

February 2021



**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**

**Fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and
Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**
Preparatory Meeting

Thursday, 18 February 2021

Annotated Programme and Timetable

INTRODUCTION

1. At its Eight Session, the Governing Body, through Resolution 5/2019,¹ decided to convene the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ACSU), with the following Terms of Reference:

- i. Review the compilation and summaries provided by the Secretary on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- ii. Based on this review, identify examples and opportunities to support and assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting, enhancing and further developing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA as set out in Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;
- iii. Review the information provided by the Secretary on the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA;
- iv. Based on this review, assess the relevance and effectiveness of the Toolbox and prepare concrete recommendations on how it can be monitored, evaluated and improved in order to better guide Contracting Parties and stakeholders for the sustainable use of PGRFA;
- v. Provide advice about the possibility of a future Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA based on the documentation prepared by the Secretariat;
- vi. Based on the above, recommend further steps on how the Governing Body can assist Contracting Parties in advancing the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty for consideration of the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.

2. In establishing the Terms of Reference, the Governing Body agreed that the Committee may hold up to two meetings in the biennium 2020-2021, subject to the availability of financial resources.

¹ Resolution 5/2019, available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/nb783en/nb783en.pdf>

3. The terms of reference of the Committee, as annexed to Resolution 5/2019, is provided to the Committee, for its information and reference.

4. In the context of the organisational challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, this preparatory meeting is intended to enable the Committee to start preparing for substantive discussions and to provide guidance to the Secretariat on the agenda and preparations for its fifth meeting.

5. The present document annotates the Programme and contains an indicative timetable, in *Appendix*.

ITEM 1. OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS

6. The preparatory meeting of the Committee will be held virtually on Thursday, 18 February 2021 from 1pm to 4 pm CEST.

7. The list of documents including presentation materials is provided in *IT/GB-9/ACSU-5-Prep/21/Inf.1*. The composition of the committee is contained in *IT/GB-9/ACSU-5-Prep/21/Inf.2*.

ITEM 2. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

8. Under this item, the Secretariat will provide a number of updates and overview of the implementation of Articles 5 and 6, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular on:

- submissions received by Secretariat;²
- the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA;³
- the Proposal on the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA.⁴

9. The presentations will be followed by an initial exchange of views on the Toolbox and possible future Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA, and a discussion on the Agenda and preparation for its fifth meeting.

10. The fifth meeting will take place from 15 to 17 June 2021, with support from the Kingdom of Spain.

ITEM 3. FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

11. Under this item, the Committee will:

- invite proposals from members on the organization of future work of the Committee in preparation for the Ninth Session of the Governing Body;
- undertake initial exchange of ideas on the identification of specific tasks and activities for the Committee to support and assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders; and
- indicate how the Secretary could further assist the Committee in undertaking its future tasks.

² Submission page, available at: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/sustainable-use/information-and-submissions/en/>

³ The Toolbox on Sustainable Use of PGRFA, available at: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/tools/toolbox-for-sustainable-use/overview/en/>

⁴ IT/GB8-ACSU-Electronic Consultation 1/19/Inf 2 available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca4973en/ca4973en.pdf>; also the results of the online consultation 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, available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca4977en/ca4977en.pdf>; and the Proceedings of the Informal Meeting of Experts on Exploring possible elements of a Joint programme on biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA 2020–2030, available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2208EN/ca2208en.pdf>

ITEM 4. OTHER BUSINESS

12. Under this item, the Committee may wish to discuss any other relevant matters that have not been covered or may be raised by members.

Indicative Timetable

PROGRAMME	
13:00 – 13:20	1. Opening and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Remarks • Introduction of the Committee members and experts • Presentation of the Programme
13:20 – 15:00	2. Preparations for the 5th ACSU meeting in June/July 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on arrangements • Update on the submissions received by Secretariat • Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA and the proposal of Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA • Initial exchange of ideas on the Toolbox and possible future Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for Sustainable Use of PGRFA
15:00 – 15:50	3. Future work of the Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals by members on the organization of future work of the Committee in preparation for GB-9 • Initial exchange of ideas on the identification of specific tasks and activities for the Committee to support and assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders • Guidance to the Secretariat on the Agenda and preparations for ACSU-5
15:50 – 15:55	4. Other business
15:55 – 16:00	5. Closing