development of GRFA

- Increase productivity – AVAILABILITY, ACCESS
- Allows adaptation to different conditions – ACCESS
- Improve quality (nutrition, taste, shape, shelf-life,...) – UTILIZATION
- Sustain production systems (agroforestry, home garden, aquaculture,...) – AVAILABILITY

Conservation and sustainable use of GRFA (*in situ* - *ex situ*)

- Ensure availability of GRFA in the long term - STABILITY
- Maintain future benefits and adaptation options

Ongoing loss of genetic diversity is a threat to the well-being of present and future generations and to sustainable development



Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture



Vision

- **Conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture and promoting its use in support of global food security and sustainable development, for present and future generations.**

Mission

- **[...] the Commission strives to halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to ensure world food security and sustainable development by promoting their conservation, sustainable use, including exchange, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.**

FAO statutory body

- **established in 1983; 178 member countries + EU**



Overview of Commission's work



Overview of Commission's work

State of the World's reports on genetic resources

Global Plans of Action:

- Policy instruments for the conservation, sustainable use and development of genetic resources, for food security, sustainable agriculture, and human well-being.
- Global frameworks guiding national implementation, strengthen cooperation, coordination and planning, and technical capacities

International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture



Overview of Commission's work



- The preparation of the first *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* report is well underway.
- Food security is at the core of its objectives:
 - Assess the state of the conservation and use of biodiversity for food security and nutrition, ecosystem services and sustainability
 - Identify options to enhance food security and nutrition through improved conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture
 - Identify ways of mainstreaming biodiversity for food and agriculture into food security, rural development, climate change, and biodiversity conservation policy development



Commission and the CFS



High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition:

- Considered CGRFA studies on the impact of climate change on GRFA and on their potential roles in coping with climate change
- Highlighted the importance of GRFA in ensuring adaptation to climate change (*Report on Food Security and Climate Change - 2012*)

Committee on World Food Security (CFS 2012/39, Final report)

- Invited Commission “*to continue and strengthen its work on climate change and genetic resources including conservation and use of genetic resources for adaptation to climate change*”



Way forward



Existing assets

- GRFA in the global agenda (e.g. SDGs, CBD, Commission)
- Existing knowledge and instruments (e.g. SoWs, GPAs)

Main challenges

- Continue GRFA work (conservation, characterization, development,...)
- Raise awareness of GRFA contribution to food security - Availability, Access, Utilization, Stability
- Stimulate dialogue
- Promote two-way integration GRFA – food security
- Foster implementation of GRFA instruments in support to food security





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Thank you!

