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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**

**THIRD MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING
STRATEGY AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

23 – 26 February 2021

**FIRST DRAFT MEL FRAMEWORK:
MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING FRAMEWORK FOR THE BENEFIT-
SHARING FUND**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document contains the first Draft Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the Benefit-Sharing Fund, for the consideration and further development by the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee).

2. Section IV of the BSF Operations Manual, adopted through Resolution 3/2019 of the Governing Body, provides that the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the Benefit-Sharing Fund is an integral part of the monitoring of the overall Funding Strategy. Section IV (paras. 37-41) sets out the objectives, basic principles, steps and responsibilities under the MEL framework as follows:

- a. The objectives of the MEL framework are to promote accountability for the achievement of the priorities, storyline, Theory of Change and Results Framework of the Benefit-sharing Fund as established by the Governing Body through the assessment of results, effectiveness, processes, and performance; promote learning, feedback, and knowledge-sharing on results and lessons learned, as a basis for decision-making on policies, strategies, programmes, and project management;
- b. The Governing Body will regularly receive a Report on the Benefit-sharing Fund with the information arising from the MEL framework. The contribution of the Benefit-sharing Fund to the programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy should be subject to review and continuous improvement.
- c. The MEL framework will be further developed under the guidance of the Funding Committee and will link outcomes and outputs within the storyline and Theory of Change of the Benefit-sharing Fund with clear targets and indicators established to enable the monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes.

3. At its second meeting, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework for the BSF and circulate it to the members of the Funding Committee for comments. The Draft Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the Benefit-Sharing Fund, is contained in the Annex to this document.

4. The first Draft of the MEL framework is provided in Annex 1 of this document. Annex 2 of this document contains the elements of the programmatic approach for previous cycles of the Benefit-sharing Fund, including the Results Framework for BSF-4 and the list of indicators being used in monitoring the outcomes and targets described in the Results Framework. This information has been provided to the Committee for ease of reference, to inform discussions around section II of the MEL Framework.

II. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

5. The Committee is invited to consider the structure of the first Draft Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework provided in this document and provide comments or advice on the further development of each of its main sections by identifying gaps or areas for improvement, rather than specific text proposals, at this stage. In doing so, the Committee is requested have an initial discussion on the structure and key elements of the Results Framework, provided in section 1.2.

6. Finally, the Committee is requested to provide guidance to the Secretariat on how to finalize the draft Results Framework for the BSF programme for its further consideration at its fourth meeting.

ANNEX 1: FIRST DRAFT MEL FRAMEWORK: MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING FRAMEWORK FOR THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive summary

1. Overview of the MEL framework
 - 1.1. Rationale of the MEL framework
 - 1.2. Results framework
2. Key Approaches to Monitoring
 - 2.1. Establishing baseline
 - 2.2. Risk management
 - 2.3. Technical monitoring: a focus on the output level
 - 2.4. Monitoring at the outcome level: assessing the benefits for farmer
 - 2.5. Financial monitoring
 - 2.6. Monitoring tools
3. Key approaches to Evaluation
4. Key approaches to Knowledge Management, Learning and Communication
 - 4.1. Knowledge and learning opportunities within the BSF programme
 - 4.2. Knowledge management and learning strategy/plan
 - 4.3. Outreach and communication
5. Reporting

Annexes¹

1. Set of indicators for monitoring achievement of the BSF Results Framework
2. Action plan for Knowledge Management, Learning and Communication
3. Timeline, roles and responsibilities for BSF reporting

¹ *Note by the Secretariat:* Please note that this list of Annexes will be part of the consolidated MEL Framework. This document contains Annex 2 to support the discussion and further development of the draft MEL Framework for the BSF.

Executive summary²

The MEL framework for the Benefit-sharing Fund has been developed based on the requirements set out in the BSF Operations Manual³ and following common elements of MEL frameworks used within the UN development agencies.

This MEL Framework is structured as follows:

- **Overview of the MEL framework** presents the rationale/context of the MEL framework for BSF, its main purpose, target audience and key principles.
- **Results Framework** describes the high-level programmatic approach of the BSF, including the programme's broader outcome areas and main outputs.
- **MEL Framework for BSF** contains the main components for the MEL Framework. It describes the approaches to monitoring, evaluation and learning, including the tools available within the MEL system to gather and analyze quantitative and qualitative information related to BSF projects. The section elaborates upon the learning objectives of the MEL and presents action points for ensuring that monitoring and evaluation processes within the MEL system are useful and used for learning, communication and influencing at different levels.
- **Reporting** provides the overall timeline of MEL implementation and describes the type of reports to be prepared using the MEL framework, roles and responsibilities of various parties involved within the BSF reporting cycles.
- **Annexes** provide additional tools and resources on MEL.

² *Note by the Secretariat:* The Executive Summary will be finalized once the draft of the MEL framework is in a more advanced stage.

³ Annex 2 of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2020-2025 available at <http://www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf>

I. OVERVIEW OF THE MEL FRAMEWORK

1.1 Rationale

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework for the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) is an integral part of the monitoring of the overall *Funding Strategy of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2020-2025*⁴ (the Funding Strategy). It provides a common framework in conducting Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) at programme and project levels.

The MEL framework:

- is a living document and is complementary to the requirements set out in the newly approved BSF Operations Manual (Annex 2 of the Funding Strategy). The MEL framework will be used throughout the BSF programme and project cycles and will be reviewed and updated regularly, as specified in the Treaty's Funding Strategy.
- addresses the monitoring, evaluation and reporting in an integrated manner, including by further strengthening the learning and knowledge management of the BSF.
- responds to the continuous evolution of the BSF and has been developed taking into account the exiting reporting, monitoring and evaluation system for BSF. While each BSF project has its own reporting, monitoring and data collection methods, this MEL combines a set of interconnected tools and indicators to support the collection, compilation and management of the information arising from the implementation of BSF projects. It provides a common basis for reporting at projects and programme levels.
- promotes accountability and enables learning and knowledge sharing in the implementation of BSF projects and programmes. It has been designed to measure progress, assess risks, improve performance and enable adaptive management in BSF implementation as well as to facilitate and systematize monitoring processes and support compliance with reporting requirements. It is a practical tool that provides immediate operational and strategic management support for the BSF project cycles.
- is results oriented, flexible, dynamic and inclusive of all BSF stakeholders. It forms the basis for assessing impact and ensure effectiveness and efficiency in delivery of the BSF projects and programme to support critical analysis and learning, inform decision-making and strategic programming.

1.2 Results framework

The BSF Results Framework is a centerpiece of the BSF programme and shows the conceptual foundation upon which the MEL Framework is organized. It sets the overall outcomes of the BSF programme and highlights the main outputs to be achieved and related targets to which all BSF funded projects have to contribute. It is fully aligned with the Theory of Change and other elements of the BSF Operations Manual.

⁴ Resolution 3/2019 available at <http://www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf>

Note by the Secretariat:

The graphic representation of the Results Framework will be presented here.

In Annex 2 of this document, the Results Framework of the 4th funding cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF-4) has been provided, as one possible model for the 5-year Results Framework. The Annex contains additional information also about the programmatic approach currently being used, including a list of indicators.

At SFC-3, the Committee will be invited to discuss the structure and key elements of the Results Framework. The goal is that the graphic representation of the Results Framework to be presented here will provide a visual summary of the BSF programme for the period of 2020-2025, and be kept to 1 page, if possible.

The MEL framework for the BSF will serve as a practical tool to monitor and evaluate the achievements in the main outcome areas and outputs of the Results Framework and enable knowledge management and learning. The set of monitoring indicators for each target and related outcome areas of the Results Framework will form Annex 1 of the MEL Framework.

The BSF executing partners will use the BSF Results Framework and the list of indicators to develop each individual Logical framework at project level, which will be context specific and prepared in a country-driven manner.

The Secretariat will aggregate targets and indicators from each project to map the collective contribution of individual projects to the achievement of the BSF Results Framework and assess the progress in contributing to the overall programme.

II. KEY APPROACHES TO MONITORING

The Monitoring for BSF is done on a continuous basis to systematically collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data and information arising from portfolio implementation. The purpose of the monitoring for BSF is to assess projects' performance and effectiveness in achieving planned outputs and outcomes and identify any risks and corrective measures for improvement and adjustment of BSF interventions. The lessons from monitoring are discussed periodically and used to inform actions and decisions.

The monitoring of the BSF projects is carried out in accordance to FAO standards and forms an integral part of the project agreements signed with each BSF executing institution. Each BSF executing institution is responsible for monitoring its contribution towards the achievement of project outcomes. The responsibility for monitoring the achievement of the BSF programme outcomes lies with the Secretariat.

2.1 Establishing baseline

The collection of primary and secondary information prior to project intervention, through a baseline survey, is crucial for an evidence based, results-oriented and effective MEL system. The collected quantitative and qualitative information enables joint analysis and decision making amongst stakeholders for the projects' planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning. Many project partners of the BSF have in the past conducted baselines surveys. This MEL framework brings together the experience gained to have the preparation of a baseline establishment

standardized throughout the projects and programmes of the BSF. The baseline survey should be combined with endline surveys.⁵

Baseline surveys could integrate the use of questionnaires with other Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools. These could be used in combination with climate vulnerability assessments or tools, such as the diversity wheel, to define plant breeding or conservation objectives or gender differentiated trait preferences. These tools could be used to enhance local knowledge to co-define farmers' perception of climate change and use of PGRFA for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. Used in a participatory manner, the surveys can be empowering and create joint ownership among the stakeholders involved.

The surveys have cost, time and skills implications so a minimum to optimum data sets need to be defined by the BSF executing partners. The data sets need to match the monitoring of outputs, outcomes and risk management.

2.2. Risk management

Risk management involves the process of identifying, monitoring, preventing or mitigating risks that could potentially affect project delivery and outcomes. Risk management presents an opportunity for building resilience and manage inter-related systemic risks:

1. risk related to project context (e.g. market fluctuations, conflicts);
2. project implementation risk (e.g. delays in procurement, staff hiring),
3. risk inherent in agriculture production (e.g. crop failure) and PGRFA management (e.g. biotic and abiotic stresses);
4. risk compounded by climate hazards of both extreme (e.g. typhoon) and slow on-set events (e.g. drought).

The objectives of the BSF risk management are two folds. Firstly, to enhance climate resilience at community level through the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. Secondly, risk and adaptive management throughout the project cycle.

Building on the BSF's Risk Assessment Matrix⁶, the risk management will be improved and implemented. Risk screening and management will be part of the selection process, project inception and implementation. Whilst the context of risk management is complex, the tools and indicators for the BSF will be practical and easy to implement.

2.3. Technical monitoring: a focus on the output level

The technical monitoring of the BSF is carried out during the lifespan of the projects and provides real-time information on project implementation and performance. Each BSF project is required to monitor and report periodically on the status of project implementation, in accordance to the monitoring mechanisms and reporting requirements set out in project contracts and following FAO standards.

The purpose of the technical monitoring is to:

- Assess the status of project implementation compared with the original workplan and budget;
- Assess the achievement of the pre-identified targets and related indicators in terms of quality and timeliness;

⁵ An end line survey is the collection of information as inputs to evaluate project results by comparing information from the baseline and end line surveys.

⁶ Please refer to section 2.1.6. *Monitoring tools*.

- Assess the changes to the key assumptions and risks that affect attainment of project targets and individuate any remedial measures;
- Assess if the accomplished targets continue to be relevant for the achievement of the project outcomes and overall goal; and,
- Summarize the major problems and issues affecting or likely to affect implementation progress, compliance with reporting and monitoring, recommend actions to overcome these problems and issues.

All BSF projects will develop individual Logical Frameworks that will be aligned to the Results Framework of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Targets for each outcome and output should be established in relation to baseline data and thus set the prospects for performance over the project duration.

The list of indicators for each target and related outcome will form Annex 1 of the MEL framework and are the benchmark for the technical monitoring⁷. The targets and indicators will be subject to technical monitoring to assess if the cumulative reported indicators are adequate to reach the envisaged targets and ensure that they lead to the delivery of planned outcomes in the agreed period. This process will be repeated at each reporting interval to continuously validate that delivery of targets is on schedule and remains relevant.

2.4. Monitoring at the outcome level: assessing the benefits for farmers

The monitoring of BSF previous cycles was strong on achievement of technical outputs at each cycle. The monitoring at programme outcome level (i.e. food and nutrition security, disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change resilient livelihoods, policy changes and co-generation of technologies etc.) needs a more systemic approach in the next years, including moving beyond a concrete funding cycle.

Whilst the BSF has developed and used strong technical monitoring at output levels, the MEL framework will now correlate outputs to enable monitoring at outcome level. Outcome level monitoring aims to manage projects to achieve and demonstrate the benefits that PGRFA brings to farmers.

The outcome level monitoring will test project level assumptions to the BSF's Theory of Change and will track impact pathways towards macro level outcomes. The positive changes are the PGRFA benefits related to food and nutrition security, resilient livelihoods, disaster risk management and climate adaptation. This will also include policy changes and institutional transformation toward the co-generation of technologies to harness plant genetic resources for a climate resilient food and agriculture systems.

Integrated with knowledge management, MEL at outcome level will also track key medium-term achievements of the projects and how these contribute to long term goals of PGRFA management in the context of the Treaty implementation.

Indicators at outcome level will be strengthened and included in Annex 1 of the MEL Framework. Although hard quantitative data in some areas will be difficult to track and measure (e.g. farmers' improve income), the outcome indicators are intended to be mutually reinforcing. Their triangulation can produce robust data and establish causal links to outputs and outcomes.

2.5. Financial monitoring

Based on Article 19.3 (h) of the Treaty, the Governing Body has established a Trust Account to receive financial contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund. In accordance with the Financial Rules of the Governing Body, the Trust Account of the Benefit-sharing Fund is administered by

⁷ Note by the Secretariat: An indicative list of indicators for each target and outcome areas of the Results Framework are provided in Annex 2 of this first Draft MEL framework.

FAO and its accounts and financial management are subject to the policies and procedures of FAO.

The implementation of the interim disbursement procedures⁸ shall be in line with the Financial Rules of the Governing Body and consistent with existing FAO financial rules and procedures, as well as other applicable FAO rules and procedures.

The terms and conditions of disbursement will be set forth in the project agreements. The project agreements will include, *inter alia*:

- a schedule for the disbursement of funds in tranches based on time specific milestones;
- a requirement for an *Implementation Report* from the implementing entity prior to each tranche disbursement.
- a provision authorizing non-payment if project delivery fails.

Responsibility: the Secretary of the Governing Body will develop the project agreements following the FAO template for Letters of Agreement.

Payments will be made in the following phases:

1. An initial payment to follow signature of the project agreement.

Responsibility: the Secretary of the Governing Body will authorize the initial payment.

2. Interim payments, dependent upon receipt and acceptance of *Implementation Reports*, which includes a financial statement of expenditures signed and certified by a duly designated representative of the executing entity and relevant supporting documentation.

Responsibility: the executing entities will submit *Implementation Reports* to be accepted by the Secretary before authorizing any new payment.

3. A final payment, dependent upon receipt and acceptance of a *Terminal Report*, which includes a final financial statement of expenditures signed and certified by a duly designated representative of the executing entity and relevant supporting documentation. Responsibility: the executing entities will submit a *Terminal Report* to be accepted by the Secretary before authorizing the final payment.

2.6. Monitoring tools

The MEL framework builds on existing reporting and monitoring system within the BSF. The monitoring for BSF is carried out at two levels: project level and programme level.

At programme level, the BSF Reports to the Funding Committee will be the main tool used by the Secretariat to aggregate data and evidence on results produced by BSF projects.

Monitoring at project level relies on collection of evidence sourced from the management teams involved in the execution of BSF projects at country level/s. The Secretariat has developed and used throughout the BSF project cycles a set of monitoring tools⁹ to capture information, quantitative and qualitative data, assess performance and risk in project implementation:

1. **Reporting and monitoring schedule** is used by the Secretariat to keep track of the due dates for reporting for each project, including the status of approval of the reporting documents and disbursement.

⁸ Res 3/2011: Annex 2: Draft Interim Disbursement Procedures available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-be453e.pdf>

⁹ The reporting and monitoring tools are an integral part of the monitoring and reporting requirements set out in the contracts signed with the BSF implementing partners (FAO Letters of Agreement).

2. **Results report**¹⁰ (EN, SP, FR) provide information in areas of effectiveness, efficiency, potential impact, best practices and lessons learnt. The results report has been designed to track the status of inputs/outputs, assumptions/risks, and the likelihood of the achievement of programme outcomes and overall goal.
3. **Periodic financial reports** (EN, SP, FR) include a financial statement of incurred expenditures within the corresponding reporting period;
4. **Monitoring questionnaire**¹¹ (EN, SP, FR) provides quantitative and qualitative data in the fields of partnerships, beneficiaries, targeted PGRFA, field activities, conservation practices, PGRFA information and technologies, training and capacity building, project management.
5. **Risk assessment matrix** (EN, SP, FR) captures and analyzes the level of risks (high, medium, low) in relation to a set of factors: environmental, social, cultural and economic conditions, management capacity and skills, project management, governance, budget and workflow. For each factor of risk, project partners are required to elaborate upon the coping strategy/ies to manage the identified risks.
6. **Field visits**: the Secretariat periodically organizes field visits to selected BSF projects to directly assess progress in project implementation, meet project beneficiaries and partners, collect first-hand information on changes in the livelihoods of target communities, engage in multistakeholder dialogues, exchange of information, good practices and collect lessons learnt. Field visits are meant to validate the results reported by the projects.

The quantitative and qualitative data and information gathered through the monitoring tools is analyzed, triangulated, systematized and aggregated by the Secretariat to enable reporting at the BSF programme level.

III. KEY APPROACHES TO EVALUATION

According to the *Interim Procedures for Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation* adopted by the Governing Body of the Treaty¹², a terminal independent evaluation of the project portfolio is conducted at the end of the project cycle.

The minimum requirements for such evaluation are:

- compliance with norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group.
- assessing at a minimum:
 1. the achievement of outputs and outcomes, and provide ratings for targeted objectives and outcomes;
 2. the sustainability of outcomes after project completion, with a scale of rating;

The minimum contents of the terminal evaluation report are:

- basic data on the evaluation:

- when the evaluation took place,
- who was involved;
- the key questions, and
- the methodology;

- basic data on the project, including expenditures from the Benefit-sharing Fund and other sources;

¹⁰ Please note that due to COVID-19 emergency the results report template has been updated to include an assessment of the impact of the pandemic on the implementation of project activities.

¹¹ Please note that due to COVID-19 emergency the monitoring questionnaire has been updated to include an assessment of the impact of the pandemic on the implementation of project activities.

¹² Res. 3/2011 Annex 1: *Interim Procedures for Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation*
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-be453e.pdf>

- lessons for broader applicability; and,
- the terms of reference of the evaluation (in an annex).

The independent evaluation shall be based on visits to the locations of a sample of projects and other mechanisms, such as interviews, questionnaires, focus group discussions.

The evaluation report shall be submitted to the Secretary within a reasonable time after termination of the projects.

The evaluation report shall contain findings and recommendations and will be made public through the website.

The evaluation team is lead by independent experts not involved with the projects and the Benefit-sharing Fund. An approach paper and Terms of Reference for evaluation are prepared by the Secretary and the FAO Evaluation Office. The evaluation report is reviewed, if needed, by the evaluation office of the implementing entity. The evaluation team is solely responsible for the independent evaluation report.

IV. KEY APPROACHES TO KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, LEARNING AND COMMUNICATION

4.1. Knowledge and learning opportunities within the BSF programme

Building from the knowledge and lessons generated from the first four cycles of the BSF, this MEL Framework includes a new knowledge management and communication plan. The plan is contained in Annex 3 of the MEL Framework. The BSF3 independent evaluation confirmed that the BSF generated rich and tangible data and knowledge on the still-developing field of PGRFA management for food security in the context of climate change and recommended that the BSF should further capitalize on building and sharing knowledge within and across projects, as well as with Treaty stakeholders and National Focal Points at large.

Learning takes place at individual and organizational levels. Knowledge management entails the process of generating, sharing, validating and applying knowledge towards problem solving and enacting change. Since knowledge relates to experience and behaviour, knowledge management is context specific. It revolves around people and their interactions; with each other and their environments.

The purpose of BSF knowledge management is to contribute to supporting the implementation of the Treaty. This involves contribution to the enhancement of the cyclical and mutually enhancing relations between the MLS and the BSF; whereby PGRFA materials and knowledge are accessed and adapted contributing to the generation of more PGRFA and knowledge into the multilateral stem of access and benefit sharing.

The knowledge and evidence from local, national, regional and global levels will be translated into a compelling and tailor-made narratives to increase the visibility and influence of the Treaty - towards supporting the Contracting Parties and stakeholders of the Treaty to access and generate PGRFA for food and nutrition security and climate resilience.

4.2. Knowledge management and learning plan

The BSF will take a phased approach in its knowledge management, starting from its core constituents right through the PGRFA community at large, considering:

- the need for continuous learning and the further development of the BSF's knowledge management;
- the vast potential of PGRFA management in contributing to food and nutrition security in the context of climate resilience; and,

- the scale of ambition of the BSF's knowledge management needs to be matched with human and financial resources.

Project level

The basic and primary focus of the BSF knowledge management is at project level where multiple stakeholders collaborate, often pooling resources and each other's expertise to jointly implement a BSF project. Often working with farmers, knowledge processes take place basically in problem analysis, identification of possible solutions, experimentation and adaptation.

At project level, a diversity of PGRFA materials are accessed, characterized, tested, developed and adapted on multiple locations within diverse agro-ecologies and cropping systems. Often linking farmers and scientific knowledge, strategies employing PGRFA for sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation are developed and tested. Some of the most successful results within the BSF are those where farmers jointly analyze and work together with the support of plant breeders, extension agents, etc. Another crucial learning processes is the gender differentiated identification of farmers' trait preferences and plant breeding objectives.

Further outreach and communications takes place when farmers' knowledge and PGRFA materials are shared in e.g. community seed fairs and policy dialogue. The documentation of knowledge products and processes, lessons learned, and best practices are the core activities at project levels.

Programme level

Amongst projects, at programme level, the collection and sharing of the documentation of knowledge products and processes, lessons learned and best practices are shared amongst the past and present BSF partners and shared more widely to the Contracting Parties of the Treaty. The Treaty Secretariat can collate and annotate knowledge products; and encourage the sharing and use of these materials.

The Secretariat should also organize webinars, conferences, side events, as part of knowledge sharing and communications. In addition, the Secretariat should also make public the information on the PGRFA materials and basic characterization that were accessed, tested, developed and deposited to the MLS linking these with narratives on outcomes.

The BSF Secretariat should also collate the knowledge products and achievements of the BSF and track these towards the long terms goals of the Treaty to ensure further use and development of relevant BSF materials. This should serve as possible inputs to the future design of the BSF call for proposals, further programme development and fund raising and collaboration with other programmes and institutions.

Further added value to the BSF knowledge products can be archived though linking within FAO, highlighting the significance of the BSF and the Treaty to FAO's strategic programming. In addition, the Secretariat can also provide links to FAO knowledge products such as guidelines and tools, which may be of interest to the BSF project holders. For example, links to FAO's work on FFS, Climate Change and DRR, value chain development and the CFS.

In consultation with the BSF project holders and contracting parties on e.g key bottlenecks and priorities, the BSF can further add value to the knowledge products of the BSF by using these as evidence to support e.g. case studies, policy briefs, manuals, development of tools and further training. This way the knowledge products of the BSF can be used to further generate knowledge products for wider dissemination.

Appealing to a wider community, the BSF can reach out to other programmes, institutions, networks and knowledge platforms for mutual sharing of information and potentials for further collaboration.

4.3. Outreach and communication

The core messaging is about the centrality of PGRFA management and the role of the multilateral systems for access and benefit in supporting equitable and sustainable local to global food systems in the context of climate change.

These should be tailored to:

- All Contracting Parties;
- The stakeholders of the International Treaty, including PGRFA practitioners, seed sector, development sector;
- Messaging must relate to the wider food systems: consumers, food and retail industries, financial and banking sector.
- Corresponding targeted policy messaging to the respective governments; and relevant international agreements, bodies and processes such as the SDGs, UNFCCC, CBD, GPA, OECD

V. REPORTING

One of the main purposes of the MEL framework is to facilitate the monitoring processes and support compliance with reporting requirements. The information arising from the MEL framework will be systematized, analyzed and compiled to report at project/s and programme levels to support critical analysis and learning, inform decision-making and strategic programming.

The table below summarizes the main type of reports that will be prepared using the MEL framework, the timeline, roles and responsibilities. This table will be provided in Annex 3 of the final version of the MEL Framework.

What	Frequency	Content	Responsibility
<i>Progress narrative reports</i>	In accordance to the reporting and monitoring schedule set in the contracts (every 8 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on status of implementation of project activities (including any modifications to the original workplans and budgets) • Achievements at output level • Achievements at outcome level • Partnership • Challenges • Gender • Sustainability • Good practices and lessons learned 	BSF executing partners Project management team
<i>Periodic financial reports</i>	In accordance to the reporting and monitoring schedule set in the contracts (every 8 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of expenditure for the corresponding reporting period 	BSF executing partners Project management team

<i>Report to SFC</i>	Annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis of quantitative and qualitative information arising from MEL • Update on progress in the implementation of BSF portfolio • Update on the use of financial resources • Learning, communication and outreach • Main challenges encountered and corrective measures adopted • Success stories and lessons learnt 	Secretariat
<i>Report to donors, NFPs, BSF partners (upon request)</i>	Annual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be based on the annual reports to the SFC, as much as possible • Synthesis of quantitative and qualitative information arising from MEL • In accordance to the reporting requirements set in donor agreements 	Secretariat
<i>Report to GB</i>	Biennial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be based on the annual reports to the SFC • Synthesis of quantitative and qualitative information arising from MEL • In accordance to the Procedures for Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation • In accordance to BSF Operations Manual 	SFC/Secretariat
<i>Final Report of BSF</i>	At the conclusion of project cycle		Secretariat
<i>Evaluation report</i>	At the conclusion of project cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Evaluation group standards 	FAO Office of Independent Evaluation Secretariat / SFC

ANNEX 2: ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMMATIC APPROACH FROM PREVIOUS CYCLES OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

The BSF-4 was the first funding cycle where a programmatic approach was developed. It was designed taking into account lessons learned from previous BSF cycles, in an attempt to structure the BSF programme with a common goal, outcome areas and related targets.

The BSF-4 was designed prior to the finalization of the new BSF Manual and the Independent Evaluation of the BSF-3. The objective now is to capitalize on the existing project tools to develop a MEL Framework, with its corresponding Results Framework at programme level. This MEL Framework would be used throughout the period 2020-2025 and every new funding cycle within this period. The BSF Results framework will further link the achievement of technical outputs with programme level outcomes.

The BSF-4 Results Framework is provided in the next page.

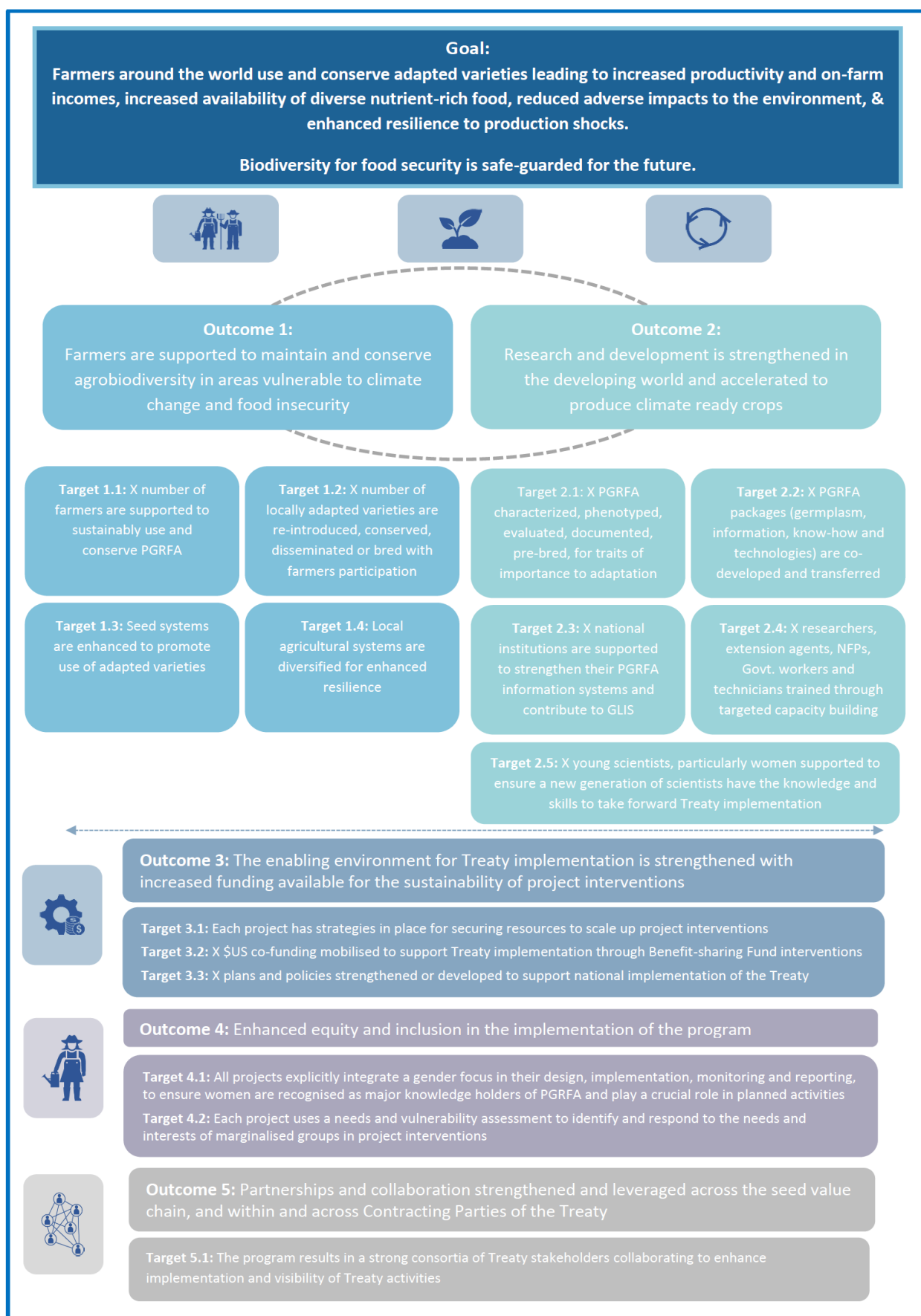
The BSF-4 programmatic approach included the following overall goal of BSF programme: “Farmers around the world use and conserve adapted varieties leading to increased productivity and on-farm incomes, increased availability of diverse nutrient-rich food, reduced adverse impacts to the environment & enhanced resilience to production shocks”.

To contribute to the overall goal, the Results framework sets 2 main outcomes areas (1 and 2) and three (3-5) cross cutting outcomes areas, that contain an indicative set of contributory targets.

The BSF programme aims to support farmers to maintain and conserve agrobiodiversity in areas vulnerable to climate change and food insecurity (Outcome 1) and strengthen research and development in the developing world to produce climate ready crops (Outcome 2). All BSF-4 projects demonstrate the benefits that PGRFA bring to farmers.

The Results Framework of BSF-4 contains three cross cutting outcomes and related targets (3-5). Contribution to these cross-cutting outcomes enable the development of clear impact pathways to catalyse the widespread dissemination of results and ensure sustainability and scaling up of results. It is expected that the BSF projects support the integration of PGRFA activities in sectoral or cross-sectoral national plans and policies to positively influence national decision-making process in relation to PGRFA; and optimize various forms of engagement to establish multiple level partnerships between local, national, regional or international partners.

The projects address equity and social inclusion through the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA in areas with significant levels of poverty and vulnerability to climate change.



List of indicators to support BSF-4 monitoring

The below table provides an indicative list of indicators for each target of the Results Framework provided above, which are measurable and for which information can be collected and processed throughout the project implementation period.

<i>OUTCOME 1: Farmers supported to maintain and conserve agrobiodiversity in areas vulnerable to climate change and food insecurity</i>
<i>Target 1.1 Farmers supported to sustainably use and conserve PGRFA</i>
of baseline surveys on farmers' varieties and agronomic practices carried out
of studies to document local varieties carried out
of in situ (including on farm) surveys/inventories of PGRFA carried out
of PGRFA surveyed/inventoried
of farmers involved in on-farm PGRFA management activities
of plans/strategies on conservation and use developed
of local varieties, including crop wild relatives and underutilized varieties collected and conserved
of CSBs established/strengthened
of people trained on sustainable conservation and management practices
<i>Target 1.2 X number of locally adapted varieties are re-introduced, conserved, disseminated or bred with farmers' participation</i>
of collection missions carried out
of accessions collected
of farmers' varieties/landraces delivered from national or local genebanks to farmers
of crop wild relatives species conserved in situ by targeted communities
of varieties re-introduced in farmers' fields
<i>Target 1.3 Seed systems enhanced to promote use of adapted varieties</i>
of farmers' varieties/landraces and underutilized species with potential for commercialization identified
of seed inspectors and producers trained
of new varieties released
kg of adapted varieties sold on local markets
% change in productivity of the targeted crops
of farmers using improved seeds
of public-private partnerships formed
of linkages/agreement/platforms among value chain actors established
of market plans/business models developed
of farmers' varieties registered in national catalogues of commercial varieties

Target 1.4 Local agricultural systems are diversified for enhanced resilience

of farmers benefiting from climate smart agriculture technologies

of projects adopting intercropping

of projects dealing with packages of PGRFA

of promotional campaigns and field days to showcase climate smart agriculture technologies;

of new crops and/or wild species introduced into cultivation

of farmers' traditional and improved varieties registered in national catalogues of

OUTCOME 2: Research and development is strengthened in the developing world and accelerated to produce climate ready crops**Target 2.1 PGRFA characterized, phenotyped, evaluated, documented, pre-bred, for traits of importance to adaptation and resilience**

of PGRFA accessions characterized, evaluated and genotyped

of useful traits [...] identified

of superior genotypes identified

of publications on germplasm evaluation and molecular characterization developed

of public and/or private genetic enhancement (including base-broadening) initiatives put through

of [high yielding...] varieties identified

of new crops developed

of new crops introduced into cultivation

Target 2.2 PGRFA packages and tools (germplasm, information, know-how and technologies) are co-developed and transferred

of packages and tools developed, documented and disseminated

of new packages/technologies adopted

of people adopting new technologies

of documentation papers/catalogues on PGRFA data developed

of field days and innovation forums to disseminate technologies carried out

Target 2.3 National institutions are supported to strengthen PGRFA information systems and contribute to GLIS

of scientists and researchers trained

of PGRFA data catalogues developed and published

of institutions strengthening PGRFA information systems participating in projects

of tools integrated in the Global Information System

Target 2.4: X researchers, extension agents, national focal points, government workers and technicians trained through targeted capacity building

of [researchers, technicians, etc] trained

of trainings modules developed

of training sessions carried out

Target 2.5. X young scientists, particularly women, supported to ensure a new generation of scientists have the knowledge and skills to take forward Treaty implementation

of young scientists benefiting from the project

of MSc and PhD students supported

of thesis published

OUTCOME 3: The enabling environment for Treaty implementation is strengthened with increased funding available for the sustainability of project interventions

Target 3.1 Each project has strategies in place for securing resources to scale up project interventions

of synergies established with similar projects

of additional funds secured from other sources

of new proposals developed

of new grants agreements signed

of MOUs signed

Target 3.2 X million \$US co-funding mobilized to support the Treaty implementation through the Benefit-sharing Fund interventions

of co-funding mobilized

of new grants agreements signed

Target 3.3 X plans and policies strengthened or developed to support national implementation of the Treaty

of adaptation plans and/or policies strengthened or developed

of policy dialogues promoted

of multistakeholder platforms established

OUTCOME 4: Enhanced equity and inclusion in the implementation of the programme

Target 4.1 All projects explicitly integrate a gender focus in their design, implementation, monitoring and reporting to ensure women are recognized as major knowledge holders of PGRFA and play a crucial role in planned activities

% of women directly participating in the project

% of women participating in the decision making fora for the project (management team, steering committees, CSB management, set breeding priorities etc)

of farmers trained on gender inclusiveness

of women directly benefiting from the project

of women in leadership position in the seed production business;

of platforms established that support women in farming

Target 4.2 Each project uses a needs and vulnerability assessment to identify and respond to the needs and interests of marginalized groups in project interventions

of needs and vulnerability assessments conducted

of focus group discussions, key informants interviews carried out

OUTCOME 5: Partnerships and collaboration strengthened and leveraged across the seed value chain, and within and across Contracting Parties of the Treaty

Target 5.1 The program results in a strong consortia of Treaty stakeholders collaborating to enhance implementation and visibility of Treaty activities

of partnering institutions directly involved in implementation of the project

of MoUs/ partnerships agreements signed

of joint initiatives, meetings, consultations put in place

of joint communication/visibility initiatives carried out