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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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

**FIRST ELECTRONIC CONSULTATION OF THE *AD HOC* TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

8 – 26 April 2019

**Results of the Online Consultation Exploring the Possibility of Establishing at Joint
Programme of Work on Biodiversity for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture**

Background:

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the International Treaty) is the key policy instrument for coping with the triple challenge of countering the loss of crop diversity and achieving food security under rapid climate change. Conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) are among the key objectives of the International Treaty, which has 144 countries as Contracting Parties. Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty specifies how the two objectives are to be achieved. Article 5 concerns the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation and documentation of PGRFA. Article 6 is about the sustainable use of PGRFA in farmers' fields and *in situ* conditions and sets out that Contracting Parties shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA (Para 6.1). Optional measures to use PGRFA sustainably are listed in the Article (Para 6.2).

The Governing Body of the International Treaty has through its Resolution 4/2015 endorsed a revised Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA 2016–2019 to enhance the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through effective measures that translate Article 6 of the Treaty into country-level impact. Central elements of the Programme of Work are a toolbox, training and capacity building for sustainable use of PGRFA; a platform for co-development and transfer of technologies; and specific measures for raising awareness regarding the actual and potential value of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development. Nevertheless, these achievements are marginal as compared to what is needed.

As the programme expires in 2019, the Governing Body of the International Treaty 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 Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Supporting Initiatives beyond 2019 through the establishment of a long-term programme 2020-2030, for consideration by the Governing Body at its next session.*” (Resolution 6/2017)¹

¹ Relevant documents:

- 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>

This request represents a shift from earlier resolutions, which have focused on providing support preliminary through the system of the International Treaty to Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to implement the provisions of the International Treaty on sustainable use of PGRFA, and which has formed the basis of the current programme of work. The new approach entails requesting the Secretary to explore the possibility of establishing a joint programme of work involving other relevant international organizations and stakeholders.

Pursuant to this request, an expert meeting was organized in May 2018 in Bari, Italy, to explore possible elements of a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA). The meeting was organized by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in collaboration with the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) of Bari and with the generous support of the Government of Italy.

The Expert Group Meeting felt that the lack of awareness of how PGRFA is connected to the interests of those who are worried about water, energy, land degradation, climate change and the global burden of diet-related diseases is a major problem but also an opportunity. It was considered critically important to apply a holistic approach to policy development and action related to sustainable development, in order to ensure that solving one problem does not create another and to maximize the benefits of intervention. The group felt that a joint programme of work can offer an opportunity to build on the work of the current programme and form broader partnerships that raise the profile of PGRFA and the Treaty and support the integration and mainstreaming of PGRFA into a more holistic approach to sustainable development from local to global levels.

The group also felt the Joint Programme should support processes and engagement with partners where there are important synergies and PGRFA connections. This was because of concern that a project-by-project focus is too *ad hoc*; that it cannot provide sustainability to the current programme of work on sustainable use and will not provide the level and stability of funding needed to sufficiently support the implementations of Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty. The need to shift funding to more stable, predictable and ongoing support was a strong catalyst for identifying interlinkages and partners and then working with those partners to ensure their input to, and support of, a joint programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA. The group felt that situating PGRFA in the larger context of which it is an integral part can enable the joint programme to be presented as a critical part of the process of change needed to achieve the transformation called for by Agenda 2030. The aim of this orientation is to attract the kind of stable and predictable funding needed to support the implementation of the Treaty provisions on sustainable use of PGRFA.

Key results of the expert group meeting include, *inter alia*, the:

- Articulation of the rationale, orientation and approach for a joint programme of work,
- Identification of four thematic areas for a joint programme that would cross-cut with the work of other organizations and stakeholders/potential partners, thereby providing a platform for collaboration, and
- Recognition of possible key elements of a joint programme.

The Secretariat hosted an online consultation took place from 18 November to 18 December to get feedback and build on the results of the Expert Group Meeting. This report summarizes the results of that consultation.

Results

Sample size

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- 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>
 - 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>

In total, the survey was distributed to 395 respondents in more than 100 countries around the world. 229 of those individuals completed the survey, yielding a response rate of 58%. For those 229 respondents, many questions were skipped for those responses, making the sample size for each question very different. The sample size for each figure/analysis is called out in the analysis for each individual graph or table. In total, the survey respondents took an average of 27 minutes to complete the entire survey. Information on stakeholder identification, interests, and geographic distribution will be presented after the summary and analysis of the substantive questions.

The Expert Group Meeting in Bari recommended that the joint programme of work should build broader partnerships to raise awareness about the importance of the sustainable use of PGRFA under the Treaty and to support the integration of PGRFA into sustainable development at all levels. The online survey assessed the degree of support for this goal and approach by posing two simple yes or no questions: “Do you agree the Joint Programme should build broader partnerships that will raise awareness and support the sustainable use of PGRFA and the ITPGRFA and support the integration of PGRFA into a sustainable development at all levels?” and “Do you agree that this is an adequate overall goal for a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA?”

In total, 163 respondents answered both questions. Figure 1 breaks down the responses to the two questions. Both questions yield a very high rate of agreement. 99% (161) of respondents agreed that the joint programme of work should build broader partnerships to raise awareness of the sustainable use of PGRFA and support integration of PGRFA into sustainable development at all levels. Likewise, 91% (148) of respondents indicated that they agree that building boraer partnerships that will raise awareness and support the sustainable use of PGRFA.

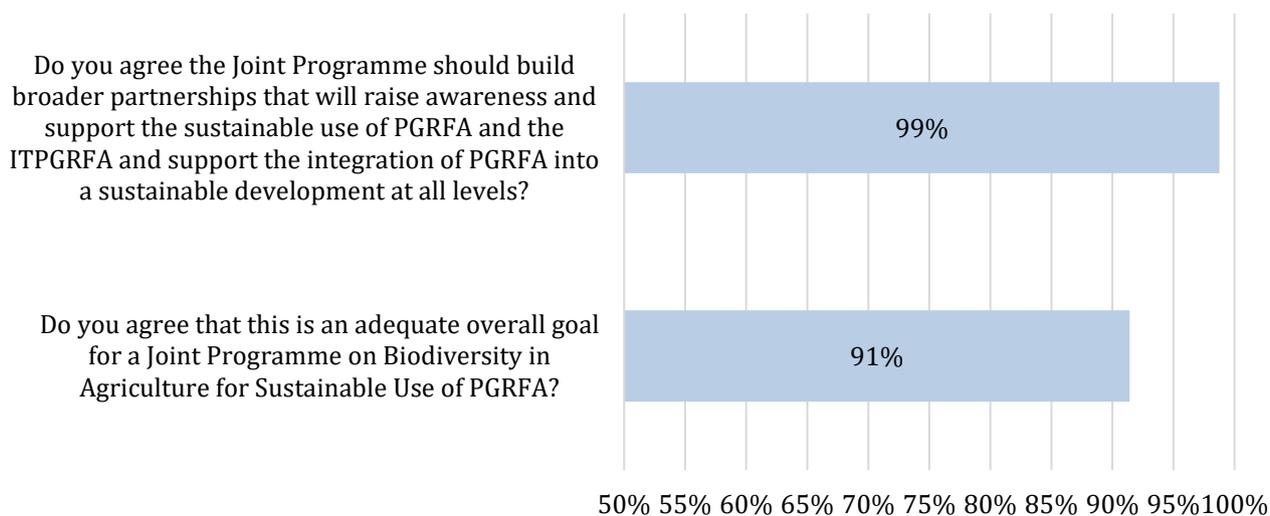


Figure 1: Proportional representation of agreeance with the goals and partnership approach of the current PGRFA use system

Respondents that disagreed with what was posed in the questions also shared details on why the disagreed with two questions posed. Between the two questions, only 16 responses indicated that they did not agree more about process than about the substance of a joint programme.

Potential thematic areas for collaboration in a Joint Programme

Section 3 of the online consultation assessed support the thematic areas for a joint programme identified by the Expert Group that would cross-cut with the work of other organizations and stakeholders/potential partners, thereby providing a platform for collaboration. The focus was on areas where there is a growing understanding of the importance of PGRFA to another sector and an increased willingness and desire to reflect the relationship in policy and action. Four areas were identified:

- ***Thematic areas one: A food-system approach to food and nutrition security and ensuring resilience to climate change:*** Hunger and malnutrition are on the rise, while more and more people struggling with obesity. The global burden of disease is now increasingly diet-related. Dietary diversity offers a highly efficient and cost-effective approach to hunger and malnutrition in all its forms. In addition, the ability to produce food requires an ability to adapt to climate change. PGRFA is crucial to both; this part of the programme could focus on nutrition sensitive agriculture in the age of climate change and in light of other global changes, such as socio-economic transformation.
- ***Thematic area two: Disaster relief and the conservation of natural capital:*** Human-induced and natural disasters are on the rise. The conservation and sustainable use of natural capital, including PGRFA, is essential to maintain the functioning of ecosystems. This part of the joint programme would help with disaster prevention but also include the development and testing of protocols for the restoration of agricultural biological diversity in disaster relief.
- ***Thematic area three: PGRFA and an attractive rural life:*** Urban migration is a huge challenge to agricultural production, rural livelihoods and demography, as well as the sustainable use of PGRFA. It is essential to put culture and dignity back into agriculture and make rural life attractive. This part of the joint programme would focus on reward and economic benefits from the sustainable use of PGRFA as well as off-farm livelihoods, with particular attention to the role and impact on women and youth.
- ***Thematic area four: Systemic and holistic approaches to the sustainable use of PGRFA in an enabling legal and institutional environment at all levels.*** There is a need to raise awareness of the role of PGRFA in many of the challenges addressed in the Sustainable Development Goals. The lack of understanding, coupled with institutional boundaries and power imbalances, needs to be addressed. This programme could bring together sectors addressed by the SDGs within which PGRFA must be acknowledged, to look for win-wins and how trade-offs can be mitigated in an enabling legal and institutional environment.

For each thematic area respondents were given five choices. The respondents had to indicate the if the thematic area for collaboration was “not applicable” or choose if they did not support it, sort of supported it, supported it, or strongly supported it. The breakdown for each of the questions is seen in Figures 2, 4, 6, and 8 respectively.

In addition, respondents were asked to provided some details around why they chose the level of support for each of the four potential thematic areas. The questions posed for each area were open-ended, allowing respondents to input as little or as much information as they wanted. As a result, answers were widely varying in complexity and length and qualitative versus quantitative. To the reasoning behind the level of support, each open-ended answer was tagged with one or multiple tags regarding the category to which it applied. Thus, Figures 3, 5, and 7 show why respondents indicated the level of support they did in the previous figure. For each of these figures, more than 100 open-ended responses were received. Respectively, figures 2 and 3 correspond to first thematic area for collaboration, 4 and 5 to the second thematic area, 6 and 7 to third, and 8 to the fourth. The tags used to explore qualitative answers were not used for the fourth thematic area “a systemic and holistic approach to the sustainable use of PGRFA in an enabling legal and institutional environment”, as the themes identified in the previous thematic areas did not correspond accurately to these qualitative answers. The word clouds provide a visual sense of emphasis in the qualitative responses with some recognized limitations.

Thematic Area One: A food-system approach to food and nutrition security and ensuring resilience to climate change

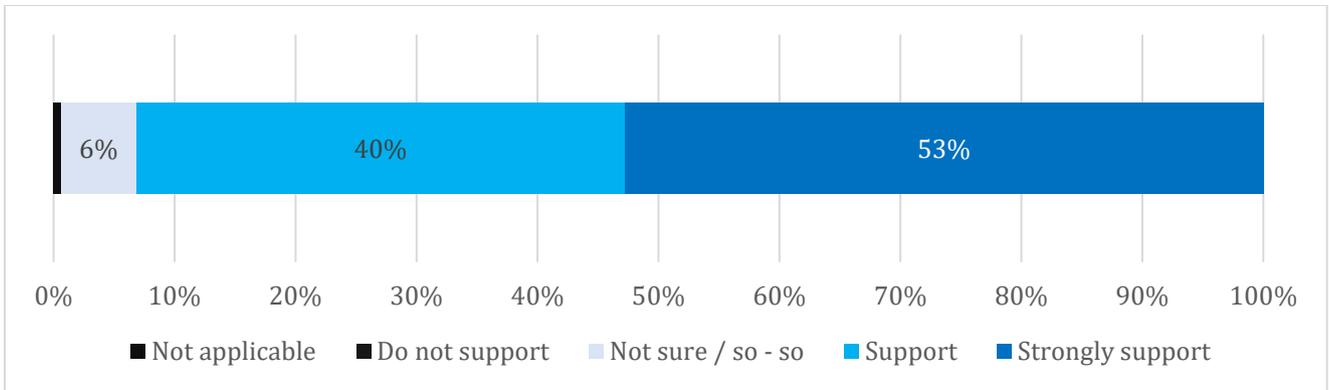
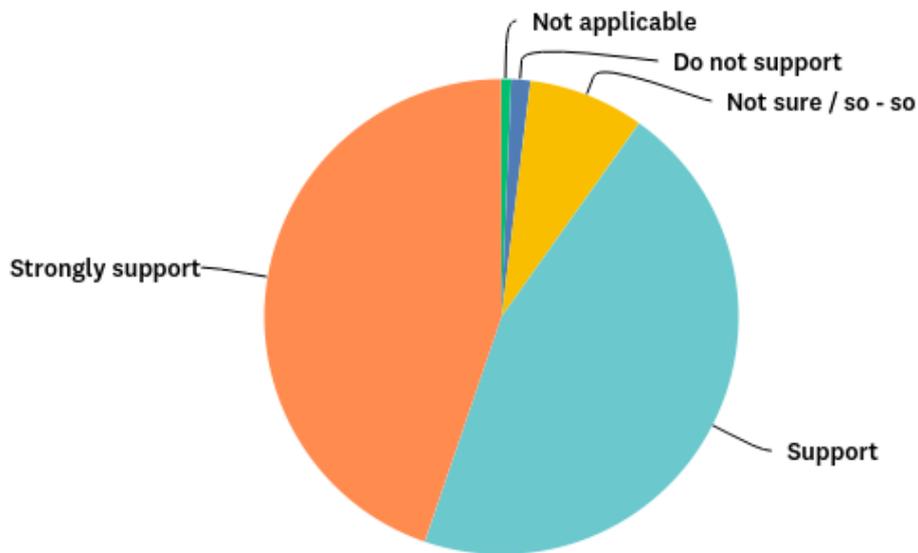


Figure 2: Proportional representation of support for “A food-system approach to food and nutrition security and ensuring resilience to climate change”



Strong support for raising awareness and action that recognizes the relationship amongst PGRFA, resilience and climate and other stressors, dietary diversity and health and nutrition and the role of PGRFA in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Some concerns were expressed that this thematic area not be confused with bio-fortified varieties or climate-smart crops which lead to more uniformity and about corporate involvement generally. Agroecological approaches and farmer or peasant-centric approaches came up in several comments.

Comments also mentioned the need for a broad base of genetic resources as the pace at which adaptation may need to take place may be more rapid than we know. Related were comments about the need for genebanks to be more climate ready and for access to PGRFA and knowledge generally being important.



Figure 5: Reasons for supporting “Disaster Relief and the conservation of natural capital” (190 tags across 110 responses)

Thematic Area Three: PGRFA and an attractive rural life

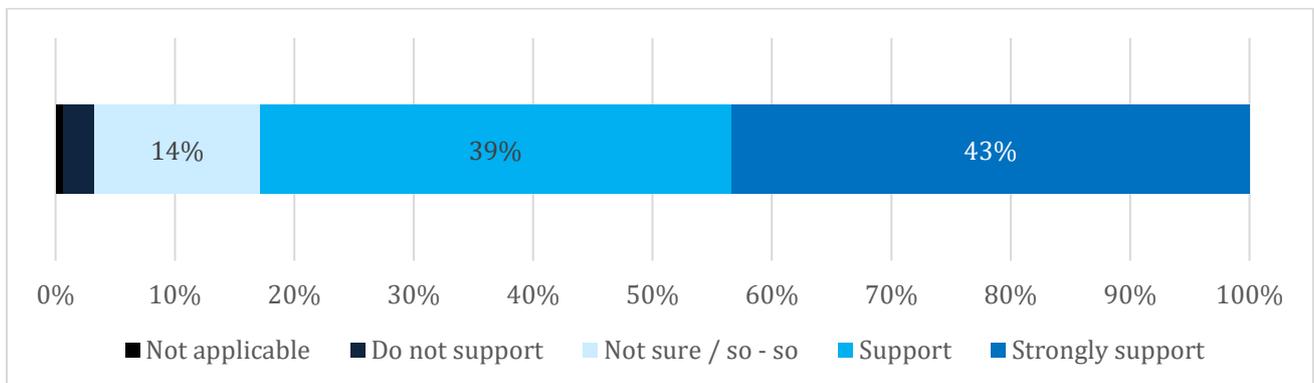


Figure 6: Proportional representation of support for “PGRFA and an attractive rural life”

Most of the comments were supportive of the importance of PGRFA in creating an attractive rural life, referring to the need for economic opportunity, particularly for women and youth, to raise awareness and capacity to ensure PGRFA support rural livelihoods and poverty eradication.



Figure 7: Reasons for supporting “PGRFA and an attractive rural life” (269 tags across 109 responses)

Thematic Area Four: A systemic and holistic approach to the sustainable use of PGRFA in an enabling legal and institutional environment

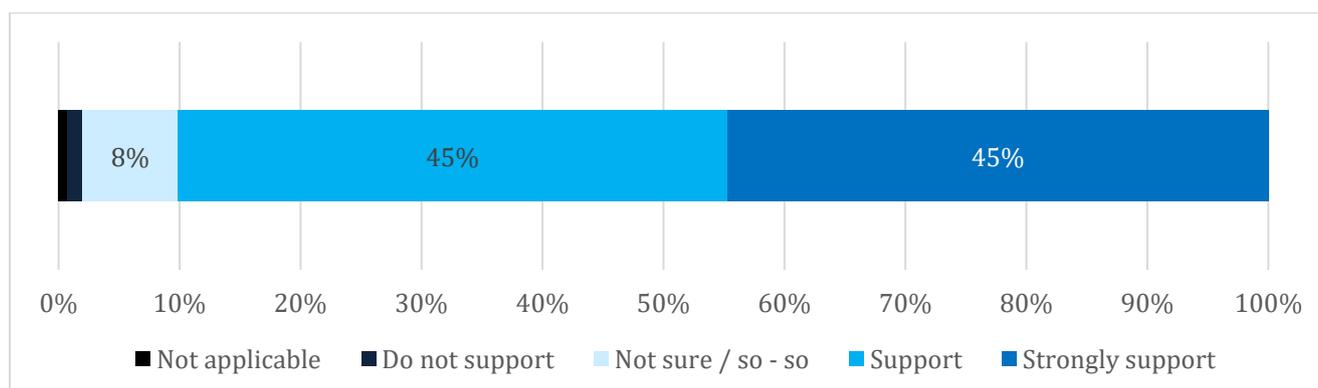


Figure 8: Proportional representation of support for “A systemic and holistic approach to the sustainable use of PGRFA in an enabling legal and institutional environment.”

Most of the comments supported the need for the systemic and holistic approach to the sustainable use of PGRFA to be embedded in an enabling legal and institutional environment.

Many comments noted the need for a greater awareness of the impact of laws and policies from multiple sectors (e.g., economic policy) on the sustainable use of PGRFA. Multiple contributors observed that people working with PGRFA from different disciplines and perspectives, including policy-makers themselves, are not aware of the inter-relationships. Others comments noted increased awareness of the importance of PGRFA to multiple aspects of sustainable development is necessary to develop an enabling legal and institutional environment.

Several responses mentioned the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as providing a useful framework to analyze, raise awareness and create an enabling legal and institutional environment for the sustainable use of PGRFA both from the local to the global level. Related to the SDGs providing a potential framework for this joint programme of work, some comments spoke to the complexity of the legal and institutional environment having a real or potential impact on the sustainable use of PGRFA and the consequent need for a first step in a

joint programme to be gaining greater clarity on the real or potential inter-relationships. The clarity created by such an analysis would provide the foundation and clarity for carrying out this joint programme of work.

The importance of farmer participation in policy development was also mentioned. One of the more inspiring responses stated: “Just as climate change must be mainstreamed through the policies of today and tomorrow, so must the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity including PGRFA. This is our insurance, and asset, for a future that we already know will pose great challenges. If we fail here, nothing matters.”

General analysis of four thematic areas

Comparing responses across thematic areas, there is some degree of correlation between the answers to each question due to the high volume of answers in the “support” and “strongly support” category. Across the 150 respondents which answered all four questions, 16% (24) said they supported all four areas for collaboration and 18% (27) said they strongly supported all four areas of collaboration. Finally, across all 150 respondents, 71% (106) indicated they supported or strongly supported all four areas for collaboration, indicating that these opportunities for collaboration are supported across the board.

Looking at Figures 2, 4, 6 and 8, there is large support for all four of the areas for collaboration. For each individual question, at least 150 respondents answered each question and all four questions received support from 77% of respondents. The first thematic area represented, as seen in Figure 2, has the strongest level of support with 53% (85) indicating strong support and 40% (65) indicating a level of support. Figure 6, regarding “PGRFA and an attractive rural life” has the lowest level of support with only 39% showing strong support.

Additional areas of opportunity

Beyond these four potential thematic areas for opportunity, respondents were also asked about additional opportunities. Figure 9 shows the breakdown for the question: “Are there other cross-cutting areas where you feel there is a growing understanding of the importance of PGRFA and an increased willingness and desire to reflect the relationship in policy and action and hence would be good to explore in developing a Joint Programme?” In total, 139 respondents answered the question. The figure indicates that 49% (68) indicated that there are other cross-cutting areas to grow the understanding of the importance of PGRFA. 51% (71) indicated that the identified areas in the previous four questions above covered all the opportunities.

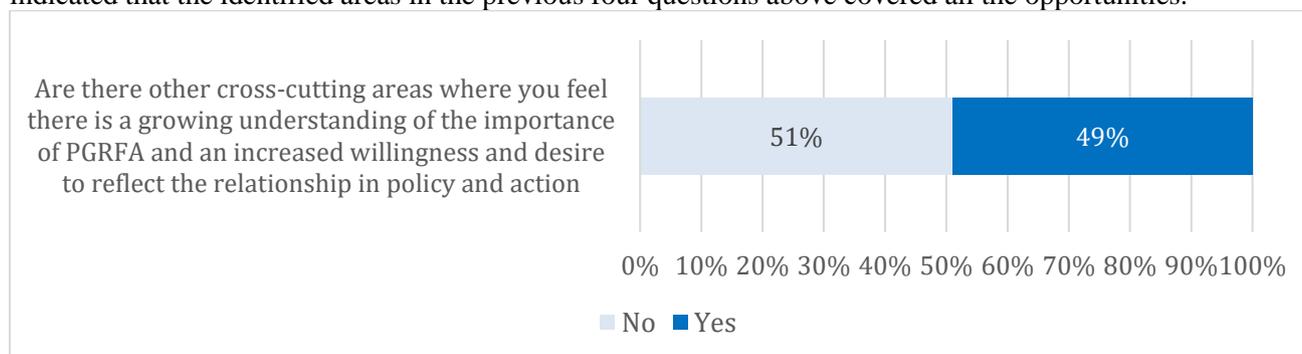


Figure 9: Proportion of respondents who indicated what other cross-cutting areas exist

The comments mostly identified issues or subject areas the contributors felt had an important connection to the sustainable use of PGRFA and were not proposals for additional thematic areas. Many suggestions are, or could be, components of one or more of the four thematic areas identified. A representative sampling of answers is contained in Table 1:

Table 1

- The conservation and the treatment of traditional knowledge.
 - Gender and social inclusion
 - Good governance
 - Coordination and collaboration of genebanks
 - Sharing of Data on Climate Analogues and Crowd sourcing of PGRFA
 - Creating a demonstration base, raising social awareness, youth education
 - Organic farming and slow food movements
 - Identify the needs of custodian farmers of CWRs, landraces and underutilized species and focus on the support that they may need; recognize these farmers
 - PGRFA as source of bioactive molecule to improve quality life of the human being
 - Product development, product diversification and commercialization from the sustainable use of PGRFA
 - Wildlife and Nature Conservation and general Biodiversity - including 'protected sites networks', nature reserves, national parks, etc.
 - Education and training
 - Benefit sharing through scientific collaboration and local education, training and research infrastructure development-
 - Use of IT technology in social/cultural of farmers
 - Molecular characterization, assistance with inventorying of PGR
 - Mapping of all the PGRFA with the help of satellite images
 - Community Seed Bank
 - Agroecology
-

Potential objectives and outcomes for a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture

To examine if the potential objectives and outcomes for a Joint Programme are currently addressed, respondents were asked a series of six questions with multiple parts to each question. Each of the six questions received at least 137 responses. For each question, respondents were asked to rate statements based on a one to five scale. Respondents choose one of the five options for each sub question and thus average “scores” were generated for each question. The higher the answer value for the question, the greater the importance.

To determine if the proposed objectives were included in the goals of the survey as indicated in the section above called “Goals and partnership approach of the current PGRFA use system”, five statements, as seen in Figure 10, were put in front of the respondents.

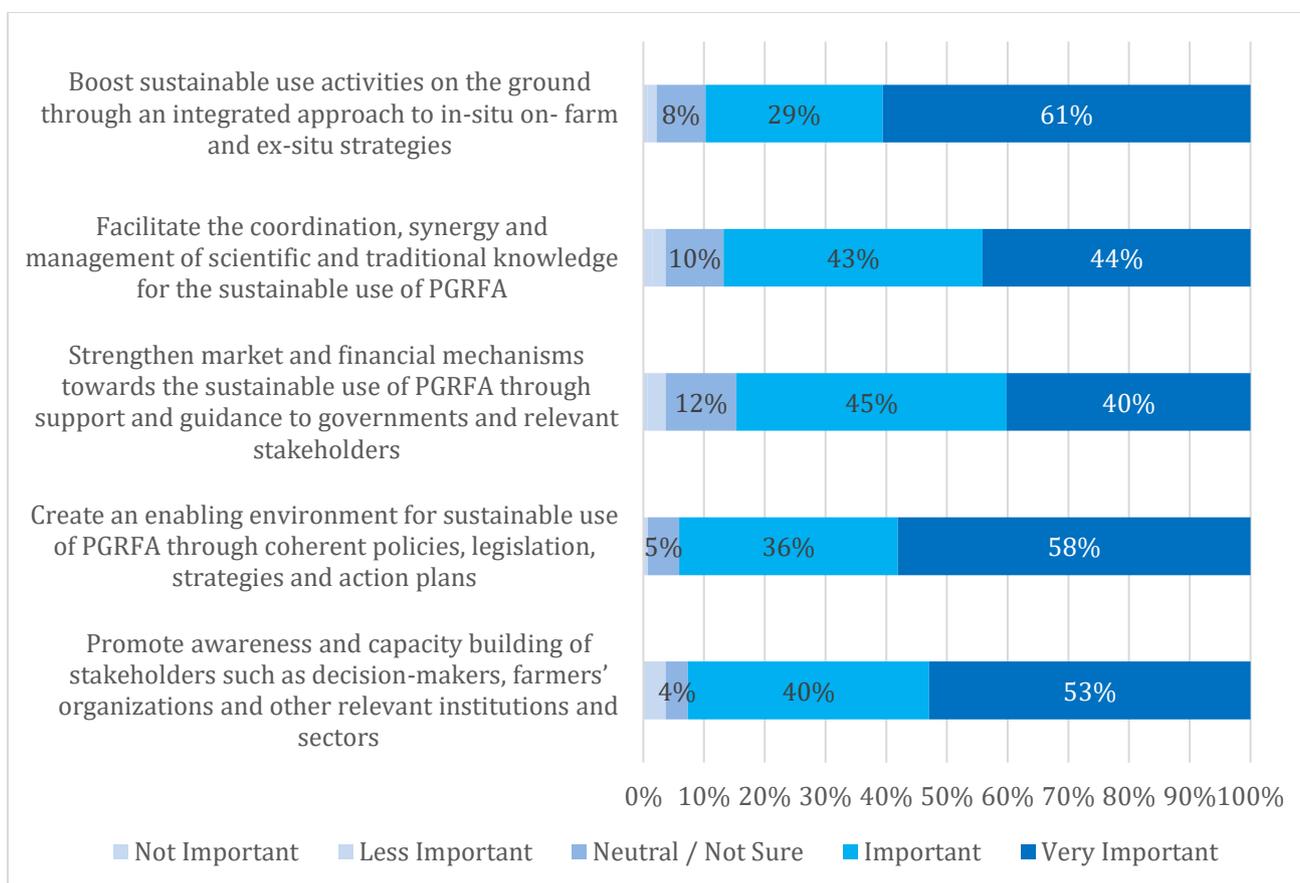


Figure 10: Importance relating to the proposed objectives derived from the overall goals

Among the five questions above, it is clear that respondents view each as important, with each question receiving an important or very important rating greater than 85% of the time. The largest group of respondents, 61% (83) indicated that boosting sustainable use activities on the ground is very important. However, the fourth statement in Figure 10, creating an enabling environment for sustainable use of PGRFA, shows the highest importance with an overall average score of 4.51. Among those five statements, strengthen the market and financial mechanisms towards the sustainable use of PGRFA received the lowest average score of 4.20. All five questions fell within the range of 4.2 to 4.51, showing a high degree of importance for each.

The next five figures are derived from statements in Figure 10. For instance, the second question in this section breaks down the importance of nine subparts of the first statement seen in Figure 10: boost sustainability use activities on the ground through an integrated approach. Figure 11, as seen on the next page, shows these nine statements of the level of importance of each based on survey respondents.

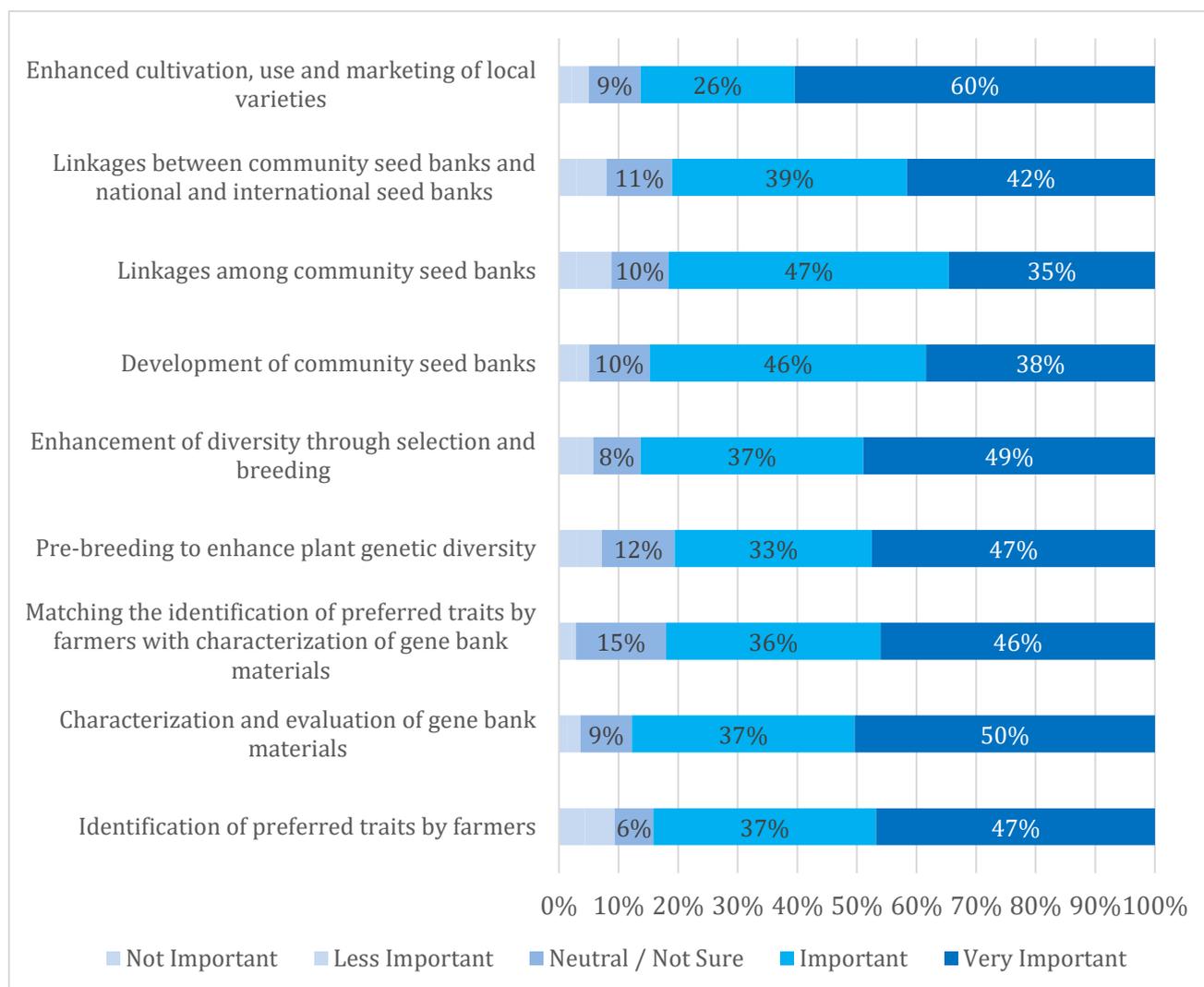


Figure 11: Importance of boosting sustainable use activities on the ground

In Figure 11, like Figure 10, all questions received a consistent level of responses showing that the statements are important towards the overall goals and objectives. All questions scored with a weight between 4.04 and 4.33, showing that the average rating was greater than “important”. The statement regarding characterization and evaluation of gene banks received the highest average score of 4.33. Likewise, linkages among community seed banks had the lowest average score at 4.04 (still a score that is great then important) due to a lower rating of very important at 35% (49).

The second statement, facilitate the coordination, synergy, and management of scientific and traditional knowledge for the sustainable use of PGRFA, also had a breakdown of statements to show the importance as related to the overall goals and objectives of the Joint Programme. In total, five statements were posed. Again, the average scores for each sub-statement showed a high level of importance, with values ranging from 3.90 to 4.40. The highest importance statement regarded the information exchange and sharing of experiences on best practices improve the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. Figure 12 shows each of these statements and the level of importance set by each respondent.

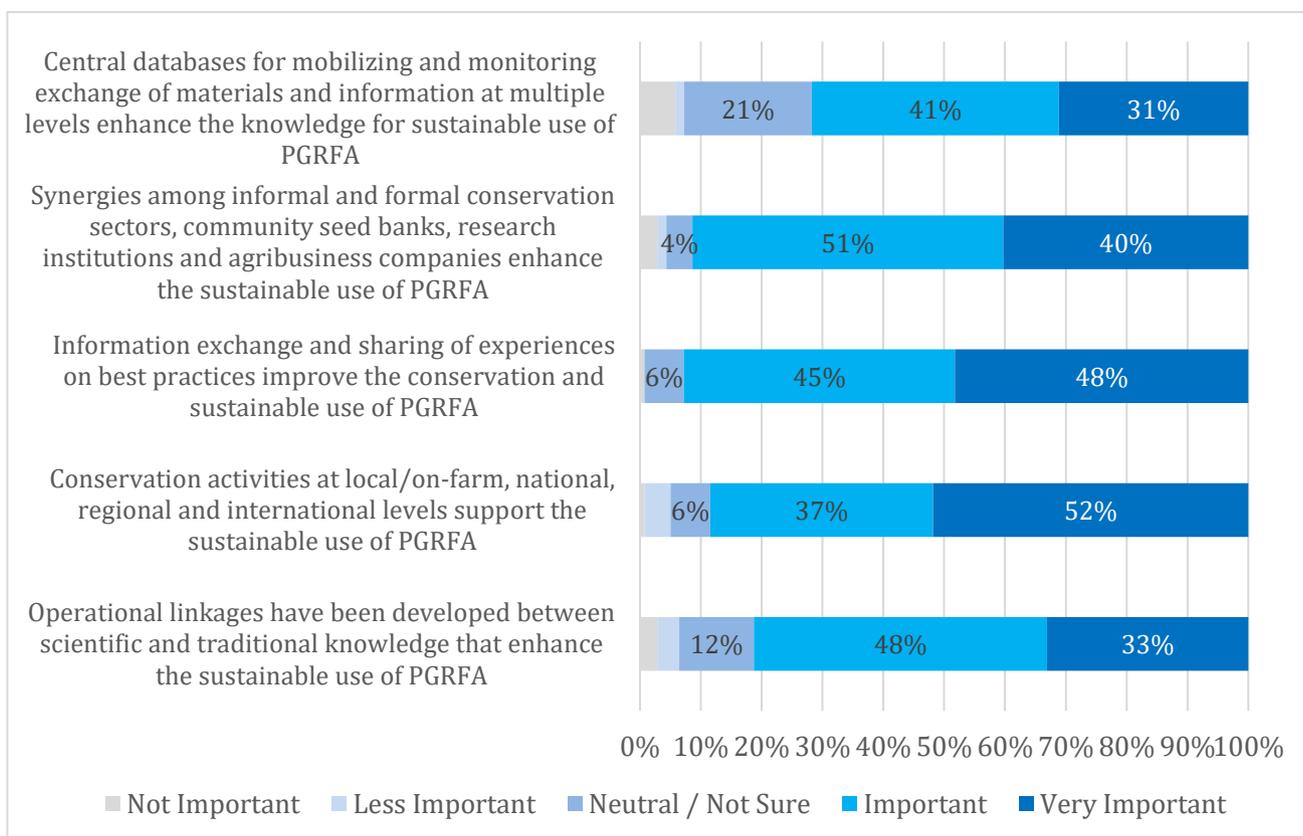


Figure 12: Importance of facilitating the coordination, synergy, and management of scientific and traditional knowledge

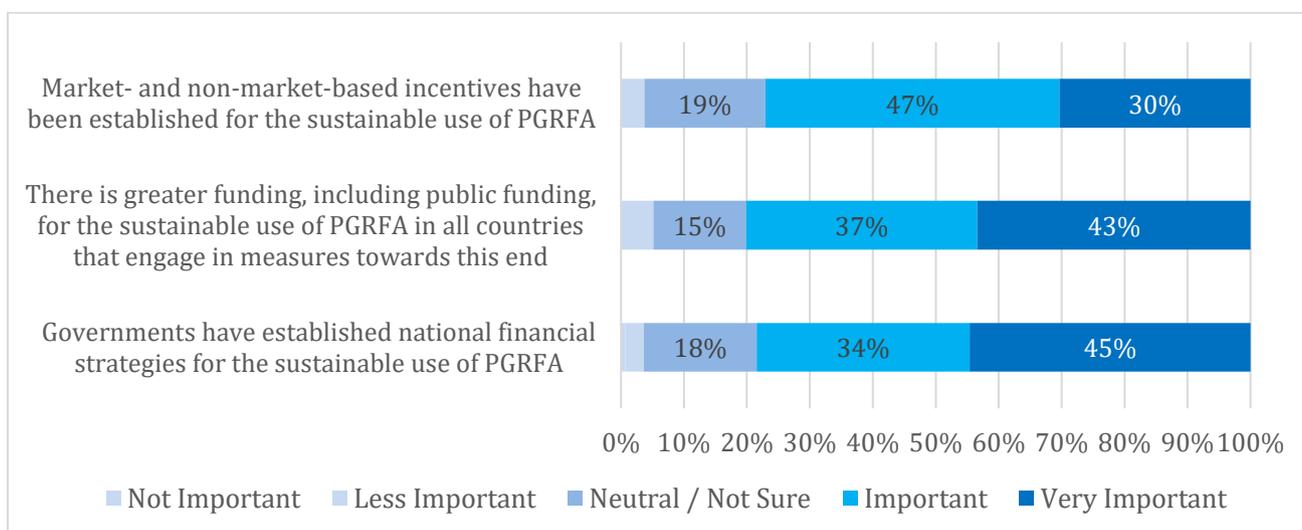


Figure 13: Importance of strengthening market and financial mechanisms towards the sustainable use of PGRFA

Figures 14 and 15 breakdown the statements in Figure 10, like Figures 11, 12, and 13, further. Across these three figures, the range again is close to or greater than “Important”, which has a value of 4.

Across all sub-statements, as seen in Figures 11 through 15, the statements which were deemed to have the highest level of importance included “Developing strategies and action plans, including conservation and utilization of crop wild relatives” with a value of 4.44 and both “Information exchange and sharing of experiences on best practices improve the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA” and “enhanced cultivation, use and marketing of local varieties” with values of 4.40. Likewise, the lowest importance

statements, as indicated my respondents across the sub-statements are “Central databases for mobilizing and monitoring exchange of materials and information at multiple levels enhance the knowledge for sustainable use of PGRFA” with a score of 3.90 and “Market- and non-market-based incentives have been established for the sustainable use of PGRFA” with a score of 4.03.

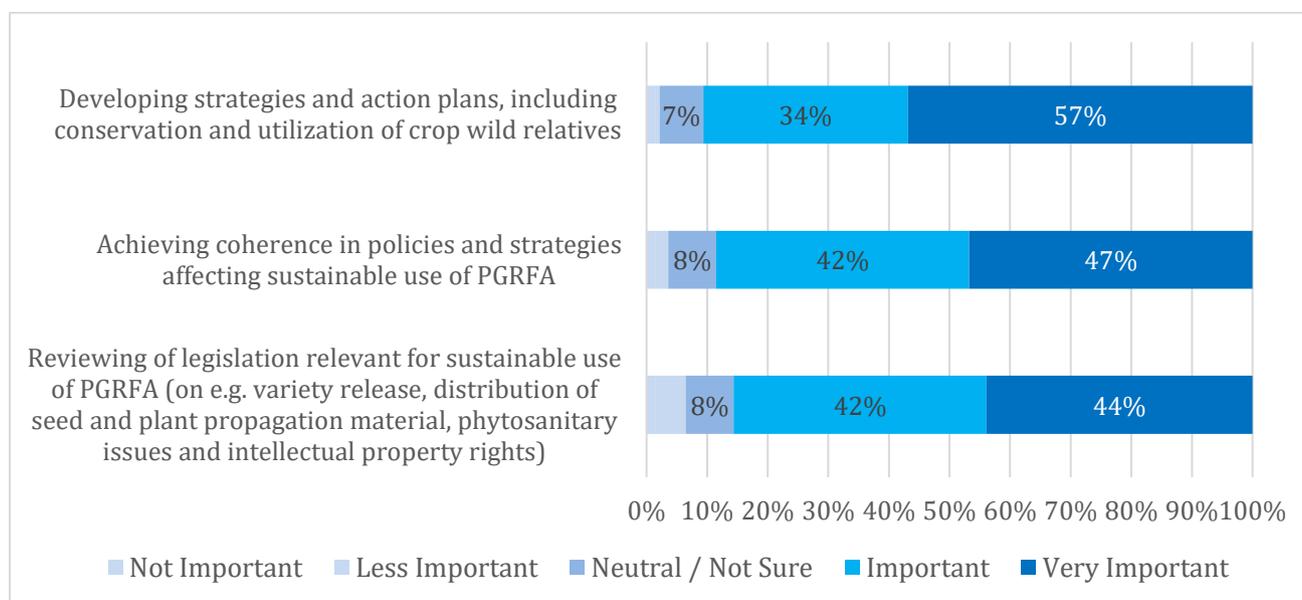


Figure 14: Importance of creating an enabling environment for sustainable use of PGRFA

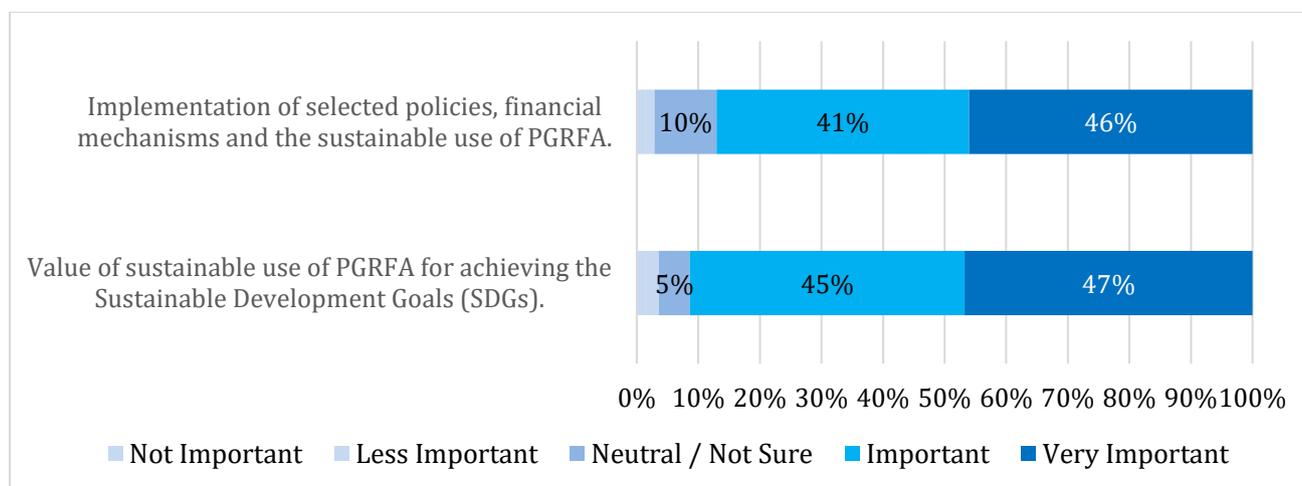


Figure 15: Importance of promoting awareness and capacity building of stakeholders

Stakeholder identification

The 229 survey responses were received from stakeholders in 68 countries and the European Union. The total breakdown of survey respondents by region can be seen in under Figure 19 in the appendix to this report. All FAO sub-regions were represented in the survey. However, the response rate was noticeably low from western and middle Africa, the Caribbean, and central and eastern Asia. Respondents also indicated at what level their organization operates or at what level they operate. Those figures can be seen in Figure 16. Respondents were allowed to select multiple options; thus, the total number of responses is equal to greater than the number of respondents. In total, 171 respondents answered the question. Of those, 80% (137) indicated operating at the national level, 35% (59) at the regional and global levels respectively, and 25% (43) at the local level.

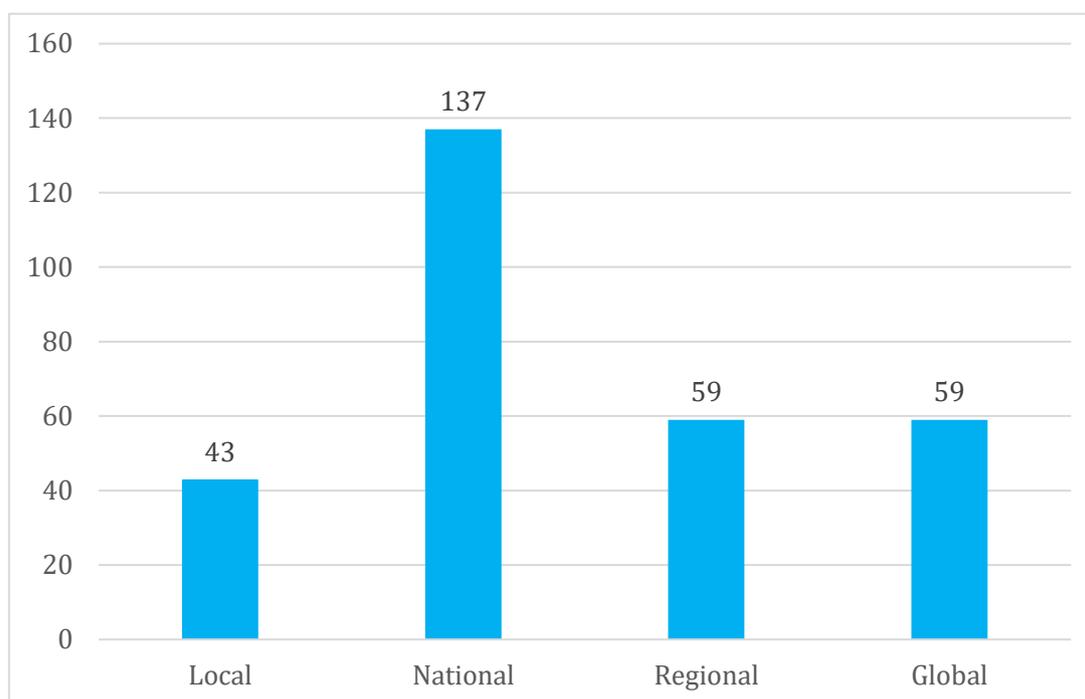


Figure 16: Total number of response at each level of organizational/individual operation across 171 respondents

Figure 17 illustrates the breakdown of the fourteen pre-defined stakeholder groups represented by the survey. For this question, respondents were able to select multiple groups for which they identified as a stakeholder. In total, 171 respondents answered this question selecting a total of 363 stakeholder groups. Thus, the analysis in Figure 1 shows out of the 363 responses, what percentage of those responses fall in each stakeholder group. The largest portion of responses cited stakeholders in government institutions at the national level, in public research, and in public gene banks. Respectively, those three stakeholder groups account for 24% (88), 18% (65), and 16% (59) of the responses. In total, these three groups account for 58% (212) of the overall responses for this question. In total, 51% (88) of the 171 respondents identified as being part of the government institution, at the national level, stakeholder group.

As respondents were able to select multiple stakeholder groups, many groups are statistically linked to one another. For example, 13 respondents indicated that they are a part of the Farmer's Association. Of those 13, 69% (9) indicated they are also a member of Farmer/Seed Producer stakeholder group. Likewise, 38% (65) of respondents indicated they represented the public sector. Of those 65, 58% (38) also indicated they represent public gene banks and 51% (33) of those 65 respondents indicated they represent government bodies at the national level. A small number of respondents indicated an affiliation with both the private/independent plant breeding community and the public research sector, public gene banks and government bodies, indicating some misinterpretation or misreading of the categories presented in the survey.

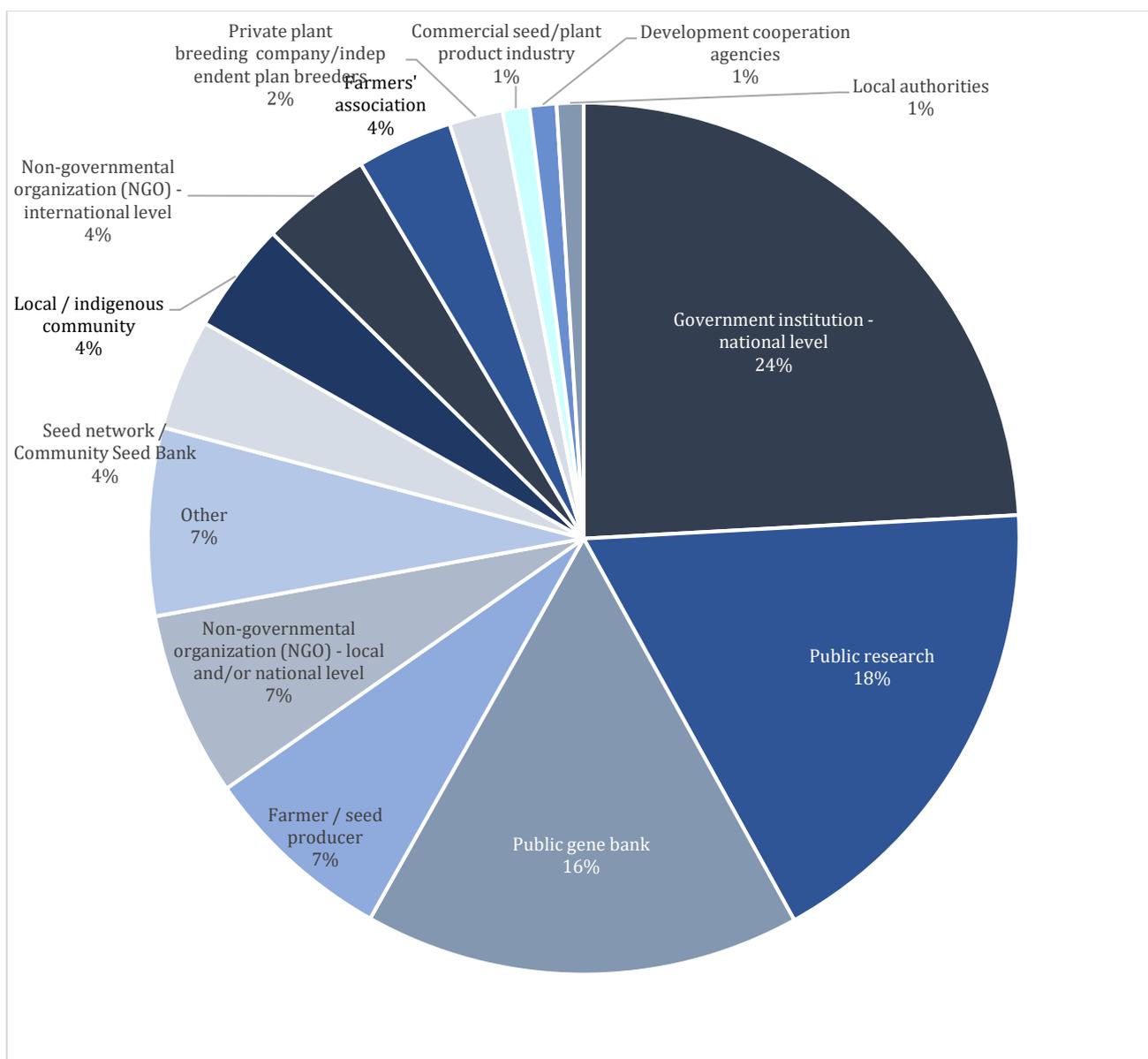


Figure 17: Proportional representation of stakeholder groups based on 363 responses from 171 respondents who completed the question

Representation of other types of stakeholder groups was reported by 13 (8%) of the respondents (or 4% of total responses per stakeholder group – Figure 2). These respondents are affiliated with universities/research/educational establishments, international bodies such as FAO¹⁷, UNEP¹⁸, UNESCO¹⁹, the EC²⁰ and the GEF²¹, and international organizations, networks or services such as the CGIAR, ECPGR²², Red Mesoamericana de Recursos Fitogenéticos, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and SADC²³ Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC). In Figure 17, smaller groups (individual consultants etc.) are together in the other stakeholder group.

Figure 18 breaks down the responses by FAO region.

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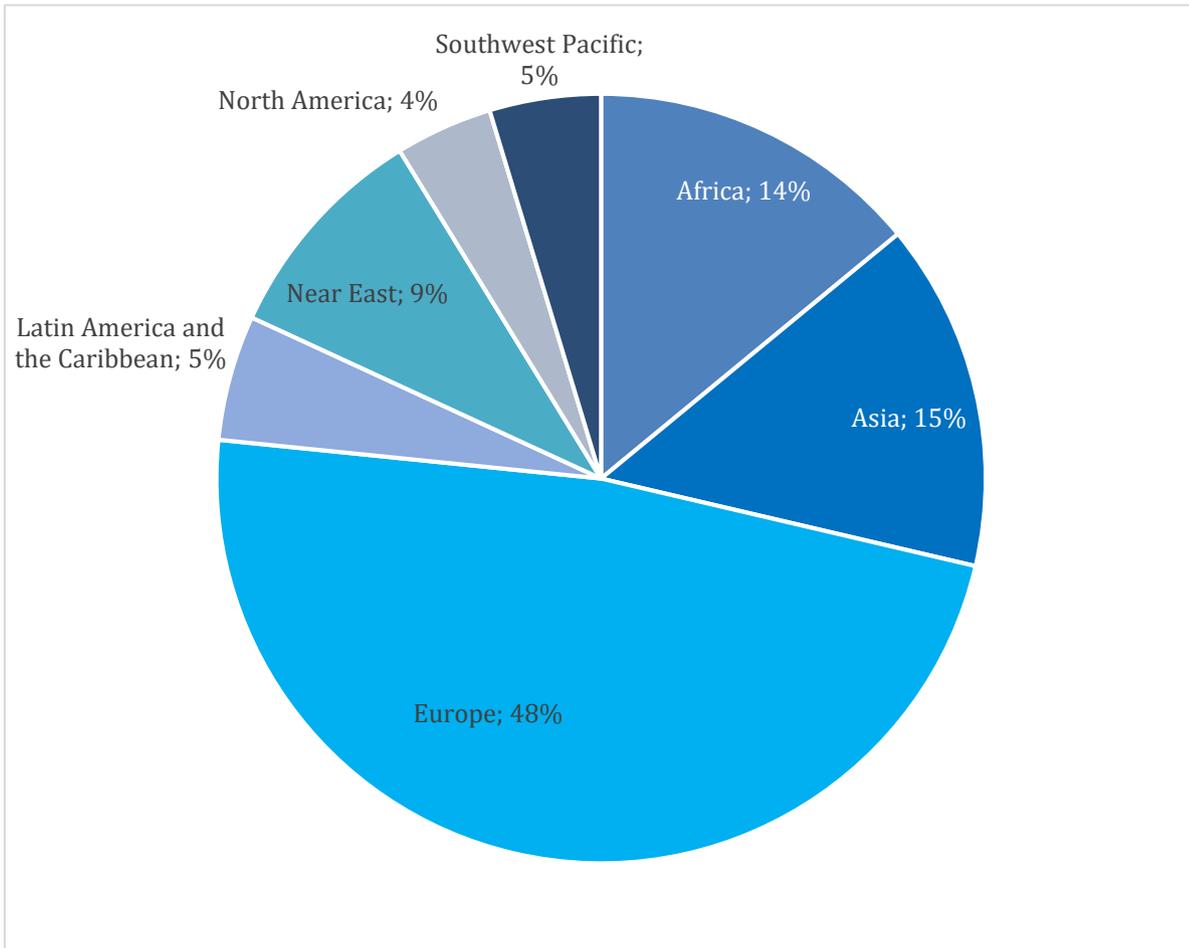


Figure 18: Responses by FAO region (n=171)

The roles or interests of the respondents in the sustainable use of PGRFA were collected in 15 pre-defined categories reflecting aspects of the PGRFA sustainable use system (Fig. 19), with the addition of an ‘other’ category. Like the analysis in Figure 17, respondents were able to select multiple options that best applied to them. In total, 168 respondents answered the question and selected a total of 1,206 options, indicating the average respondent selected more than 7 options for this question. Due to the large number of selections, many roles or interests showed a high degree of selection, which can be seen in Figure 19.

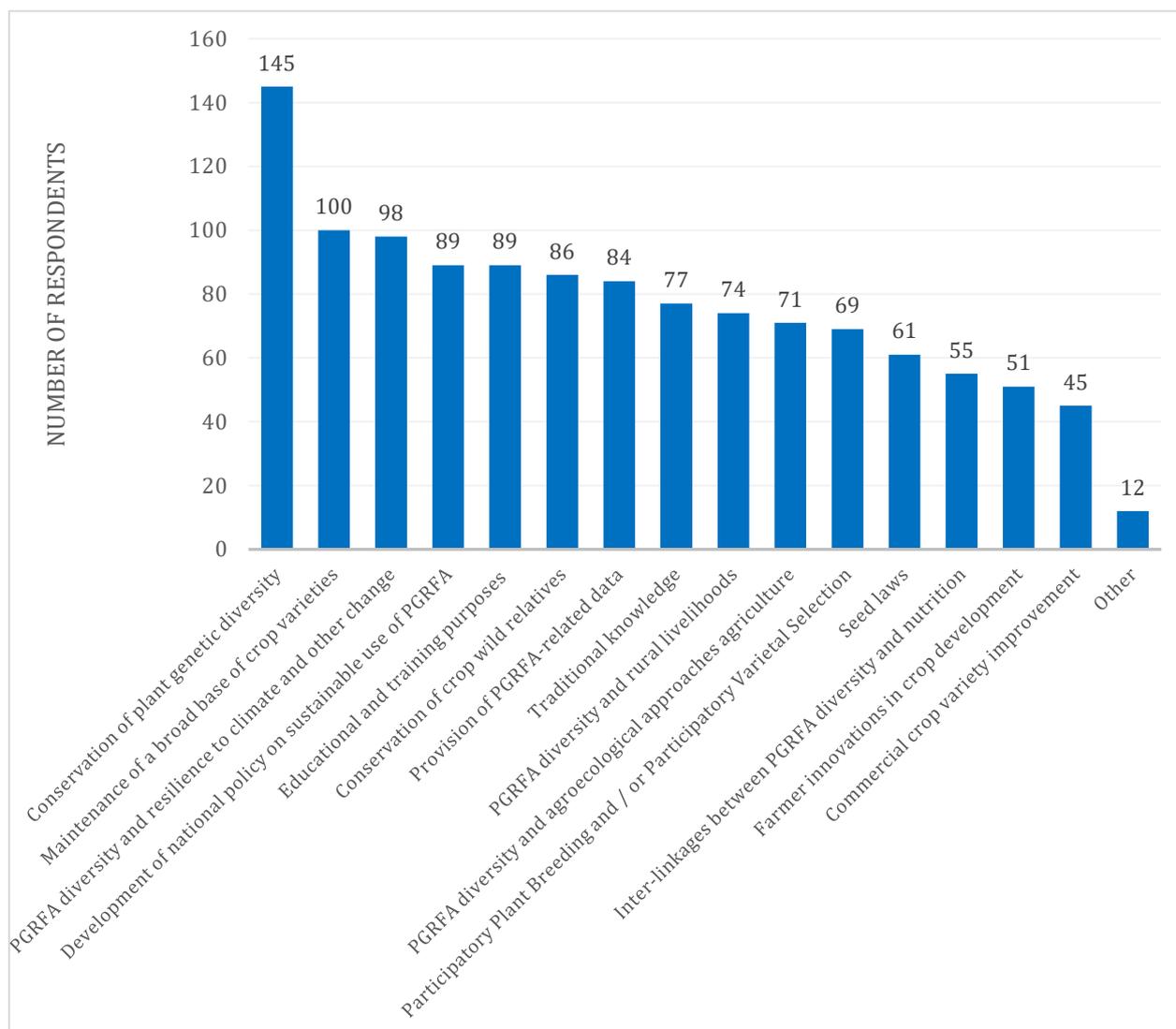


Figure 19: The roles or interests of the survey respondents

Looking at the percentages, a total of 86% (145) of respondents indicated a role or interest in plant genetic diversity conservation. In total, respondents indicated a large role/interest in a variety of areas, as more than 10 of the roles received responses from more than 50% of the respondents. Between each role, there is a large degree of correlation as indicated by the large number of respondents which selected multiple areas of interest. With a total of 145 respondents and 1,200 options selected, the average respondent selected over 8 roles or areas of interest.

Other specific roles or interests in sustainable use of PGRFA reported by 12 respondents are wide-ranging and are seen in Table 2.

Table 2: Other specific roles or interests in sustainable use of PGRFA reported by 12 respondents

- International and national law on PGRFA
- PGRFA and intangible cultural heritage
- Community seed bank

- Legislation on access and benefit-sharing; farmers' rights and related topics; promotion of voluntary benefit-sharing activities; Contribute to conservation activities; and plant breeding and research
- Empowerment of vulnerable groups, public awareness, resilience, use enhancement incl. improved seed production, cultivation practices, harvest and post harvests methods, marketing, entrepreneurship, education,
- Non-commercial crop variety improvement
- Development of regional Intellectual property law on traditional knowledge and genetic resources related.
- Enhanced income of rural communities from PGRFA
- Resistance genes of crop wild relatives
- PGRFA policy development
- Development of regional policy on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA in Europe

Conclusion:

99% of respondents to the online consultation support a joint programme of work that builds broader partnerships, raises awareness of the importance of sustainable use of PGRFA to sustainable development and supports the integration of PGRFA into sustainable development at all levels. This supports the view of the Expert Group meeting that a Joint Programme can provide the framework and impetus for greater cross-organizational efforts, increasing impact through coordination, combined knowledge, and capacities and offering countries more opportunities and prospects of greater success in meeting their obligations under the relevant global, regional and national instruments dealing with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as with sustainable agricultural development and food and nutrition security.

In addition, the online consultation showed large support for all four of thematic areas identified by the Expert Group as providing promising platforms for collaboration in a joint programme of work. For each thematic area -- A food-system approach to food and nutrition security and ensuring resilience to climate change, Disaster relief and the conservation of natural capital, PGRFA and an attractive rural life, and A systemic and holistic approach to the sustainable use of PGRFA in an enabling legal and institutional environment -- at least 150 respondents answered each question and all four questions received support from 77% of respondents.

In terms of overall objectives the joint programme might achieve in terms of the sustainable use of PGRFA there was a high degree of support for all five objectives identified by the Expert Group:

1. Promote awareness and capacity building of stakeholders such as decision-makers, farmers' organizations and other relevant institutions and sectors, scientists, local farmers, agribusinesses, and the general public
2. Create an enabling environment for sustainable use of PGRFA through coherent policies, legislation, strategies and action plans
3. Strengthen market and financial mechanisms towards the sustainable use of PGRFA through support and guidance to governments and relevant stakeholders
4. Facilitate the coordination, synergy and management of scientific and traditional knowledge for the sustainable use of PGRFA
5. Boost sustainable use activities on the ground through an integrated approach to in-situ on-farm and ex-situ strategies

The results of the online consultation are a strong foundation to support the Expert Group's recommendation to the Secretary of the International Treaty to consider identifying partners and sources of funding, leveraging resources, expertise, experiences and in-kind contributions for the implementation of a Joint Programme on

Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA for 2020 – 2030 beginning with some or all of the four thematic areas identified and supported by the online consultation.

Next steps in establishing a Joint Programme of Work may include presenting the Proceedings and the results of the online consultation to the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use in May 2019 for discussion and recommendations to the Eighth Meeting of the Treaty's Governing Body.

Based on the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting and the online consultation, the Ad Hoc Technical Committee may wish to consider recommendations on matters such as:

- Additional input and suggestions in the development of a joint programme of work
- Developing a concept note or notes based on the four thematic areas identified for discussion with potential partners and funders,
- Reaching out to potential partners as identified in the four cross-cutting thematic areas regarding interest and possible support, and
- Presentation to the Eighth Meeting of the Governing Body in November 2019.