



**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC  
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**Informal Meeting of Experts on the Implementation of the Sustainable Use of  
PGRFA and the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for the  
Sustainable Use of PGRFA**

**Bari, Italy 23 – 25 May 2018**

**Background Note**

**Introduction**

1. At its Seventh Session, by Resolution 6/2017, the Governing Body, requested the Secretary, in collaboration with other stakeholders, and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:  
*iii) explore the possibility of establishing a Joint Programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA involving relevant international organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to enhancing the mission and goals of the PoW beyond 2019 through the establishment of a long-term programme 2020-2030, for consideration by the Governing Body at its Eighth Session.*
2. This Informal Meeting is organized with the generous support of the government of Italy and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM), as a contribution to the process of exploring the possibilities of establishing of a Joint Programme, as requested by the Governing Body.
3. The Background Note, and related documents referenced therein,<sup>1</sup> contain details regarding the context and concept of the possible Joint Programme.
4. This annotated agenda provides the proposed structure for the discussions of the Informal Meeting of Experts on the Implementation of the Sustainable Use of PGRFA and the possible Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for the Sustainable Use of PGRFA.
5. The outcomes of the Informal Meeting will be presented to the Secretary of the International Treaty for consideration as possible input to the consultations of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA (ACSU).

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 6/2017, “Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture” <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv086e.pdf>

Resolution 6/2015 “Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture” <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl143e.pdf>

Document IT/GB-7/17/16 - Seventh session of the Governing Body Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October – 3 November 2017 “Implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture” <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mu386e.pdf>

Notification NCP GB7-025, 24 August 2017 “Exploring possibilities of establishing a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA” <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bs771e.pdf>

6. The meeting will be structured to promote informality and a frank exchange of views with others, as well as to explore ideas and creative options. Consequently, the meeting will be conducted under Chatham House Rules, meaning that the inputs, views, comments and suggestions provided by the Experts during the Meeting will not be attributed to individual participants and will not be considered as representing the position of their respective Governments or Organizations.
7. The meeting will be conducted in English.

### **Session I**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

8. The Secretary of the International Treaty will welcome the meeting participants and the local hosts, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM-IAM),<sup>2</sup> will provide a brief introduction of their institute and areas of work related to the sustainable use of PGRFA.
9. Participants will be invited to briefly introduce themselves and their work.
10. The Secretariat will provide an overview of the agenda, the main objectives of the meeting and relevant logistic information.

#### **2. The Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA (2016-2019)**

11. The Secretariat will provide a brief introduction to the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA 2016- 2019 and Supporting Initiatives (Programme of Work), and their implementation, followed by discussions and questions.
12. Experts will be invited to discuss the progress of the Programme of Work and how the possible Joint Programme could enhance the mission and goals of the Programme of Work beyond 2019.

### **Session II and III**

#### **3. Exchanging experiences, best practices and lessons learned on sustainable use of PGRFA**

##### **4. Identifying common needs and gaps**

##### **5. Exploring possibilities for a Joint Programme**

13. The facilitator will invite the Experts to identify common needs and gaps that will be collected for discussion and could be taken into account in exploring the possible establishment of a Joint Programme.
14. A number of Experts will present some existing initiatives, programmes and projects on sustainable use of PGRFA at national, regional and international levels, with a view to identifying opportunities for collaboration and coordination, as well as highlighting best practices and lessons learned that might be relevant for the possible establishment of a Joint Programme.
15. Taking into account the discussion and the outcomes of agenda items 3 and 4 and the relevant areas of work of the Treaty,<sup>3</sup> the Experts will be invited to:
  - provide advice on the elements of the possible scope, objectives and activities of the Joint

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.iamb.it/en>

<sup>3</sup> In particular the Articles 5, 6, 8, 9, 13.2 (a, b and c) and 16 of the Treaty

Programme of Work;

- identify opportunities for linkages, coordination and collaboration with other relevant programmes, projects and initiatives;
- explore the development of a concept note of the Joint Programme that could be submitted to donors and funding mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility, for support.

16. The meeting may, where appropriate, be broken into sub-groups for more detailed deliberation, and will be supported by a facilitator.

### **6. Wrap up and closure of the meeting**

17. The Facilitator/Secretariat will summarize the main outcomes of the meeting and provide final closing remarks.