



6 April 2017

Concept Note

Strengthening national capacities on plant genetic resources in the Near East and North Africa Region in the context of the Global Information System of Article 17 of the International Treaty

The objective of the workshop is to enhance both individual and institutional capacities in Contracting Parties to document and exchange information on plant genetic resources (PGR) in the context of the Global Information System. The ultimate aim is to contribute to the ongoing efforts for the establishment of a coordination mechanism for PGRFA documentation and information sharing in the Near East and North Africa Region and facilitate the adoption of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs).

The workshop is organised by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) in collaboration with the National Genebank of Egypt and the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa and with the financial support of the Government of Germany through project GCP/GLO/685/GER.

This event builds on recent coordination efforts and activities in the region developed by the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA).

Workshop activities

The provisional agenda of the workshop includes an overview on the Programme of Work on GLIS, and the promotion of standards and tools which will facilitate the registration and identification of PGRFA material in the Global Information System. Exchange of information is also envisaged on the current status of cooperation, national capacities and needs regarding plant genetic resources documentation and information sharing to facilitate their conservation and use.

Some of the presentations will focus on:

- Standards, descriptors and guidelines required for assigning Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to PGR, and registration of material in the Global Information System;
- Tools and information management systems: Capfitogen, GRIN-Global, Genesys; EURISCO;
- Easy-SMTA and the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. Reporting to the Governing Body and use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreements;
- Methods for integrity checks on data exchange, for the conversion, harmonisation and publication of data in GLIS; Online Reporting System on the Implementation of the International Treaty and monitoring of the Global Plan of Action on PGRFA.

Target participants

Genebank curators, plant breeders, geneticists, *in situ*/CWR experts, bioinformaticians and information specialists of the NENA region.