

September 2013



# The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



E

<b>Item 21 of the Provisional Agenda</b>
<b>FIFTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY</b>
<b>Muscat, Oman, 24 – 28 September 2013</b>
<b>DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR THE 2014-15 BIENNIUM – ADDENDUM 2</b>
<b>Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes: Report on activities in 2012-13 and projects proposed for further donor support</b>

---

### *Note by the Secretary*

---

1. *Financial Rule VI.2b* makes provision for donors to be able to make available “special funds for agreed purposes”—outside any contributions they make to the Core Administrative Budget, in accordance with their obligations as Contracting Parties—to support to project activities of value to the Treaty. Accordingly, document IT/GB-4/11/27 Add.1 provided a brief description of projects and activities for the 2012-13 biennium which were considered to greatly increase the effectiveness of the overall implementation of the Treaty and which were welcomed by the Fourth Session of the Governing Body (Addendum 1 of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2012-13 biennium).

2. This document is an updated version of the document IT/GB-4/11/27 Add.1 which provides a brief updated description of continuing projects that reflects progress made during the current biennium and addresses the needs expressed by stakeholders during the inter-sessional period. It is accordingly proposed to invite donors from Contracting Parties, Inter-Governmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, and other entities to consider funding them, on an extra-budgetary basis, through the Special Funds.

3. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the proposed donor-supported projects, and should it so wish, suggest priorities to donors considering providing funds for project activities

---

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

---

	<i>Para.</i>
I. Introduction	1-9
II. Financial situation of the Special Fund at 30 June 2013	10-11
III. Outcome of donor supported activities in the 2012-13 biennium	12-15
IV. Donor-funded projects for which funding will be sought	16

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document is presented to the Governing Body as an addendum to the draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2014-15 biennium, and may also be read as an update of document IT/GB-4/11/27 Add.1 and a complement to document IT/GB-5/13/24, Financial Report on Progress of the Work Programme and Budget for the 2012-13 Biennium. The information provided in the document gives proper recognition to the actual role that has been played by the Special Funds in the implementation of the International Treaty, and provides a more precise basis for programming the future donor-supported projects, funded through the Special Funds.

2. The Special Funds for Agreed Purposes are established under *Financial Rule VI.2 b*, which states that FAO shall maintain for the International Treaty,

*“... Special Funds, for purposes consistent with the objectives and the scope of the Treaty to which shall be credited receipts of all contributions made by Contracting Parties [...], and by States that are not Contracting Parties, by intergovernmental organizations, by non-governmental organizations, or other entities ...”.*

3. *Financial Rule V.1d* characterizes these funds as:

*“Other voluntary contributions made by the Contracting Parties [in addition to contributions to the Core Administrative Budget] to be used in accordance with guidelines established by the Governing Body, or for purposes specified by agreement between the contributor and the Secretary”.*

4. As section III of this document shows, the Special Funds have made substantial contributions during the current biennium, as in the past biennia, to advancing the Treaty and supporting effective implementation of its key functional systems and processes. Funding those supporting activities, the Special Funds have thereby leveraged and enhanced the impacts of core activities carried out under the Core Administrative Budget.

5. The contributions of extra-budgetary funds are also important in regard to human resources. Projects funded on an extra-budgetary basis are self-standing, and provide for the human resources necessary to carry them out during the project life. The Treaty Secretariat has been, at various times, benefited from such professional staff funded under projects supported by Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain and Switzerland, especially in the area of capacity-building for developing countries.

6. The Special Funds has played a critical role especially in the start-up phase of the Treaty, since it is largely thanks to these funds that it has been possible to implement the Treaty to its current extent. As was reported to the Governing Body at its Third Session, the implementation of a large portion of the Treaty’s Work Programme in the 2008-09 biennium was only possible due to the exceptional generous agreement of two Contracting Parties, who allowed the temporary use of moneys donated to the Special Fund to implement elements of the Core Work Programme, in a context where Contracting Parties collectively provided less than half of the Core Administrative Budget that the Governing Body adopted.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, this borrowing resulted in delivery of a lower level of programmed assistance to developing countries in support for the better implementation of the Treaty.

7. It should yet be recalled that moneys held in the Special Funds for Agreed Purposes (either on a multi-donor basis or as individual accounts) are not fungible with the Core Administrative Budget and shall not be routinely transferred from one to the other. The funds in the Core Administrative Budget are contributed by Contracting Parties to the collectively agreed biennial Core Work Programme, whereas individual donors provide Special Funds for specific agreed activities between them and the Secretary, outside the Core Work Programme.

---

<sup>1</sup> More detailed information is given in sections II(e) and (f) of document IT/GB-4/11/26, *Work Programme and Budget 2010/11: Financial Report*.

8. As noted in the Financial Report, there is a real probability that the Special Funds will be exhausted during the next biennium. It is therefore urgent that further donor funds become available, in order to maintain the momentum of the Treaty and sustain its growth and necessary evolution to be realized in the coming years. Section IV of the document lists projects for which donor support will be sought. As it will be seen, all the programmes proposed are to extend on-going activities which were welcomed by the Third and Fourth Sessions of the Governing Body and have been playing critical supportive roles for the implementation of priority areas under the Core Work Programme, while updating activities to reflect the needs expressed by stakeholders during the inter-sessional period. The Governing Body therefore wishes to recognize the generous contributions provided thus far, and urge donors to make further contributions for the activities presented in Section IV.

9. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the proposed donor-supported projects and, should it so wish, suggest priorities to donors considering providing funds for proposed activities.

## II. FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE SPECIAL FUND

10. The carry-over from the 2010/11 biennium of this multi-donor fund (main account, excluding 'baby projects') was USD 459,368 representing, essentially, the balance of moneys contributed by Italy and Spain. It should be noted that project duration, start-up date and end date are independent of the Treaty's biennial budgets. Projects, therefore, are not restricted to similar two-year cycles.

11. During the current biennium, further contributions totalling USD 1,730,094 have been received from the Governments of Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom (the latter being to cover the cost of a specific meeting). Given the current level of expenditures for agreed activities and the fact that the balance on this Trust Fund at 30 June 2013 was less than USD 500 thousand, the 2013 year-end balance is currently projected at less than USD 250 thousand, to carry forward into 2014. The possibility of repayment of the borrowing that occurred in the 2008-09 biennium against these funds will be confirmed after the present session of the Governing Body. This will certainly improve the situation of the Special Funds in the short term but it must be recalled again that these funds are to be used to implement activities originally agreed with the donors (Italy and Spain) and accordingly, cannot be utilized to fund other activities or for initiating new activities in the next biennium. There are currently no uncommitted resources available in the Special Funds.

## III. OUTCOME OF DONOR SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES UNDER THE SPECIAL FUND IN THE 2012-13 BIENNIUM

12. Certain activities that were welcomed under the Special Fund for the 2012-13 biennium by the Fourth Session of the Governing Body have been implemented to the level of the funds available, as shown below.<sup>2</sup>

13. As seen from the table below, most of the activities planned under Addendum 1A have not been undertaken due to the lack of funding. In regard to the Meeting costs of activities of the Core Implementing Functions, some meetings were undertaken, such as *Ad Hoc* Committees on the MLS and SMTA, the Funding Strategy, and Conservation and Sustainable Use, whereas other meetings did not take place due to the lack of funding. Thanks to the contributions provided by the Government of the United Kingdom, the Compliance Committee was also able to meet and develop a number of legal documents, including Rules of Procedures for the operation of the Committee, that are submitted for the consideration of the Governing Body at its Fifth Session.

---

<sup>2</sup> As listed in the *Addendum 1A and 1B to Annex 1* of Resolution 9/2011.

**Addendum 1A**

Activity	Status		
	Completed	In Process	Not Completed due to lack of funding
Resource Mobilization Officer (P5, 12 m/m)			✓
Meeting costs of activities of the Core Implementing Functions			✓
Compliance Committee	✓		
Operating the Capacity-building Coordination Mechanism			✓

**Addendum 1B**

Activity	Status		
	Completed	In Process	Not Undertaken due to lack of funding
Benefit-sharing Support Programme of the Treaty		✓	
Harmonious Implementation of the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol		✓	
Outreach, Awareness-Raising and Promotion of the Treaty		✓	
The Joint Implementation Programme for Capacitybuilding, Phase II			✓
Training Programme on the International Treaty		✓	
Article 17 and the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture		✓	
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture		✓	

14. Highlights of the results of activities undertaken in the 2012-13 biennium to date are given below:

***The Multilateral System***

- a) Easy-SMTA has been further developed and expanded during the current biennium, thanks to the funds provided by Spain and communication and training material have been developed and distributed.
- b) Liaison and assistance to capacity-building for the MLS users have been provided.

***Harmonious Implementation of the Treaty, and the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol***

Significant progress has been made in the close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity through a range of joint activities and mutually supportive initiatives. The two Secretariats concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Initiative, which together provide useful frameworks to continue the current joint activities and future collaborative work, in particular on capacity building and awareness-raising.

***Implementation of the Funding Strategy***

Since the Fourth Session of the Governing Body, the Treaty has made good progress in the implementation of the Funding Strategy. Cultivations events for potential donors have proved to be the Treaty's most effective resource-mobilization tool. During the current biennium a series of cultivation events have been organized especially through high level events at the margins of important UN meeting, such as ECOSOC and Rio+20.

***Management of the Benefit-sharing Fund***

- a) The final report on the results of the first round of the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund was published in early 2013.
- b) The second round of the project cycle is currently under implementation as has been reported to the Governing Body, the Bureau and the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy.
- c) Providing expert advice for the design and execution of the third round of the project cycle has been one of the key focus areas of work by the Secretariat, the Bureau and the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy during the current biennium. The design is based on the Report on the lessons learned from the execution of the first and second rounds of the project cycle.

***Training Programme on the International Treaty***

For the series of the educational modules published since 2011, during the current biennium, the Treaty Secretariat has developed the *Funding Strategy Module*, which is expected to be published after the Fifth Session of the Governing Body at the end of 2013. Preliminary work on the Module on Farmers' Rights has also been initiated, which requires additional funding and support for the finalization. Initial efforts to establish the network of training institutions to teach and disseminate the training materials on the Treaty were commenced.

***Sustainable use of PGRFA***

- a) A toolbox on the sustainable use of PGRFA was further developed.
- b) Considerable progress was made on a Public-Private Partnership for Pre-breeding with the Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB) under the Treaty.
- c) Significant progress was made through preparatory policy and technical work for the creation of a platform for the co-development and transfer of technology.

15. The above activities, which have greatly contributed to considerable progress made by the Treaty in the further operationalization and implementation of its key systems, were only possible thanks to the resources provided under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes by those generous and committed donors.

#### **IV. DONOR-FUNDED PROJECTS FOR WHICH FUNDING WILL BE SOUGHT**

16. The supporting activities proposed for donor-funding in the 2014-15 biennium and beyond include the following (listed by order of proposed priority):

1. The Benefit-sharing Support Programme of the Treaty
2. Harmonious implementation of the Treaty, and the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol
3. Outreach, Awareness-raising and Promotion of the Treaty
4. The Joint Capacity-Building Programme
5. Training programme on the Treaty
6. The Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Article 17 of the Treaty
7. Conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

##### **1. The Benefit-sharing Support Programme of the Treaty**

Within a short period of time since its inception, the Treaty has been recognized as a world-leading instrument promoting innovative benefit-sharing mechanisms to support food security, climate change adaptation and agricultural biodiversity. Through its four novel mechanisms - monetary benefit-sharing, technology transfer, information-exchange and capacity-building - the Treaty has shown the effective way of implementing benefit-sharing principles for genetic resources globally. In particular, the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund has been established to substantially increase resources to invest in crop diversity, which would lead to increased food security for all. The Benefit-sharing Fund is investing on high-impact projects, focusing on helping vulnerable farmers and their communities enhance food security and adapt to climate change. The Benefit-sharing Fund's project investment values are transparency, accountability and impact. The increasing profile of the Treaty requires strengthening and supporting the operations of the Benefit-sharing Fund. In addition, the non-monetary benefit-sharing mechanisms, namely technology-transfer, information-exchange and capacity-building, need to be further developed and supported.

In order to keep up the momentum, and consolidate the Treaty as a key and solid international operational instrument for sharing the benefits arising from the use of genetic diversity, the project will:

- Generate and disseminate information on results and success stories arising from Benefit-sharing Fund projects for future replication;
- Scale up the approach and thematically focus of the *Call for Proposals 2010* of the Benefit-sharing Fund, in order to develop a results-driven mid-term plan for the Benefit-sharing Fund;
- Complete the partnership architecture and arrangements for the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund with high fiduciary standards and consult partners to develop innovative mechanisms for the use of funds available in the Fund;
- Conduct a number of supplementary research and compile findings on the expansion of monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing through effective measures and the enhancement of all benefit-sharing mechanisms of the Treaty;

- Develop innovative approaches to mobilize resources for the Benefit-sharing Fund, engage with private sector donors, and customize funding proposals for multi-year commitments of philanthropists and other donors;
- Support the development of multi-stakeholder platforms on voluntary benefit-sharing schemes for the Fund, such as technology transfer, with the participation of the private sector;
- Conduct a survey and prepare pilot cases studies on successful non-commercial benefit-sharing, in order to learn lessons for operationalizing non-commercial benefit-sharing mechanisms of the Treaty;
- Create and promote operational schemes for sharing non-monetary benefits under the Treaty (exchange of information; access to and transfer of technology; capacity-building) and share information and data arising from such schemes and other experiences, such as the Fund projects, through multi-stakeholders platforms; and
- Facilitate voluntary contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund and high-level discussions on monetary and non-monetary benefits, through the organization of future High Level Round Tables on the International Treaty.

**Timing:** 2 years

**Estimated Cost:** USD 2 million

## **2. Harmonious Implementation of the Treaty, and the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol**

The objectives of the Treaty will be attained by closely linked with the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Governing Body has repeatedly stressed the need to enhance such links. The Convention's Conference of the Parties, in adopting the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, formally recognized the Treaty as one of the complementary instruments that constitute the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing. The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing is widely recognized as the most advanced and operational international access and benefit-sharing system for any genetic resources.

Further to the progress made thus far, this project will continue to build upon the synergies between the Treaty and the Convention, for their harmonious implementation. This will be achieved through:

- Jointly hosting a forum for promoting coherence between the implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System;
- Joint capacity-building workshops for the national focal points and competent authorities of both agreements;
- Joint awareness-raising and technical activities at the national level;
- Technical and expert advice to governments for the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System;
- Provision of support for achieving the objectives of the Strategic Plans of Contracting Parties, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in line with respective mandates of the two agreements;
- Provision of support in the revisions and implementation of updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs) to ensure that the objectives of the Treaty are fully taken into account as a matter of priority;

- Studies on the legal and technical aspects of the interfaces between the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System;
- Joint development of training materials on the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System, including the Benefit-sharing Fund; and
- Preparation of joint decision-support tools for relevant ministries in implementing the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System, and joint development of specialized awareness-raising and outreach material on the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol.

These activities aim at:

- Enhanced policy coherence between the implementation of the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, and the International Treaty, in particular its Multilateral System;
- Improved structuring of the technical and operational interfaces between the functioning of the Multilateral System and the Nagoya Protocol on a day-to-day basis;
- Enhanced collaboration and coordination between the national focal points of the Treaty and their counterpart national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity on all relevant processes;
- Exploring practical ways that identify and reinforce mutual coordinated support for the implementation of relevant Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the Governing Body and Conference of Parties to the CBD respectively, and, after the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol the decisions of the MOP of the Protocol;
- More coherent and consistent mutually supportive implementation of both the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level;
- Better awareness about the Treaty among all stakeholders in the Convention process, in particular the Nagoya implementation process; better coordination between the Convention and the Treaty processes in the implementation of their complementary Access and Benefit-sharing systems; and
- Better awareness about the complementarity and synergies between the Protocol and the Treaty at international and national level.

**Timing:** 2 years

**Estimated cost:** 750,000USD

### **3. Outreach, Awareness-raising and Promotion of the Treaty**

In the rapidly changing environment surrounding the Treaty, there is a continuous and strong need for the Treaty community to raise greater public awareness and recognition by policy-makers in sectors related to food security, agriculture and biodiversity, but also in the environment and climate change areas. The increasing portfolio of the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund, following the implementation of the second project cycle, and field activities undertaken worldwide in support of conservation and sustainable use in collaboration with implementing partners, has been a key asset to generate media impact and recognition for the work of the Treaty community. To maximize this impact and increase resource mobilization efforts in order to further advance the Treaty implementation, enhanced outreach and dissemination of increased information must continue in the next biennium so as to achieve better publicity among various stakeholders and the public in general.

The following activities would sustain the Treaty's relevance, and especially capitalize the successful implementation of the projects of the Benefit-sharing Fund:

- Increase visibility of the Treaty's activities by: disseminating non-technical reports and information on events through press notes in several languages; information on progress

made for resources mobilization and the establishment of new partnerships through the Treaty website; and reach-out through other media channels, such as articles and feature stories highlighting the impact on the lives of common people, television appearances, and other types of press coverage; the organization of pilot communication campaigns in five selected countries; the planned development of engagement with social media (public-to-public communication) and the maintenance of distribution databases.

- Continue to showcase the achievements of the Benefit-Sharing Fund projects through: systematically compiling, selecting and distributing multimedia material from field projects; provision of story ideas, updated background information and templates for customization and dissemination at the local level; facilitating public media and social media interviews with project managers, farmers, researchers and local beneficiaries; developing a short video – for donors and for the general public.
- Continue to showcase the achievements of the Multilateral System through: systematically compiling and distributing SMTA data, conducting case studies on the facilitated exchange of PGRFA under the MLS, the productive use of PGRFA for agricultural research and pre-breeding; facilitating public media and social media interviews with MLS users; developing a short video – for donors and for the general public.
- Update the 2012 Treaty Media Support Kit in all official languages to facilitate national communication campaigns and general awareness-raising in order to strengthen national outreach capacities; gather and share successful communications experiences and lessons from five selected countries; select high quality communications products on the Treaty made by partner organizations; expand collaboration with the FAO national teams.
- Establish an information network for National Focal Points to familiarize them with the Treaty's activities.
- Continue the publication of the Treaty's newsletter for non-technical audiences, as well as the production of policy briefings for policy-makers.
- Provide support for the Treaty's ratification campaigns to rapidly increase the Treaty's membership.

These activities aim at:

- Increasing capacity at the national level for participation in the on-going communication and awareness-raising efforts of the Treaty; and
- Increasing the capacity of stakeholders to convey key messages, elaborate communication materials, organize and coordinate social media campaigns and disseminate information on the implementation of the Treaty, including field activities of the Benefit-Sharing Fund projects.

**Timing:** 2 years

**Estimated cost:** USD 950.000

#### **4. The Joint Capacity-Building Programme**

Capacity-building for Contracting Parties is a main operational component of the Treaty. It promotes and sustains the comprehensive and balanced implementation of the provisions of the Multilateral System by developing countries. The Joint Capacity-building Programme, established by the Treaty Secretariat, FAO, and Biodiversity International, has played a vital role in this regard, and, in the first two years of its existence, improved knowledge of the Multilateral System and its systems among stakeholders, and upgraded the relevant legal and administrative infrastructure in selected regional organizations and countries. Thanks to the funding provided by the Netherlands to Biodiversity International, the programme has begun its second phase in the current biennium in eight countries.

The rapidly evolving international policy and legal environment, following the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol and its likely entry into force in the upcoming biennium, makes it imperative to maintain the Treaty's relevance and visibility through an augmented capacity-building function at regional and national levels, in coordination with wider access and benefit-sharing initiatives, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Multilateral System within, or in parallel with, new or upgraded access and benefit-sharing frameworks.

Under this project, FAO and Bioversity International, under the overall coordination of the Treaty Secretariat, and in cooperation on an *ad hoc* basis with other institutions, will deliver tailor-made technical assistance to regional organizations and developing country Contracting Parties in support of implementing the Multilateral System, including in the context of wider access and benefit-sharing frameworks.

The project will aim at facilitating policy dialogue and operative coordination between authorities responsible for the Treaty implementation and environmental authorities in charge for ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. It will also enable all Contracting Parties to document their plant genetic resources that are part of the Multilateral System, and put in place the legal and administrative measures required to provide facilitated access under Standard Material Transfer Agreements to such resources.

**Timing:** 4 years

**Estimated Cost:** USD 1 – 1.5 million per biennium

## 5. Training Programme on the International Treaty

In the previous biennia, the Secretariat has developed, published and distributed a set of training materials with the financial support from the Governments of Switzerland, Italy and Spain. A wide group of experts and partner organizations have been involved in the different phases of this process from the review of the curriculum outline to the actual writing and peer-review of the chapters and educational modules. Since early 2011, the Treaty Secretariat has published two modules *Introduction to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and *Conservation and Sustainable Use*. For the 2014-15 biennium, the Secretariat foresees the finalization of the module on Farmer's Rights and the development of the one on the Multilateral System. Moreover, it plans to further disseminate and adapt these materials through the establishment of a network of partners such as universities, research and extension centres and academic networks operating in the field of direct education.

To complement these training materials, the project also foresees the organization of a series of training workshops for stakeholders, including National Focal Points and project coordinators of the first and second project cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund. The workshops will have three main elements:

- Increase the knowledge of the participants on the Treaty and its components;
- Strengthen their capacities on the functioning and use of the Multilateral System and the Standard Material Transfer Agreement; and
- Train participants about the different modalities for benefit-sharing and the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund.

**Timing:** 2 years

**Estimated Cost:** USD 800,000

## 6. Article 17 and the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Article 17 of the Treaty states that “*Contracting Parties shall cooperate to develop and strengthen a global information system to facilitate the exchange of information, based on existing information systems, on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.*”

The large number of on-going initiatives with diverse nature and scope and the variety of stakeholders involved in this area require the establishment of strategic partnerships to allow them to collaborate and provide more effective and coordinated support of plant breeding and for the implementation of the Multilateral System. In order to facilitate the advancement in the development of the Global Information System foreseen in Article 17, with the funding pledged by Germany, a consultation process is planned to take place during the 2014-15 biennium. This funding would allow for an initial global discussion on harmonization and sharing of data on PGRFA through consultation among experts from Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders. It would also allow for the preparation of a report on existing gaps for the development and strengthening of the System and for the conduct of a world survey on users’ needs by target groups.

Another set of important activities, that would require additional funding, would be for the Treaty’s Secretariat to expand partnerships with some of the major systems and initiatives, including Genesys, FAO-NISM, GRIN and others. Further, the Secretariat has been also requested to put in place a universal access gateway to available information and databases or to advance in the collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Clearing House Mechanism at technical level as follows:

- On inventories and databases on PGRFA maintained by strategic initiatives and networks;
- On harmonization and sharing of data on PGRFA;
- On the linkages with the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Clearing House Mechanism and with other Multilateral Environment Agreements;
- Further develop and distribute the informatics tools of CAPFITOGEN and provide technical support for their adoption in interested developing countries.

The planned report will form the basis for the elaboration of a strategic work plan and a pilot Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

**Timing:** 2 years

**Estimated Cost:** USD 600.000

## **7. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

Promoting sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, as described in the Treaty, requires the development and maintenance of a broad spectrum of policy, legal and technical measures and depends on the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers and farmer’s organizations, public and private institutions. This project, in partnership with relevant organizations and institutions, will take the leading role in the implementation of the activities contained in the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use contained in the document IT/GB-5/13/9 (Table 1 and in Appendix I and II).

The project aims to play a catalytic role in:

- Identifying a series of supporting measures for Contracting Parties;
- Positioning the Treaty adequately vis-à-vis other relevant international processes and mechanisms in terms of governance and technical implementation;
- Implementing the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use contained in the document IT/GB-5/13/9 (Table 1 and in Appendix I and II);

- Provide a platform for stakeholders who are interested in investing on sustainable use of plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; and
- Promoting partnerships and cooperative activities and international, regional and national level.

**Timing:** 4 years

**Estimated Cost:** USD 1.5 million