



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Item 2 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Tenth Regular Session

Rome, 8 - 12 November 2004

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIME-TABLE

1. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs and opening of the Session

The meeting will be open at 10:00 of Monday, 8 November 2004.¹ The outgoing Chair will open the meeting and call for the election the new Chair and Vice-Chairs. The Commission may also wish to elect a *Rapporteur*.

The Tenth Regular Session of the Commission marks the twentieth anniversary of its establishment as the only permanent forum within the United Nations system where governments discuss and negotiate matters specific to genetic resources for food and agriculture, and biodiversity and food security. It also marks the successful entry into force of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which it negotiated. There will accordingly be a brief opening ceremony to celebrate the occasion.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

The present document contains the *Draft Provisional Annotated Agenda* and the *Provisional Time-table*. In order to facilitate Members' planning for experts' attendance, items relating to animal genetic resources, to plant genetic resources, and to general matters, have been brought together.

¹ Registration of participants will commence on Sunday, 7 November 2004. Meeting rooms will be made available on request to the Secretary of the Commission on the morning of Sunday, for informal consultations within the regional groups.

3. Plant Genetic Resources

3.1 Overview of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its potential contribution to the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

From its establishment by the 1983 FAO Conference, the Commission has coordinated, overseen and monitored the development of a Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Commission has regularly considered progress reports on the Global System and its components. At its Ninth Regular Session, the Commission suggested that, for future sessions, a summary document be prepared, providing an overview of the various components of the Global System, and their potential contribution to the implementation of the International Treaty.

The document, *Overview of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its potential contribution to the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,² briefly describes the chief components of the Global System, cross-referenced to relevant documents of the current Session, in order to make it easier for delegations to address the Global System in a coherent manner. Attention is drawn to the components of the Global System that are relevant to Part V of the International Treaty, *Supporting Components*, and to their potential contribution to the implementation of the International Treaty. It is suggested that the Commission may wish to invite the Governing Body of the International Treaty to establish a cooperative framework, in order to develop the supporting components.

3.2 Report of the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

At its Ninth Regular Session, the Commission agreed that its subsidiary Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture should meet to examine issues related to the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through strengthening germplasm conservation, plant breeding capacities and seed systems. It requested the Working Group to provide further guidance: for the preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the process for monitoring of the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*; on the facilitating mechanism for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*; on the development of plant genetic resource networks, and the assessment of their effectiveness; and on the possible need to update elements of the *Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer*.

The Second Session of the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources was held from 5 to 7 November 2003, and its *Report* is before the Commission, for its consideration.³

3.3 Progress since the Ninth Regular Session of the Commission, including the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources

The document, *Follow-up to the recommendations of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Working Group, regarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*,⁴ provides information on developments since these two meetings, and requests the Commission's guidance in further advancing work on the *Global Plan of Action*, International Plant Genetic Resources Networks, and the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm

² CGRFA-10/04/03.

³ CGRFA-10/04/4 (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/REP).

⁴ CGRFA-10/04/5.

Collecting and Transfer. It also reports on and seeks guidance regarding some issues related to plant genetic resources that were considered by the Working Group, including strengthening seed systems and plant breeding for sustainable use, and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

Preparatory activities for the second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources are presented in the document, *Progress in the preparation of the second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,⁵ for guidance by the Commission.

Progress in relation to the International Network of *Ex Situ* Collections under the Auspices of FAO is described in the *Report on the International network of Ex Situ Collections under the Auspices of FAO*,⁶ for guidance by the Commission.

3.4 Future work of the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources and election of its Members

The Working Group is composed of twenty-seven Members from the various regions, elected at each regular session of the Commission, and serving until the next regular session. They are eligible for re-election. An information document contains the Statutes of the Working Group and the list of Members, elected at the Ninth Regular Session.⁷ The Commission is invited to elect the new Members for the Working Group.

In each biennium, the Commission assigns specific tasks to its Working Groups, and the Commission is invited to do so for the forthcoming biennium.

4. Animal Genetic Resources

4.1 Overview of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources

The document, *Progress in the development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources*,⁸ presents the main components of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, the development of which FAO initiated in 1993. It seeks the Commission's guidance on priority areas for further development of the Global Strategy, taking into account the guidance provided by the Commission's subsidiary Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its third Session. Progress made in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and the *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action* is described in a separate document, and the Commission's guidance for the successful completion of this driven process is sought.⁹

4.2 Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

In the Seventh Session of the Commission, a subsidiary Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources) was established to address issues relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

At its Ninth Regular Session, the Commission agreed that the Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources should meet to continue guiding the *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic*

⁵ CGRFA-10/04/5/Add.1.

⁶ CGRFA-10/04/6.

⁷ CGRFA-10/04/Inf.3.

⁸ CGRFA-10/04/7.

⁹ CGRFA-10/04/9.

Resources process, and the further development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources.

The Third Session of the Working Group was held from 31 March to 2 April 2004, and its *Report* is before the Commission, for its consideration.¹⁰

4.3 Progress since the Ninth Regular Session of the Commission, including the Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources, in particular regarding the country-driven process for the preparation of the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources

The Commission, at its Ninth Regular Session, foresaw the completion of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* in 2006. It also considered the possibility of completing the process at a first international technical conference on animal genetic resources. At the Commission's request, its Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources reviewed progress at its Third Session in 2004. It recommended a revised schedule, by which the Commission would review the draft *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* in 2006, for adoption preferably during an intergovernmental technical conference in 2007. This revised schedule has accordingly been used in the preparation of the document, *Progress in the preparation of the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources and the Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*.¹¹ This provides information on the current status of this process, and an indication of the next steps and the financial resources required to complete it, for decision by the Commission, including in relation to the proposed international technical conference on animal genetic resources.

An indicative draft budget for the suggested international technical conference is given in the document, *Budgetary and other aspects of a possible international technical conference on animal genetic resources*,¹² and various suggestions are made as to how these resources could be mobilized.

The *Draft Outline for the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources including the Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*,¹³ revised, as requested by the Commission, by its Working Group, is before the Commission for approval. As also requested, the Working Group considered options for initiating a follow-up mechanism, to encourage and support implementation of country and regional priorities. The Working Group strongly recommended the establishment of such a mechanism as soon as possible, and requested FAO to further explore options for the Commission to consider: these are given in the document, *Initiation of the follow-up mechanism for the implementation of strategic priorities for action in animal genetic resources*.¹⁴

4.4 Future work of the Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources and election of its Members

The Working Group is composed of twenty-seven Members from the various regions, elected at each regular session of the Commission, and serving until the next regular session. They are eligible for re-election. An information document contains the Statutes of the Working Group and the list of

¹⁰ CGRFA-10/02/8 (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/REP).

¹¹ CGRFA-10/04/9.

¹² CGRFA-10/04/9Add.3.

¹³ CGRFA-10/04/9Add.2.

¹⁴ CGRFA-10/04/9Add.1.

Members, elected at the Ninth Regular Session.¹⁵ The Commission is invited to elect the new Members for the Working Group.

In each biennium, the Commission assigns specific tasks to its Working Groups, and the Commission is invited to do so for the forthcoming biennium. Attention is drawn to the proposal that the Working Group meet in early 2006 to review the draft *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, evaluate operations of the follow-up mechanism, prepare a draft agenda for an international technical conference on animal genetic resources, and review progress on the further development of the Global Strategy.

5. Consideration of FAO's policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity

FAO has regularly reported on its programmes, policies and activities on genetic resources for food and agriculture so that the Commission may provide guidance. The Sixth Session requested that this be a specific item in the agenda of regular sessions. This information is provided in the document, *Report from FAO on its policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity*:

- Under *Sectorial matters*,¹⁶ information is given on FAO's programmes and activities on a number of components of agricultural biodiversity: crops; farm animals; forestry; fishery; soil biota; and micro-organisms of relevance to food processing.
- Under *Cross-sectorial matters*,¹⁷ FAO's relevant programmes and activities on sustainable development; nutrition; economic and social matters; legal matters; and information, are described.
- Under *Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action (PAIAs)*,¹⁸ the PAIAs of relevance to agricultural biodiversity are described. The PAIAs are a new programming approach, which promotes a cross-sectorial, thematic focus within FAO's work, including on such areas as biological diversity, biotechnology, biosecurity, organic agriculture, multilateral trade negotiations, and ethics in food and agriculture.

Information is also given on FAO's technical consultations, training courses and workshops, and publications.¹⁹

6. Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity

The Commission regularly receives reports from relevant international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities of relevance to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. These reports contribute to understanding in this area between FAO and its Commission, and other international organizations, and to the development of appropriate mechanisms for cooperation and coordination. FAO accordingly invited such reports for the present session, and those already received are before the Commission in the documents, *Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity*; these include: reports from *United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations*;²⁰ reports from the *International Agricultural Research Centres*

¹⁵ CGRFA-10/04/Inf.2.

¹⁶ CGRFA-10/04/10.1.

¹⁷ CGRFA-10/04/10.2.

¹⁸ CGRFA-10/04/10.3.

¹⁹ CGRFA-10/04/10/Annex.

²⁰ CGRFA-10/04/11.1.

of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research;²¹ and reports from International Non-Governmental Organizations.²² Any reports received later will be made available in the language in which they are received.²³

At its Ninth Regular Session, the Commission suggested that, in future sessions, the opportunities be created to stimulate greater interaction between Members and the international organizations that contribute to efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity. The proposed timetable has taken into account this consideration, in the session on Wednesday, 10 November.

7. Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Commission, by its Statutes,²⁴ “facilitate[s] and oversee[s] cooperation between FAO and other international governmental and non-governmental bodies dealing with the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, in particular with the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity [...], and [...] seek[s] to develop appropriate mechanisms for cooperation and coordination.”

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention has over the years invited FAO to undertake a number of activities in support of its programmes of work, in particular through the Joint FAO/CBD Programme of Work on Agricultural Biological Diversity, and substantial activities are ongoing. A revised Memorandum of Cooperation between FAO and the Convention is in an advanced state of preparation, and will be put before the Commission, if ready. Practical arrangements for cooperation with the Convention would contribute to the achievement of the Convention’s objectives, and to those of the FAO, namely to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. It would allow national governments to better coordinate their activities in the environment and agriculture sectors, avoid duplication of efforts, and promote the optimal use of scarce resources.

The document, *Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*, reports on the current situation, and draws attention to the substantial resource implications for FAO’s Programme of Work and Budget, including staff resources. It notes, moreover, that the new Memorandum of Cooperation provides specifically for cooperation between the two organizations in mobilizing extra-budgetary resources to allow the implementation of agreed joint programmes. The guidance of the Commission is sought on all these matters.

Attention is drawn in the document to a number of recent requests by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention to the FAO and the Commission specifically, and guidance is invited on how to respond.

8. Progress report on the Draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it Relates to Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

In considering the *Code of Conduct* in its Ninth Regular session, and in order to avoid duplication of efforts and identify existing gaps, the Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a study, in order to identify what is done in other forums, what remains to be done, and which issues are relevant to FAO and in particular its Commission. The Secretariat was requested to consult, as appropriate, relevant international organizations. The study was carried out and is reported on in the document, *Progress report on the Draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it Relates to*

²¹ CGRFA-10/04/11.2.

²² CGRFA-10/04/11.3.

²³ CGRFA-10/04/11/Add.1.

²⁴ CGRFA-10/04/Inf.1.

Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.²⁵ The Commission considered that this study would help it to identify issues on which it should concentrate in the future, with respect to a code, guidelines, or other courses of action. The guidance of the Commission is now sought on these questions.

9. Future work of the Commission

The Commission, through the years, has played a key role in international policy development for agricultural genetic resources. The Tenth Regular Session marks the Commission's twentieth anniversary, and it may accordingly wish both to reflect on its past achievements and to lay the basis for its future activities. A clear vision for the future is needed, in order to keep pace of the ever more complex developments in other international forums of relevance to genetic resources for food and agriculture.

With the completion of the International Treaty, the Commission may wish to now consider its future work programme, bearing in mind the tasks it already has before it in relation to the Supporting Components of the International Treaty,²⁶ the ongoing process for the development of the *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*.²⁷ It may also consider that the development of a multi-year programme of work could facilitate coordination with the Convention on Biological Diversity,²⁸ and that this would allow the Commission's policy guidance to FAO be fully taken into account in FAO's rolling Medium Term Plan and programme and budgetary process.

The document, *Future work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,²⁹ reviews these questions, and the broadening of the work of the Commission, in the light of its mandate and of on-going scientific, technical and political developments. It seeks the guidance of the Commission regarding the preparation of a multi-year programme of work, for consideration by the Commission at its Eleventh Regular Session.

10. Other business

11. Date and place of the next Regular Session

12. Adoption of the Report

²⁵ CGRFA-10/04/13.

²⁶ CGRFA-10/04/3.

²⁷ CGRFA-10/04/9.

²⁸ CGRFA-10/04/13.

²⁹ CGRFA-10/04/14.

PROVISIONAL TIME-TABLE

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Monday, 8 November 2004			
morning			
10:00-12:00	1	Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs and opening ceremony	
12:00-13:00	2	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	CGRFA-10/04/2 CGRFA-10/04/1
Monday, 8 November 2004			
afternoon			
	3	Plant Genetic Resources	
15:00-17:00	3.1	Overview of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its potential contribution to the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-10/04/3
17:00 – 18:00	3.2	Report of the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-10/04/4 (CGRFA/WG-PGR-2/REPORT)
	3.3	Progress since the Ninth Regular Session of the Commission, including the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources	CGRFA-10/04/5 CGRFA-10/04/5 Add. 1 CGRFA-10/04/6
Tuesday, 9 November 2004			
morning			
9:30 – 11:00	3.3	Progress since the Ninth Regular Session of the Commission, including the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources	CGRFA-10/04/5 CGRFA-10/04/5 Add.1

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
		(continuation)	
	3.4	Future work of the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources and election of its Members	CGRFA-10/04/inf. 3
	4	Animal Genetic Resources	
11:00 – 12:30	4.1	Overview of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources	CGRFA-10/04/7
	4.2	Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-10/04/8 (GRFA/WG-AnGR-3/REPORT)
Tuesday, 9 November 2004			
afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	4.3	Progress since the Ninth Regular Session of the Commission, including the Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources, in particular regarding the country-driven process for the preparation of the first <i>Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources</i>	CGRFA-10/04/9 CGRFA-10/04/9 Add.1 CGRFA-10/04/9 Add.2 CGRFA-10/04/9 Add.3
	4.4	Future work of the Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources and election of its members	CGRFA-10/04/inf. 2
Wednesday, 10 November 2004			
morning			
09:30-11:30	8	Progress report on the <i>Draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it relates to Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-10/04/13
11:30-12:30	6	Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity	CGRFA-10/04/11.1 CGRFA-10/04/11.2 CGRFA-10/04/11.3 CGRFA-10/04/11 Add.1

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Wednesday, 10 November 2004 afternoon			
15:00 – 17:00	6	Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity (continuation)	
	7	Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity	CGRFA-10/04/12
Thursday, 11 November 2004 morning			
09:30-12:30	5	Consideration of FAO's policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity	CGRFA-10/04/10.1 CGRFA-10/04/10.2 CGRFA-10/04/10.3
Thursday, 11 November 2004 afternoon			
15:00-18:00	9	Future work of the Commission	CGRFA-10/04/14
	10	Other business	
	11	Date and place of the next session	
Friday, 12 November 2004 afternoon			
15:00-18:00	12	Adoption of the Report	