



RATIONALE AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING COORDINATION MECHANISM (CBCM)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The national and regional implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the “Treaty”) will require extensive capacity building at the different policy and administrative levels in all areas concerned by the Treaty’s provisions. Capacity building initiatives will have to include a broad range of activities, including inter alia legislative advice, administrative support, infrastructure building and human resources development.
2. It should be noted that the International Treaty is an *operational* Treaty, which establishes functional systems (in particular the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing). It needs to process hundreds of daily transactions on a concrete, practical and coherent manner by numerous actors and institutions. The success and future of the Treaty will depend on this practical functioning of its systems.
3. It is important to recognize the distinction in capacity building between:
 - General Capacity Building in Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CB-PGRFA), as part of the benefit-sharing mechanisms of the Multilateral System, in accordance with Article 13.2 (c)¹, and
 - Capacity building “*for the full implementation of this Treaty, keeping in view its objectives*”² (CB-IT) which includes the various provisions of the International Treaty, including : Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterization, Evaluation and Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources, Farmers’ Rights, and the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing.

¹ Taking into account the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as expressed through the priority they accord to building capacity in plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in their plans and programmes, when in place, in respect of those plant genetic resources for food and agriculture covered by the Multilateral System, the Contracting Parties agree to give priority to (i) establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, (ii) developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, and (iii) carrying out scientific research preferably, and where possible, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in cooperation with institutions of such countries, and developing capacity for such research in fields where they are needed. (Article 13.2 (c))

² Art.19.3

4. In order to cover these diverse demands for capacity building, the expertise and resources of many national, and international organizations and institutions will be needed. Only through joint and collaborative efforts can the specific needs for capacity building of all Contracting Parties be met.
5. At its Second Session, in 2007, the Governing Body of the Treaty decided to establish a Coordination Mechanism for Capacity Building for the national and regional implementation of the Treaty, with the overall goal to ensure that capacity is built in a coherent, coordinated, equitable and regionally balanced way, which reflects the actual needs of Contracting Parties and stakeholders and follows the guidance of the Governing Body. The Coordination Mechanism will be operated by the Secretariat of the Treaty under the guidance of the Governing Body.

II. RATIONALE AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

6. The key element of the Capacity Building Coordination Mechanism (CBCM) will be a platform of providers of capacity building. This platform will serve organizations and institutions involved in capacity building activities for the implementation of the Treaty as a central point for information exchange and coordination on capacity building initiatives around the world.
7. The platform will be formed by the actual providers of capacity building for the implementation of the Treaty, i.e. staff from international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, bilateral development aid agencies, private foundations etc. They will participate in the regular meetings of the platform (two meetings are foreseen for every inter-sessional period), representing their respective organisation or institution but not acting as representatives of the Contracting Parties of the Treaty.
8. The platform will give providers of capacity building the opportunity to build a common understanding of the Treaty and its implementation requirements, and to discuss the provisions of the Treaty and the decisions of its Governing Body in the different areas of implementation.
9. The Secretariat conducts regular assessments of Contracting Parties' needs and priorities for capacity building for Treaty implementation. It also constantly receives requests from individual countries and communities for specific capacity building activities. The Coordination Mechanism will facilitate the channelling of these needs and priorities and will help in matching the demand for capacity building with available supply.
10. The meetings will also enable a regular stocktaking of past and ongoing capacity building projects and programmes undertaken by different national, and

international organizations and institutions, thereby allowing an assessment of who is doing what, where and how. This information will facilitate the identification of gaps in the geographic and thematic coverage of capacity building initiatives. Therefore, it will enable the efficient and effective coordination of the various ongoing and planned activities and facilitate more efficient allocation of scarce resources by providers.

11. The sharing of lessons learned from past and ongoing capacity building initiatives will enable the members of the platform to identify best practices and refine appropriate methodologies for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of capacity building activities for Treaty implementation. Furthermore, ways and means of addressing identified challenges and obstacles, and of finding solutions to potential problems will be discussed.
12. The CBCM will channel the experiences gained in the process of capacity building activities to the Governing Body and indicate areas where further guidance from the Governing Body may be required. Thus, it provides a vehicle for the providers of capacity building on Treaty implementation to receive recognition and feedback from the Governing Body of the Treaty for their contributions to the implementation of the Treaty.