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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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INITIATION OF THE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR ACTION IN ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) at its Ninth Session, decided on the process for the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources (first Report)*, which included a review of options for the establishment of a follow-up mechanism on the implementation of strategic priorities for action. The Commission agreed to consider at its Tenth Regular Session, options for a follow-up mechanism to ensure immediate and effective response to identified priorities, prior to the completion of the first *Report*.
2. The basis for preparing the first *Report*, would be Country Reports, which have been developed to identify priority needs to enhance the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. By July 2004, 102 countries submitted to FAO their final Country Report, and 36 countries prepared draft reports, which are awaiting official submission. By the end of 2004, 164 countries are expected to have completed the Country Report preparation process indicating their strategic priorities for enhanced management of animal genetic resources at the national, regional and global levels.
3. Since the last Session of the Commission, FAO convened a number of regional meetings to advance the *State of the World Process* for Animal Genetic Resources. As well, a global Workshop for National Coordinators for animal genetic resources was convened prior to the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Working Group), in March 2004. National Coordinators strongly endorsed the need for national and regional implementation at the field level of priority activity areas that have been identified through the Country Report preparation process and as a result of discussions at regional meetings.
4. The Working Group, at its Third Session, considered options for initiation of a follow-up mechanism, and agreed on the general concept and expertise required to perform the necessary activities for the operation of the follow-up mechanism¹. The Working Group “strongly recommended that the Commission establish a follow-up mechanism as soon as possible within the existing structure provided in the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, building on and strengthening national focal points, regional focal points and the global focal point”². It stressed “that the Commission should bear in mind the type of expertise necessary to ensure an effective follow-up mechanism, considering the need to mobilize financial resources, enhance technical assistance, and improve communication to raise the profile of the roles and values of animal genetic resources”³. The Working Group also recommended that “the Commission initiate the establishment of a follow-up mechanism in 2004 to ensure implementation of priorities that are identified in both the Country Reports, and those reflected in the draft *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*”⁴, which is presented to the Commission in document (CGRFA-10/04/Info 9).
5. The present paper outlines a proposal for the initiation of an effective and efficient follow-up mechanism to immediately support the undertaking of priority actions identified by countries to advance their efforts to use, develop and conserve animal genetic resources. Establishment of the follow-up mechanism at this stage of the process will also be beneficial to the Commission, as the experience gained will assist the Commission to determine the long-

¹ See Section III of the Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-10/04/8).

² See paragraph 9 of the Working Group's Report, CGRFA-10/04/8.

³ See paragraph 9 of the Working Group's Report, CGRFA-10/04/8.

⁴ See paragraph 24 of the Working Group's Report, CGRFA-10/04/8.

term need and scope of a permanent follow-up mechanism at the completion of the *State of the World Process* in 2006, or 2007. Evaluation of the follow-up mechanism and its future functions and scope could also be determined during an intergovernmental technical conference on animal genetic resources, which has been recommended by the Working Group to take place in 2007.

II. MAIN ACTIVITY AREAS OF THE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

6. In exploring options for a follow-up mechanism for animal genetic resources FAO has focused on the three main needs identified by the Working Group: mobilization of financial resources; providing support in project design and development and submission to relevant funding agencies; and enhancing communications and understanding of the roles and values of animal genetic resources and their contribution to food and agriculture. The proposed scope of each of these activity areas is further described below.

Mobilization of financial resources

7. The follow-up mechanism should facilitate access by countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to external technical and financial resources to address national and regional priorities for the better management of animal genetic resources to achieve the sustainable use, development and conservation of these globally important assets, complementing national investments.

8. The following main activities will be undertaken by the follow-up mechanism to advance the mobilization of financial resources:

- The establishment of a web-based system for dissemination of information regarding donor and recipient priorities, roles and conditions, on-going projects and projects in the pipeline, and availability of resources for project preparation will lead to improved donor – recipient communication. The system will also be used to support the establishment of a multi-disciplinary group and network to oversee development of eligibility criteria, including national co-funding; assist in linking donors with potential national and regional projects; and will facilitate improved interaction between donors and project developers.
- Convening of meetings and workshops with donors that have not as yet been significantly engaged in animal genetic resources issues but may be sympathetic to them, and thus the follow-up mechanism can act to determine their interest and possibly encourage them in supporting this key agriculture sector.
- Development of a funding strategy and available options for seeking external financial support, which will be presented to the Commission at its next Regular Session.

Technical Assistance in Project Design

9. The Working Group stressed that the follow-up mechanism should enhance progress in the implementation, at the country and regional levels, of priority actions identified in the Country Reports, as well as those that are presented in the *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*. This will require providing technical support to countries and regions in the formulation of project proposals. The Working Group indicated that this was a priority activity area for the follow-up mechanism.

10. It should be noted that a range of project types will be required to address identified needs. Some projects will likely need to be directed to respond to country emergency situations both in conservation and animal breeding, while others may be designed to respond to longer-term needs based on national programmes for the sustainable use and development of farm animal genetic resources, or regional priorities and strategic alliances for project design and implementation.

11. The following main activities will be undertaken by the follow-up mechanism to advance project development and design:

- Development of courses on project design and formulation to fulfil requirements and procedures of relevant funding agencies.
- Identification and mobilization of trained professionals from all regions that can assist in project design and proposal development.
- Compilation of successfully funded project proposals that will be disseminated to those engaged in project formulation.
- Direct support to countries and regions in developing project proposals for various donor agencies and in packaging proposals to enhance their quality, sustainability and eligibility for funding.
- Enhancing interaction among those engaged in developing technical projects for animal genetic resources to increase assistance to countries through FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme.

Communication and awareness

12. Enhancing communication of the roles, functions and values of animal genetic resources, their crucial contribution to food security, sustainable livelihoods and rural development, including their community social and cultural importance, was stressed by the Working Group as key to gaining public support for investing in the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources. The Working Group indicated that enhancing communication was a key activity area for the follow-up mechanism.

13. It is essential that the follow-up mechanism provide key communication products that will assist National Coordinators in their efforts to communicate with stakeholders, as well as increase the overall involvement of stakeholders in the *State of the World* process, to further develop the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources. In this regard, the follow-up mechanism should bridge diverse interests within the animal breeding sector and the commercial production, processing and retailing sectors, and advance understanding of linkages between sustainable utilization and conservation of animal genetic resources.

14. The proposed activities to be undertaken by the follow-up mechanism to advance communication and awareness include:

- Development of ways and means to address policy-makers at all levels to enhance their awareness of the contribution of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in order to mainstream these resources into agricultural policy development.
- Public communication initiatives to explain the roles, functions and values of animal genetic resources to build society's recognition, appreciation and support for their conservation, sustainable use and development.

- Interactions with the international media, through participation in interviews, special programmes and providing publishing materials to build awareness of animal genetic resources issues.
- Supporting National Coordinators in their advocacy and education functions by disseminating success stories on animal genetic resources from various regions.
- Engaging stakeholders through participation in scientific conferences, relevant stakeholders meetings, preparation of leaflets and fact sheets, materials and production of videos related to the *State of the World* process.
- Catalyzing new partnerships to implement the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources and the Strategic Priorities for Action by promoting opportunities for alliances involving international organizations, non-governmental organizations including livestock keepers organizations and foundations, animal breeders and the livestock sector, and other private sector interests.
- Increasing coordination among international organizations involved in communicating the roles, values and functions of agricultural biodiversity in general, and of animal genetic resources specifically.
- Development of a communication strategy for animal genetic resources for consideration by the Commission at its Eleventh Regular Session and by the intergovernmental technical conference recommended to take place in 2007.

III. OPERATION, BUDGET AND EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Operation

15. The Working Group recommended that the follow-up mechanism should operate within the existing structure of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources. Therefore, it is proposed that the follow-up mechanism would be hosted by FAO and located in the Global Focal Point represented by the Animal Genetic Resources Group, Animal Production Service, Animal Production and Health Division. It would function in accordance with FAO policies, procedures and decentralized structure. The follow-up mechanism would complement existing activities, avoiding duplication of efforts and most importantly, enable progress to be made on country priorities that are currently beyond the capacity of the Global Focal Point to undertake.

Budget

16. It is proposed that the follow-up mechanism employ initially, three professional staff and one support staff. Staff would be selected with experience in the identified priority areas, fund raising, project design, and communication.

17. The follow-up mechanism **cannot** be established without extra-budgetary resources to cover staffing, travel costs, and operational needs. Table 1 presents the main activities and proposed annual budget for the follow-up mechanism. The total **annual extra-budgetary** requirement for full operation of the follow-up mechanism is **US\$854,000**. FAO will report on activities of the follow-up mechanism and progress made, to the fourth Session of the Working Group on animal genetic resources, and to the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission. If so decided by the Commission, a report on progress will also be provided to the proposed intergovernmental technical conference.

Table 1. Activities and annual budget needed for the establishment and operation of the follow-up mechanism

Activity	Personnel	Unit cost	Resource allocation	Annual Cost US\$
Resource mobilization Specialist	P4	160,000	100%	146,000
Technical assistance/ project formulation specialist	P4	160,000	100%	145,000
Communication Specialist	P4	160,000	100%	145,000
Consultants		14,000	5	70,000
Clerical assistance	G4	75,000	100%	69,000
Travel		4,000	30	120,000
Product cost - communications material, including website development				145,000
General Operating Expenses				15,000
Total Annual Extra-budgetary need				854,000

18. The Working Group recommended that the Commission request FAO to seek the necessary extra-budgetary financial resources for establishing a follow-up mechanism. Staffing of the follow-up mechanism could be achieved in part, or in whole, by countries providing to FAO, paid professionals with expertise in the required disciplines.

Outputs

19. The follow-up mechanism will significantly contribute to initiating the implementation of identified priority actions for animal genetic resources. It will support capacity building in project development and formulation and facilitate mobilization of financial resources for undertaking necessary action at the national, sub-regional and regional levels. Through enhanced communication and advocacy, the follow-up mechanism will result in improved recognition of the contribution of animal genetic resources to food and agriculture and to the development of rural communities, and thus contribute to improved policy developments for animal genetic resources.

20. The following **immediate outputs** will be achieved by the establishment of the follow-up mechanism:

- A funding strategy for implementation of Strategic Priorities for Action for animal genetic resources.
- A portfolio of projects to address immediate priority needs identified in Country Reports and in the draft *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*.

- A website with information on potential donors, their requirements and procedures, ongoing projects and projects in the pipeline, and sample project proposals.
- Global and regional communication strategies on animal genetic resources.
- Communications products (videos, leaflets, posters, and CDs) describing the roles, functions and values of animal genetic resources.

IV. GUIDANCE REQUESTED FROM THE COMMISSION

21. In considering the proposal for the establishment of a follow-up mechanism the Commission may wish to:

- (i) Decide on the establishment of the follow-up mechanism to enable FAO to provide the necessary assistance requested by countries to support immediate implementation of priorities identified in their Country Reports, through three main areas of activities: mobilization of financial resources, support in project design and improved communication;
- (ii) Decide that the follow-up mechanism will be located at the Global Focal Point represented by the Animal Genetic Resources Group in the Animal Production Service of the Animal Production and Health Division of FAO;
- (iii) Agree that the follow-up mechanism will be established initially to cover the time period before the completion of the *Report* in 2006, and that its operation will be evaluated by the Fourth Session of the Working Group, and by the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission;
- (iv) Recognize the need for extra-budgetary resources to enable the establishment of the follow-up mechanism and encourage donors to support its establishment.