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para la  
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Item 3.3 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

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

**Tenth Regular Session**

Rome, 8-12 November 2004

**PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE  
STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1 This document provides information on follow-up to the recommendations of the Commission and its Inter-governmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for food and agriculture regarding the preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>1</sup>

2. The first *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* was published in 1998. It was adopted by 150 countries at the Fourth International Technical Conference (Leipzig, 1996), and welcomed as the first comprehensive worldwide assessment of the status and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission, at its Eighth Regular Session in 1999, "agreed that a second Report (...) should be considered by the Commission after the completion of the negotiations for the revision of the *International Undertaking*."<sup>2</sup> The Working Group, at its first Session (2001), made recommendations concerning the content and preparation of the second *Report*.<sup>3</sup> It recalled that the *Report* should provide objective information and analysis, as a basis for updating the rolling *Global Plan of Action*.

3. At its Ninth Regular Session, the Commission considered a proposed outline of the second *Report*, and steps for its preparation.<sup>4</sup> The Commission agreed that work should progress on the development of the second *Report* as presented in that document, and stressed that the preparatory process should be fully integrated with the process of monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.<sup>5</sup> A technical workshop on integrating information gathering was organized by the Secretariat at FAO Headquarters in November 2003.<sup>6</sup>

4. Emphasizing the country-driven nature of the preparatory process, the Commission requested that countries be given an opportunity to review guidelines for country reporting, prior to their finalization. It was expected that once the guidelines had been finalized, Member Countries would hold national workshops and consultations with stakeholders, in the updating of their Country Reports. The Commission agreed that priority should be given to updating the *Report*, focussing as far as possible on the changes that have occurred since the first *Report*. The proposed thematic background studies would be carried out as far as resources allowed.

5. The Commission also requested the Working Group to provide guidance on the preparation of the *Report*. At its Second Session<sup>7</sup>, the Working Group emphasized that an objective of the second *Report* should be to assist national, regional and global efforts to enhance the utilization of plant genetic resources, in support of efforts to achieve food security, rural development and sustainable agriculture. It noted that the preparation of the second *Report* would take place in the context of the expected entry into force of the *International Treaty on Plant*

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<sup>1</sup> A report on other follow-up activities is contained in document CGRFA-10/04/5.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-8/99/REP, para. 19.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/REPORT, para. 20-25.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-9/02/8

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-9/02/REP, para. 20-21.

<sup>6</sup> The results of which were reported to the Working Group at its Second Session.

<sup>7</sup> CGRFA-10/04/4 (CGRFA/WG-PGR-2/03/REPORT), para. 7-15.

*Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Information from the second *Report* will also be able to be taken into account by the CBD in the preparation of its World's Assessment on Agricultural Biological Diversity, now planned for 2009.<sup>8</sup>

## II. PREPARATION OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

6. The Working Group reviewed in detail a multi-level process for preparing the second *Report*, stressing that the process should provide for national, regional and global analysis and perspectives. It agreed that the process should include the preparation of Country Reports and, to assist countries in this regard, recommended that FAO prepare guidelines that would draw forth information on changes in national status that have occurred since the first *Report*. Draft guidelines are being reviewed in some regions in the second half of 2004, and will be presented to the Commission.<sup>9</sup> The Working Group emphasized the importance of convening regional meetings, which, along with the Country Reports, would provide the basis for a global synthesis. The Working Group also stressed that the process for monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* was an essential element of the process for preparing the second *Report*.

7. The Working Group considered the list of potential thematic background studies. It recommended that priority should be given to thematic studies that expanded on issues addressed in the first *Report*, and in this regard recommended that priority be given to certain studies. It also recommended revisions to the scope of certain thematic studies. The revised and prioritized Indicative List of Thematic Background Studies is presented *Appendix II* to this document. Thematic study H, which addresses both plant and animal genetic resources, is being carried out through collaboration among relevant FAO services.<sup>10</sup> The Working Group stressed that preparation of the thematic studies should make use of all available sources of authoritative and scientific data and information.

8. The Commission, at its Ninth Regular Session, had recognized that in addition to the funding provided in FAO's Regular Programme Budget, extra-budgetary resources would be required to ensure the full participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, especially the least developed countries, in *State of the World* preparatory processes, and appealed to donors to make such resources available. The Working Group reviewed the cost estimates for preparation of the second *Report* and requested the Secretariat to adjust the budget in light of its recommendations concerning preparations and timeline. The revised cost estimates for extra-budgetary resources are presented in *Appendix I* to this document. So far, funding amounting to US\$80,000 has been made available by the Government of Norway.

9. The Working Group recommended provisional steps and an indicative timeline for preparing the second *Report*<sup>11</sup>, which is provided in *Appendix III* of the current document. Although this indicative timeline has been implemented up to now, the level of extra-budgetary resources received to date, makes it extremely unlikely that implementation of the new

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<sup>8</sup> See CBD CoP Decision VII/3 para.2.

<sup>9</sup> Document CGRFA-10/04/inf.8.

<sup>10</sup> Document CGRFA-10/04/Inf.12.

<sup>11</sup> CGRFA-10/04/4 (CGRFA/WG-PGR-2/03/REPORT), Appendix D.

monitoring approach for the *Global Plan of Action*, much less the elaboration of Country Reports which will depend on such monitoring, will be completed in all countries before the end of 2005. In this case, regional meetings to consider the results of the Country Reports may not begin, at earliest, before the first half of 2006, and a first draft of the second *Report* may not be available before the proposed Fourth Session of the Working Group in 2007. The rapid mobilization of funds is therefore required, in order for the timetable to be respected.

### III. ADVICE BEING SOUGHT FROM THE COMMISSION

10. In the context of the preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the Commission may wish to:

- i) encourage Member states and other countries and relevant organizations, such as IPGRI, to participate in the preparatory process;
- ii) adopt or revise provisional steps and an indicative timeline for preparing the second *Report* recommended by the Working Group, and presented in *Appendix III* of the current document;
- iii) approve the revision and prioritization of the list of thematic background studies recommended by the Working Group and shown in *Appendix II* of this document;
- iv) comment on the finalization of the Guidelines for Country Reports presented; and
- v) reiterate the call for donors to provide the necessary extra-budgetary resources in a timely matter, in particular to allow the full participation of developing countries in the preparatory process and the preparation of some thematic studies, so that the Second *Report* may be adopted in October 2006, as provided for in Annex III.

**APPENDIX I: COST ESTIMATES FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCES  
REQUIRED IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR  
THE SECOND *REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT  
GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*, INCLUDING  
THE ROLL-OUT OF THE NEW MONITORING APPROACH FOR  
MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
*GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION*<sup>1,2/</sup>**

| Item   | Cost (US\$) | Calculation   | Purpose and notes  |
|--|-------------|---|--|
| Staff costs  | 135 000     | 16 months General Service plus 6 months P2/P3 level officer   | To assist secretariat in the coordination of the process   |
| Establishment of National Information Sharing Mechanisms to monitor GPA Implementation | 2 000 000   | c. 100 countries @ 20 000/country   | Support for three stakeholders workshops per country, and for building in-country capacity to apply the new monitoring approach to all developing countries (see CGRFA-10/04/5, paragraph 32)                            |
| Regional meetings  | 320 000     | One meeting for each of 4 regions (Africa, CWANA, AP, LAC) @ 80 000 / region / meeting. For participation of developing countries and general organizational expenses | To review draft Guidelines for Country Reports, as requested by the WG-PGRFA   |
| Development of national plant breeding strategies                                      | 200 000     | c. 50 countries @ 4 000/country   | To support consultations with individual countries to assess national capacities and needs, and help develop national plant breeding strategies and programmes (see CGRFA-10/04/5, paragraph 53)                         |
| Development of Country Reports   | 200 000     | c. 50 countries @ 4 000/country   | To provide partial support to convene national workshops or consultations with stakeholders. Grants would be provided on request, in particular to support countries that applied the new monitoring approach before the |

| Item                                       | Cost (US\$)      | Calculation   | Purpose and notes  |
|--|------------------|---|--|
|  |                  |   | guidelines for the preparation of the Country Reports were made available  |
| Technical consultancies                    | 270 000          | 9 subregions @ 30 000/subregion; each 2 – 3 months honorarium, plus travel  | To provide advice and assistance to countries on the preparation of Country Reports using the adopted guidelines, including identification and involvement of stakeholders, and to assist in the organization and follow up of regional meetings |
| Regional meetings                          | 320 000          | One meeting for each of 4 regions (Africa, CWANA, AP, LAC) @ 80 000/region / meeting. For participation of developing countries and general organizational expenses | To discuss regional issues arising from Country Reports, related to the State of the World's PGRFA; and to identify common needs for implementation and/or refinement of the Global Plan of Action   |
| Development of thematic background studies | 360 000          | Nine thematic studies @ 40 000/study  | To support the development of thematic studies and other necessary background material and expert meetings for the Report. To be developed according to the priorities identified by the Commission  |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>3 805 000</b> |   |  |

1/ The budget presented in this table integrates budget requirements for the Second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* revised on the basis of the Report of the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources at its Second Session (CGRFA-10/04/4, Annex E), and the requirements for the roll-out the new monitoring approach to all countries, as requested by the Working Group (CGRFA-10/04/4, paragraphs 11 and 25).

2/ Over six years, FAO is allocating 1,225,000 from its Regular Programme Budget in support of these activities, and has received US\$ 390,000 of extra-budgetary funds to date from Japan, The Netherlands, and Norway.

**APPENDIX II: THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S  
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE –  
INDICATIVE LIST OF THEMATIC BACKGROUND STUDIES**

(\* INDICATES A RECOMMENDED PRIORITY BY THE WORKING GROUP)

|    | Study  | Rationale  | Scope  | Sources & Linkages<br>(inter alia)  |
|----|--|--|--|---|
| A* | Plant genetic resources of forage crops, pasture and rangelands            | Coverage of forage crops, pasture and rangeland species was very limited in the first Report. This study will seek to address this imbalance, and thereby improve the relevance of the report to agricultural systems dominated by livestock production, mixed farming and pastoralism. It will also provide information needed to update Annex 2 of the Report. | Value and role of forage crops, pasture and rangeland species. Special issues related to the management of plant genetic resources in pastures and rangelands.   | Material assembled by the Crop and Grassland Service; Country Reports.  |
| B* | The conservation of crop wild relatives                                    | Crop wild relatives require specific approaches to conservation.   | Value and role of crop wild relatives; Conservation status in protected areas and elsewhere; Country capacities for conservation (with detailed case studies in nine countries), and research needs.   | This study will build upon work carried out in the framework of the proposed GEF-UNEP-IPGRI project: "Conservation of wild crop relatives". |
| C* | Indicators of genetic diversity, genetic erosion and genetic vulnerability | Indicators are useful tools to identify and monitor trends, and to convey summary information to policy makers and the public opinion. They are needed for application at global, national and local levels.   | The "state of the art" of indicator development and use for genetic diversity, genetic erosion and genetic vulnerability, at various scales, including an evaluation of the feasibility of assessing genetic diversity/erosion at the national level, including through modern molecular techniques. | The study will build upon work carried out in the frameworks of the CBD, CSD, and OECD.   |

| Study   | Rationale  | Scope  | Sources & Linkages<br>(inter alia)  |
|---|--|--|---|
| D* Methodologies and capacities for crop improvement; the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in base-broadening and crop improvement, including new approaches to plant breeding and new biotechnologies | There has been significant advancement in the available technologies and methodologies since the preparation of the first Report, but the application of these technologies and methodologies may be limited by plant breeding capacity in developing countries. | Applications of biotechnologies (including marker-assisted selection, and transformation) and genomics to the identification, conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; Participatory and decentralized approaches to plant breeding; Population management; and Genetic Use Restriction Technologies. | Crop and Grassland Service and other FAO services; IPGRI and other IARCS.   |
| E* Seed security for food security: the management of plant genetic resources in seed systems   | Seeds are the physical embodiment of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the main vehicle by which farmer management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture can be improved.  | Analysis of formal and informal seed systems; ways of strengthening links between public, private and informal sectors; strengthening seed security through relief, rehabilitation, development and information services; Genetic Use Restriction Technologies; and Intellectual Property issues.                                      | Country Reports; FAO's regional seed consultations and seed security networks.  |
| F The contribution of plant genetic resources to health and dietary diversity   | While just three crops dominate human energy intake, many more are required for a healthy diet. Some plants are especially important sources of nutrition for the poor. Yet they are often overlooked.   | Plants important for human health and nutrition at global, national and sub-national scales. Inter- and Intra-species variation in nutrient content. Value of "minor" crops and other plants for vulnerable groups. Role of home and school gardens.   | FAO Nutrition Division; IPGRI; Country Reports.   |
| G Managing plant genetic resources in the agro-ecosystem; global change, crop-associated biodiversity and ecosystem services  | Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and associated biodiversity may provide multiple goods and services; they may need to be managed together to maximize these goods and services.   | Ecosystem goods and services provided by plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Deployment of genetic resources in production systems; interactions with crop-associated biodiversity (pest and disease organisms; pollinators and so on).  | FAO Interdepartmental Working Group on Biodiversity. The study will contribute to the CBD programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. |

|    | Study  | Rationale  | Scope  | Sources & Linkages<br>(inter alia)   |
|----|--|--|--|--|
| H  | Interactions between plant and animal genetic resources, and opportunities for synergy in their management   | While FAO has established programmes for both plant and domestic animal genetic resources, there has been little attention to date given to the interactions between these sets of resources. Yet at the level of the production system, crops and livestock are managed together, and the required characteristics of particular breeds or varieties are strongly determined by other components on the farming system. | Interactions between the management of plant and livestock genetic resources in farming system – interactions of the plant and animal genetic resources with other components of the farming system – dependence of the required traits of plant varieties by the presence/absence, type of domestic animal genetic resources and dependence of the required traits of animal breeds by the available plant genetic resources – comparison of approaches of managing crop and livestock genetic resources; lessons learned from one, applicable to the other; opportunities for common institutions and so on. | This study will also be prepared jointly with the preparatory process for the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources. |
| I* | The impact of national, regional and global agricultural policies and agreements on conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture | Agricultural policies and the incentive structures they create have major impacts on the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Understanding of such impacts is necessary in order to improve policies.  | Survey of national, regional and global policies. Analysis of incentive structures and possible impacts on PGRFA conservation and use; and Intellectual Property issues.   | Country Reports; Various services in FAO. Could be linked with CBD study on impacts of trade liberalization on agricultural biodiversity.        |
| J* | Biosafety and biosecurity issues related to the conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA  | The use of genetically modified organisms raises issues for the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. At the same time restrictions on transboundary movement of plants may impact on PGRFA conservation and use.  | Genetic contamination in centres of origin and diversity; plant protection and quarantine issues; and Genetic Use Restriction Technologies.  | Country Reports, IPPC and FAO Services.  |

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**APPENDIX III: PROVISIONAL STEPS AND TIMELINE FOR PREPARING  
THE SECOND *REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT  
GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE* AS  
RECOMMENDED BY THE WORKING GROUP**

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- March 2004: FAO to convene a Pilot Phase Evaluation meeting to evaluate the Global Plan of Action pilot monitoring phase, and to provide advice for refining the Reporting Format;
- June 2004: initiation of the implementation of the refined “new monitoring approach” of the Global Plan of Action, to be applied in all participating countries;
- June – 2004: preparation of Guidelines for Country Reports;
- June – 2004 to October 2004: convening of regional meetings, to discuss the proposed Country Report Guidelines and the refined Reporting Format for monitoring implementation of the Global Plan of Action;
- October 2004: Report to the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources on progress in the preparation of the second Report and in monitoring implementation of the Global Plan of Action;
- Early 2005: completion of the implementation of the “new monitoring approach” of the Global Plan of Action in all participating countries;
- Early – Mid 2005: completion of Country Reports;
- Mid – End 2005: regional meetings to provide regional perspectives on gaps and needs, as an input to the second Report, and possibly to consider priorities for the adjustment of the rolling Global Plan of Action;
- Mid 2006: preparation of the first draft of the second Report;
- October 2006: submission of the first draft of the second Report to the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources, for adoption;
- October 2008: if the second Report is not adopted in 2006, it would be available for adoption by the Commission at its Twelfth Regular Session.