



Item 2 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Ninth Regular Session

Rome, 14 – 18 October 2002

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIME-TABLE

1. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs

The Chair of the Commission will open the meeting, which will then elect the new Chair and Vice-Chairs.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

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

3. Animal Genetic Resources

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

At its Eighth Regular Session, the Commission agreed that FAO should coordinate the development of a country-driven *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, and that its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources should meet, in order to clarify the framework, and better define and prioritize the constituent elements of the Global Strategy. The Second Session of the Working Group was held from 4-5 September 2000, and its Report is available as document CGRFA-9/02/3 (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-2/00/REP).

3.2 Progress Report on the development of the *First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* in the context of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources

Document CGRFA-9/02/4, *Progress Report on the development of the First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources in the context of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources*, provides information on the situation as at the end of May, 2002, when the document was prepared. It contains, as well, details on the implementation of the programme to date, a revised work programme and time-line for its successful completion, and information on financial support already obtained and on remaining financial needs.

The Commission is invited to provide guidance on completion of the process for the development of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, and the further development of the Global Strategy. This process foresees completing of the phase of country report development by August 2003, followed by the convening of regional meetings, to reach agreement on priorities for action at the regional level, and enable preparation of the Report on Strategic Priorities for Action, to be presented to the Commission at its Tenth Session. Drawing on experience gained in the processes for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, the Commission may consider the possibility of completing the process for animal genetic resources with the convening of the First Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The Commission is requested to recognize the need for extra-budgetary resources to ensure successful completion of the process, and complement the substantial support from the Regular Programme.

3.3 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. Document CGRFA-9/02/Inf.4 provides the list of Members of the Working Group, elected at the Commission's Eighth Regular Session.

In each biennium, the Commission assigns specific tasks to its Working Groups. It is proposed that the Working Group meet in 2003 to review progress in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*; provide advice on the Strategic Priority Actions Report; and provide recommendations on the final content and format of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resource*, prior to the Tenth Session of the Commission.

4. Plant Genetic Resources

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

Following the request of the Eighth Regular Session, the First Session of the Working Group was held in 2001 to guide the implementation and review of the *Global Plan of Action*. Its Report is available as document CGRFA-9/02/5 (CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/REP).

4.2 Implementing, and monitoring the implementation of, the *Global Plan of Action*, and preparation of the second Report on the *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*

The Working Group reviewed progress in the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* (para. 8-12 of the Working group's report). Document CGRFA-9/02/6, *Progress Report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action* takes into account the deliberations of the Working Group. The Working Group also considered proposals for monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, (para. 14-19 of the Working group's report), and agreed that the reporting format proposed should be further developed, through an expert group convened before the present session of the Commission. Document CGRFA-9/02/7, *Monitoring implementation of the Global Plan of Action: proposals for a reporting format*, reports on the outcome of this expert group. The Commission is requested to consider the proposals for endorsement.

The Working Group also discussed proposals and options for updating the *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*, and requested that a more detailed proposal be

presented to the Commission at its present session: this is in document CGRFA-9/02/8, *Preparation of the Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, which the Commission is requested to consider for endorsement.

4.3 Facilitating the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*

The Working Group considered options to facilitate the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* (para. 30-31 of the Working group's report), and requested that the concepts be elaborated further. Document CGRFA-9/02/9, *A Facilitating Mechanism for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action*, responds to the Working Group's request. The proposals are placed in the context of the Funding Strategy of the Treaty, foreseen by Article 18, for which a number of preparatory actions will be required in the interim period before the entry into force of the Treaty. The Commission is requested to give guidance for the further development of a facilitating mechanism.

4.4 Progress Reports on other elements of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The several documents under this item relate to elements of the Global System that are of particular relevance in the light of the adoption of the Treaty and its provisions regarding supporting components, in Part V. The guidance of the Commission is sought for the development of these elements in such a way that they may in due course be of use to the Governing Body in implementing the Treaty.

a. *Ex situ* collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the CGIAR and other international institutions

In accordance with Article 7.1a of the International Undertaking, the Commission established an International Network of *Ex-Situ* Collections under the Auspices of FAO. In 1994, twelve International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research brought their *ex situ* collections into the International Network. The International Agricultural Research Centres, when providing materials covered by the terms of their agreements with FAO, employ a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA), which is the product of consultations between the Centres and FAO and agreed by the Commission. In 1998, various governments holding Regional International Coconut Genebanks also brought these *ex situ* collections into the Network. A report on progress and developments since the Eighth Regular Session is in document CGRFA-9/02/11, *Report on the International Network of Ex Situ Collections under the Auspices of FAO*.

Document CGRFA-9/02/20, *Renewal of the Agreements between the International Agricultural Research Centres and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and Draft Revised Material Transfer Agreements (MTA)*, reports that in accordance with the provisions of these Agreements, they will automatically be renewed on 26 October 2002, for a further period of four years. At its Sixth Extraordinary Session, in June 2001 - during the final stages of the negotiations for the Treaty - the Commission adopted a Resolution¹ requesting FAO and the International Agricultural Research Centres to collaborate in the preparation of a revised MTA that, as appropriate, takes into account the provisions of the Treaty, for the

¹ *Appendix G* of its report (document CGRFA-Ex 6/01/REP).

consideration of the Commission at this session. *Annex 1* to document CGRFA-9/02/20 contains the proposed draft MTA for the interim period until the agreements provided in Article 15 of the Treaty, between the Centres and the Governing Body of the Treaty have been signed, following the entry into force of the Treaty.

b. International Plant Genetic Resources Networks

The Secretariat has regularly reported to the Commission on plant genetic resources networks, some of which have been supported by FAO and by IPGRI. Article 16 of the Treaty provides for existing cooperation in international plant genetic resources for food and agriculture networks to be encouraged or developed, in order to achieve as complete coverage as possible of these resources. Document CGRFA-9/02/12, *International Plant Genetic Resources Networks*, analyses existing international networks and seeks the guidance of the Commission on their possible role in the context of the Treaty.

c. The Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Working Group reviewed progress in the development of the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS), and recommended that it continue to be developed in a simple and cost-effective way (para. 26-29 of the Working group's report). Document CGRFA-9/02/10, *Progress report on the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, provides information on developments since the Commission's last Regular Session, and considers how the WIEWS might be further developed in the light of Article 17 of the Treaty, which foresees the development and strengthening of a global information system, based on existing information systems. Initial consultations have been held with other relevant organizations on this question. The Commission's guidance is sought to advance harmonious and synergistic developments.

d. *In situ* conservation areas

The Commission has called for the development of a network of *in situ* conservation areas, with emphasis on promoting economically and socially acceptable land-use options that include effective *in situ* conservation and use. The *Global Plan of Action* includes on-farm conservation as a priority area, and Article 9 of the Treaty, *Farmers' Rights*, contains provisions of particular importance to *in situ* conservation. Documents CGRFA-9/2/13 and CGRFA-9/2/13/Add.1, *Progress Report on the development of a network of in situ conservation areas*, provides the Commission with information on a path-breaking new FAO-UNDP GEF project, which aims to support and develop globally important ingenious agricultural heritage systems (GIAHS), which may serve as "lighthouses" for integrated and innovative approaches to *in situ* conservation. The advice of the Commission is sought regarding the possible role of GIAHS in the development of *in situ* conservation.

4.5 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. Document CGRFA-9/02/Inf.5 provides the list of Members of the Working Group, elected at the Eighth Regular Session.

In each biennium, the Commission assigns specific tasks to its Working Groups. In the coming biennium, the Commission may wish to assign to the Working Group the tasks of overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the *Global Plan of Action* and the preparation of the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*, and of further developing relevant technical elements of the Global System in such a way that they may in due course be of use to the Governing Body in implementing the Treaty.

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 Document CGRFA-9/02/14, *Report from FAO on its policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity*.

Documents CGRFA-9/02/14.1 and CGRFA-9/02/14.1/Annex provide information on *Sectorial matters*, covering a variety of components of agricultural biodiversity: crops; farm animals; forestry; fishery; soil biota; naturally occurring insects, bacteria and fungi relevant to integrated pest management; and micro-organisms of relevance to food processing.

Document CGRFA-9/02/14.2 provides information on *Cross-sectorial matters*, including FAO's relevant programmes and activities on sustainable development; economic and social matters; legal activities; and information activities.

Document CGRFA-9/02/14.3 for the first time provides information on FAO's new *Priority Areas for Interdisciplinary Action (PAIAs)*, which are of relevance to agricultural biodiversity. The PAIAs are a new programming approach which promotes a cross-sectorial, thematic focus to FAO's work.

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

Previous sessions of the Commission received reports from intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations on their programmes, policies and activities on genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission has regarded such reports "as an important contribution to its task in promoting coordination of activities in the field of agricultural biodiversity", and has "encouraged organizations to continue to submit reports to its regular sessions". FAO accordingly invited such reports for the present session, and those received in time are at the disposal of the Commission in documents CGRFA-9/02/15 and CGRFA-9/02/15/Add.1, *Reports from international organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity*. Document CGRFA-9/02/15.1 contains reports from *United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations*; document CGRFA-9/02/15.2 contains reports from the *International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research*; and document CGRFA-9/02/15.3 contains reports from *international non-governmental organizations*. Reports that are received later will be made available in the language in which they are received.

7. Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

FAO continues to cooperate with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in a number of ways. Throughout the negotiation of the Treaty, regular reports were made to the Conference of the Parties, which repeatedly gave its support and encouragement. Cooperation has recently developed between the International Plant Protection Convention and the CBD. FAO plays a leading role in the Joint FAO/CBD Programme of Work on Agricultural Biological Diversity. Moreover, a number of FAO

and the Commission's activities—such as its work on plant and animal genetic resources—are recognized by the Conference of the Parties as being of importance for the CBD. Document CGRFA-9/02/16 provides information on *Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity*.

In 1999, the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Agriculture discussed genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) and stressed FAO's role in providing a forum for countries to monitor food and agricultural biotechnology. In 2000, the Conference of the Parties requested FAO and the Commission to further study their potential implications and identify relevant policy options and socio-economic issues that may need to be addressed. The Commission's Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture accordingly reviewed a paper on the subject, and made recommendations for its further development before submission to the present session of the Commission. This is document CGRFA-9/02/17, *Potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) on agricultural biological diversity and agricultural production systems*. The Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD also addressed a number of further requests to FAO. The Commission is requested to endorse the document for transmission to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to give its advice on what further actions on the matter should be taken.

8. Report on the status of the Codes of Conduct

At its Eighth Session, the Commission requested the Secretariat to provide the present session with a report on the status of the draft *Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it relates to Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and the *International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer*, so that it can consider what action to take on these Codes of Conduct.

8.1 International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer

In 1993, the FAO Conference adopted the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer, that had been negotiated by the Commission. Document CGRFA-9/02/19 provides a *Report on the status of the International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer*. A survey of relevant laws and regulations shows that many countries make use of the *Code*, for example in providing guidance for collecting missions and in drafting their national legislation. In the light of the adoption of the International Treaty and other relevant developments, the Commission may wish, in due course, to consider updating certain elements of the *Code*.

8.2 Draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it Relates to Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

At the Commission's request, and following a comprehensive survey among stakeholders, and its deliberations on the subject in 1989 and 1991, the Commission considered a draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology in 1993. Its objectives were to maximise the potential benefits of biotechnology and minimise possible risks. In view of the priority given to the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking, the Commission decided to postpone further deliberations on the *Code* until the completion of these negotiations.

Document CGRFA-9/02/18, *The status of the draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it relates to Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Report of Surveys of FAO Members and Stakeholders*, analyses the replies of FAO Members and a wide variety of stakeholders to further surveys by the Secretariat regarding the continued relevance of the *Code*, its objectives and individual elements, as a framework for promoting appropriate biotechnologies, capacity-building, and international cooperation for the management of biotechnology for genetic resources for food and agriculture. While most considered the draft *Code* to be of continued relevance, and supported its continued development, it was recognized that there had been many new developments in biotechnologies, and that a fresh approach might be needed in its further development. Specific developments referred to in the

replies include: GURTs (the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the CBD invited FAO to consider GURTs in the further development of the *Code*), geneflow from genetically modified organisms, liability questions, ethical questions regarding transgenics, and the application of IPRs to genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission may wish to have general discussions on these issues and provide guidance on which new issues should be addressed in the context of the *Code* or through some other process and how to proceed in updating the draft *Code*. For ease of reference, the 1993 Draft *Code of Conduct* is made available in Document CGRFA-9/02/18/Annex.

9. Future work of the Commission

At its Seventh Session, the Commission agreed that the broadening of its mandate would be implemented in a step-by-step process, starting with animal and plant genetic resources. It accordingly established subsidiary intergovernmental technical working groups for these two sectors. The Commission has been invited to assign tasks for these groups under items 3.3 and 4.5. It may also wish to consider whether, when and how to implement its broadened mandate with respect to other sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including forestry, fisheries, and possibly other resources, such as micro-organisms, and insects relevant to food and agriculture.

10. Other business

11. Date and place of the next Regular Session

12. Adoption of the Report

PROVISIONAL TIME-TABLE

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Monday, 14 October 2002			
morning			
10:00-11:00	1	Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs	
11:00-12:00	2	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	CGRFA-9/02/2
	3	Animal Genetic Resources	
12:00-13:00	3.1	Report of the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-9/02/3 (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-2/00/REP)
Monday, 14 October 2002			
afternoon			
15:00-17:00	3.2	Progress Report on the development of the First <i>Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources</i> in the context of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources	CGRFA-9/02/4
17:00-18:00	3.3	Future work of the Working Group and election of its Members	CGRFA-9/02/Inf.4
Tuesday, 15 October 2002			
morning			
	4	Plant Genetic Resources	
09:30-10:30	4.1	Report of the First Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-9/02/5 (CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/REP)
10:30-11:30	4.2	Implementing, and monitoring the implementation of, the <i>Global Plan of Action</i> , and preparation of the second Report on the <i>State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources</i>	CGRFA-9/02/6 CGRFA-9/02/7 CGRFA-9/02/8 CGRFA-9/02/Inf.2

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
11:30-12:30	4.3	Facilitating the implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i>	CGRFA-9/02/9

**Tuesday, 15 October 2002
afternoon**

	4.4	Progress Report on other elements of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	
15:00-16:00	a.	<i>Ex situ collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the CGIAR and other international institutions</i>	CGRFA-9/02/11
16:00-17:00		<i>Renewal of the Agreements between the International Agricultural Research Centres and the FAO placing Collections of Plant Germplasm under the Auspices of the FAO</i>	CGRFA-9/02/20
17:00-18:00	b.	<i>International Plant Genetic Resources Networks</i>	CGRFA-9/02/12

**Wednesday, 16 October 2002
morning**

09:30-10:30	c.	<i>The Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-9/02/10
10:30-11:30	d.	<i>In situ conservation areas</i>	CGRFA-9/02/13 CGRFA-9/02/13/Add.1
11:30-12:30	4.5	Future work of the Working Group and election of its Members	CGRFA-9/02/Inf.5

**Wednesday, 16 October 2002
afternoon**

15:00-16:00	5	Consideration of FAO's policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity	CGRFA-9/02/14.1 CGRFA-9/02/14.1/Annex CGRFA-9/02/14.2
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Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
			CGRFA-9/02/14.3
16:00-17:00	6	Reports from International Organizations on their policies, programmes and activities on agricultural biological diversity	CGRFA-9/02/15.1 CGRFA-9/02/15.2 CGRFA-9/02/15.3 CGRFA-9/02/15/Add.1
17:00-18:00	7	Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity	CGRFA-9/02/16 CGRFA-9/02/17

**Thursday, 17 October 2002
morning**

	8	Report on the status of the Codes of Conduct	
09:30-10:30	8.1	International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collecting and Transfer	CGRFA-9/02/19
10:30-12:30	8.2	Draft Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it Relates to Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-9/02/18 CGRFA-9/02/18/Annex (CPGR/93/9)

**Thursday, 17 October 2002
afternoon**

15:00-16:00	9	Future work of the Commission	
16:00-17:00	10	Other business	
17:00-18:00	11	Date and place of the next session	

**Friday, 18 October 2002
afternoon**

15:00-18:00	12	Adoption of the Report	
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