



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Operations and Implementation of the Programme of Work

1st Scientific Advisory Committee on GLIS

24-25 November 2016, Rome

Secretariat of the International Treaty, FAO

www.fao.org/plant-treaty

Drivers for the development of GLIS

- What the Treaty says
- What the Governing Body decides
- What the user community wants
- What the developers can deliver
- What the SAC advises

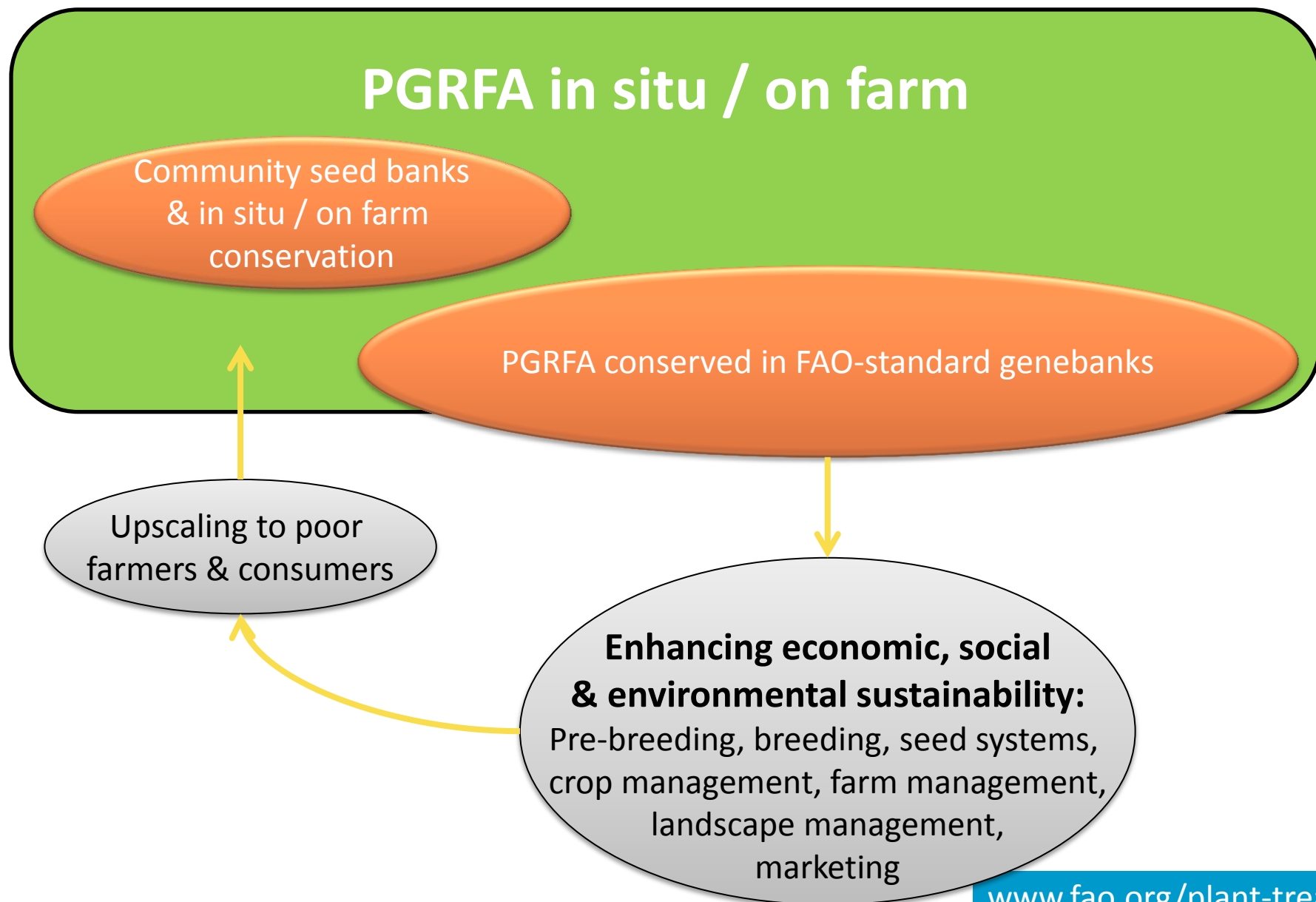
What the Treaty says

- 17.1 Contracting Parties shall cooperate to develop and strengthen a GLIS to facilitate the exchange of information, based on existing information systems, on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to PGRFA**
- 17.2 Early warning should be provided about hazards
- 17.3 Contracting Parties shall cooperate with the CGRFA in its periodic reassessment of the SOW to facilitate updating the rolling GPA

What the Treaty says

- **Objectives:** conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use
- **PGRFA:** any genetic material of plant origin of actual or potential value for food and agriculture
 - Not just *in situ* and *ex situ*/on farm conservation

Conservation and sustainable use



Implications for GLIS

GLIS must accommodate users who have:

- No knowledge of the Treaty or MCPD
 - 90% of providers & recipients?
- Widely different standards for management of data on PGRFA
 - No fixed standards
 - Standards varying between laboratories
 - Rigorous standards not FAO genebank + MCPD
 - Disagreement with MCPD / accession concepts

What the Governing Body says: SMTA article 6.9

The Recipient shall make available to the MLS, through the GLIS, all non-confidential information that results from research and development carried out on the Material

Compliance?

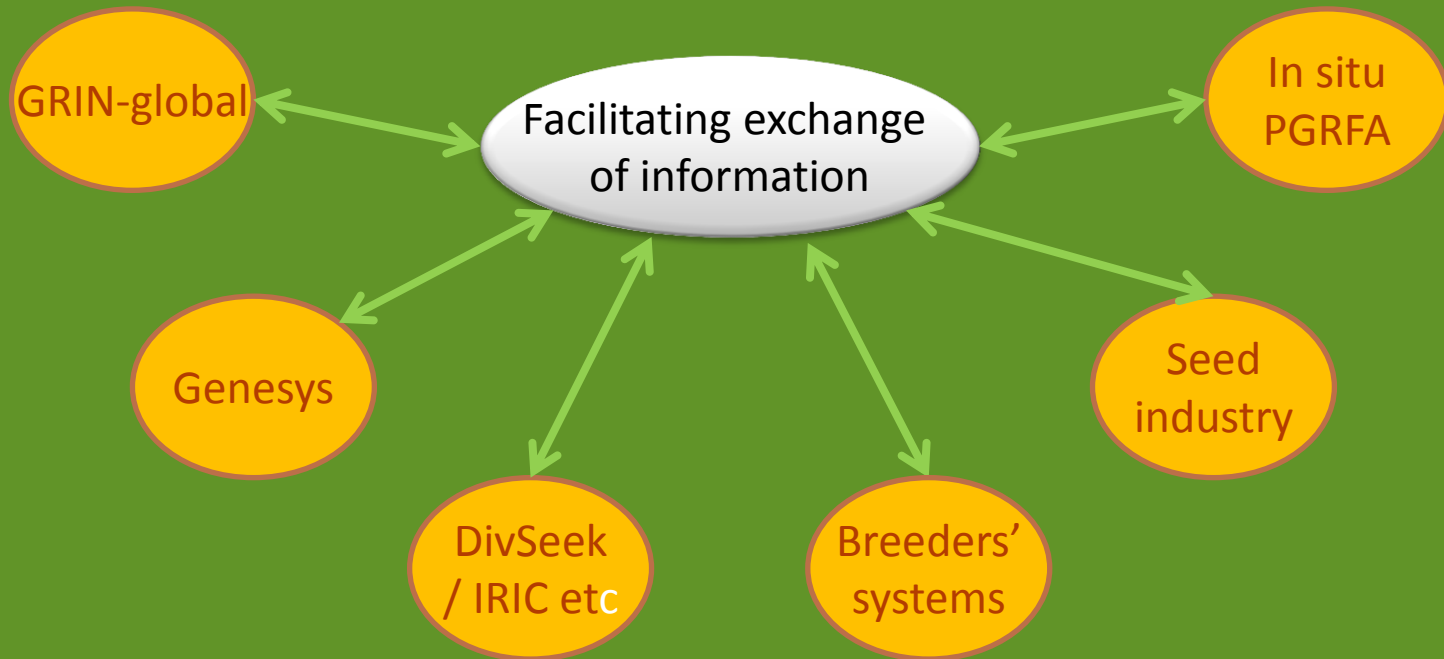
GB6 resolution 3/2015

Vision for the GLIS

- GLIS integrates and augments existing systems to create the global entry point to information and knowledge for strengthening capacity for PGRFA conservation, management and utilization
- Needs:
 - strengthen existing systems
 - establish new systems and initiatives if none
 - promote inter-connectivity among systems
 - provide overarching mechanisms to ensure ready access to the information and services

Implications for GLIS

Global Information System



GB6 resolution 3/2015

7-point 6-year programme of work

1. Create web-based platform
2. Facilitate access to sources of PGRFA and info
3. Promote & facilitate interoperability among existing systems
4. Promote transparency on rights & obligations of users of data
5. Create & enhance opportunities for communication & collaboration
6. Provide capacity development & tech transfer opportunities
7. Create a mechanism for evaluation and monitoring

3 major achievements

1. Portal and DOIs

- Agenda Items 4 & 5
- POW objectives 1-3

2. Data – Transparency of rights and obligations

- Agenda Item 6
- POW objective 4

3. Partnerships & capacity development

- Agenda Item 7
- POW objective 6

Agreed first priority: Permanent Unique Identifiers for PGR

- Genebank managers need to know
 - What has been done with their accessions
 - What duplication there is among collections
- Collaborators in DivSeek need assurance that
 - Big data remain connected to the material
 - They are working on the same genetic material
- The Treaty's GLIS needs to
 - Document holdings and transfers of all types of PGRFA
- Collaborating breeders need to share data
- Journal editors need to be certain
 - Authors' work is repeatable

DOIs – key features for acceptability

- A DOI can identify a genebank accession
 - Does not replace accession ID
 - Can also identify many other types of PGRFA
- A DOI identifies the combination of
 - Holder of PGRFA +
 - Identity of PGRFA in holder's system
- Assigning a DOI does not *per se* imply
 - The PGRFA still exists or will be conserved
 - The PGRFA is available under the MLS

Data

- GB6 resolution 3/2015 (6)
 - The GB requests the Secretary to invite DivSeek stakeholders to report on the implications for the objectives of the Treaty of the technologies underlying the DivSeek initiative
 - Bellagio meeting 28 Nov – 2 Dec 2016
- POW objective 4
 - Promote transparency on the rights & obligations of users for accessing, sharing & using PGRFA associated information and to establish ways to exercise those rights and obligations within the GLIS

Partnerships

- CGIAR IRRI
- CGIAR Genebanks Platform
- CGIAR Excellence in Breeding Platform
- European genebanks
- DivSeek
- Capacity building initiatives

General advice sought

- Priority-setting for the coming year
 - The most essential tasks for GB7
 - Within limited budget
 - What needs to be done by the Secretariat
vs
what can/should be done by partners
- Resource mobilization