



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

THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

Virtual briefings for Regional Groups:
Update on the preparations for BSF-5



Virtual briefings for Regional Groups

Update on the preparations for BSF-5

The Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization is preparing to launch the 5th BSF cycle (BSF-5). The Committee requested regional briefings to:

- Demonstrate **results of previous cycles**;
- Serve as an opportunity for further **resource mobilization**;
- Present and explain the:
 - **BSF Operations Manual**, including its new options for funding allocation;
 - The **Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL)** framework, as recently finalized by the Funding Committee;
- Discuss means to enhance the **intra-regional participation** in BSF;
- Provide Regional Groups with further information that could **assist the Funding Committee** in its deliberations to finalise the BSF-5 programme.





Overview of the presentation

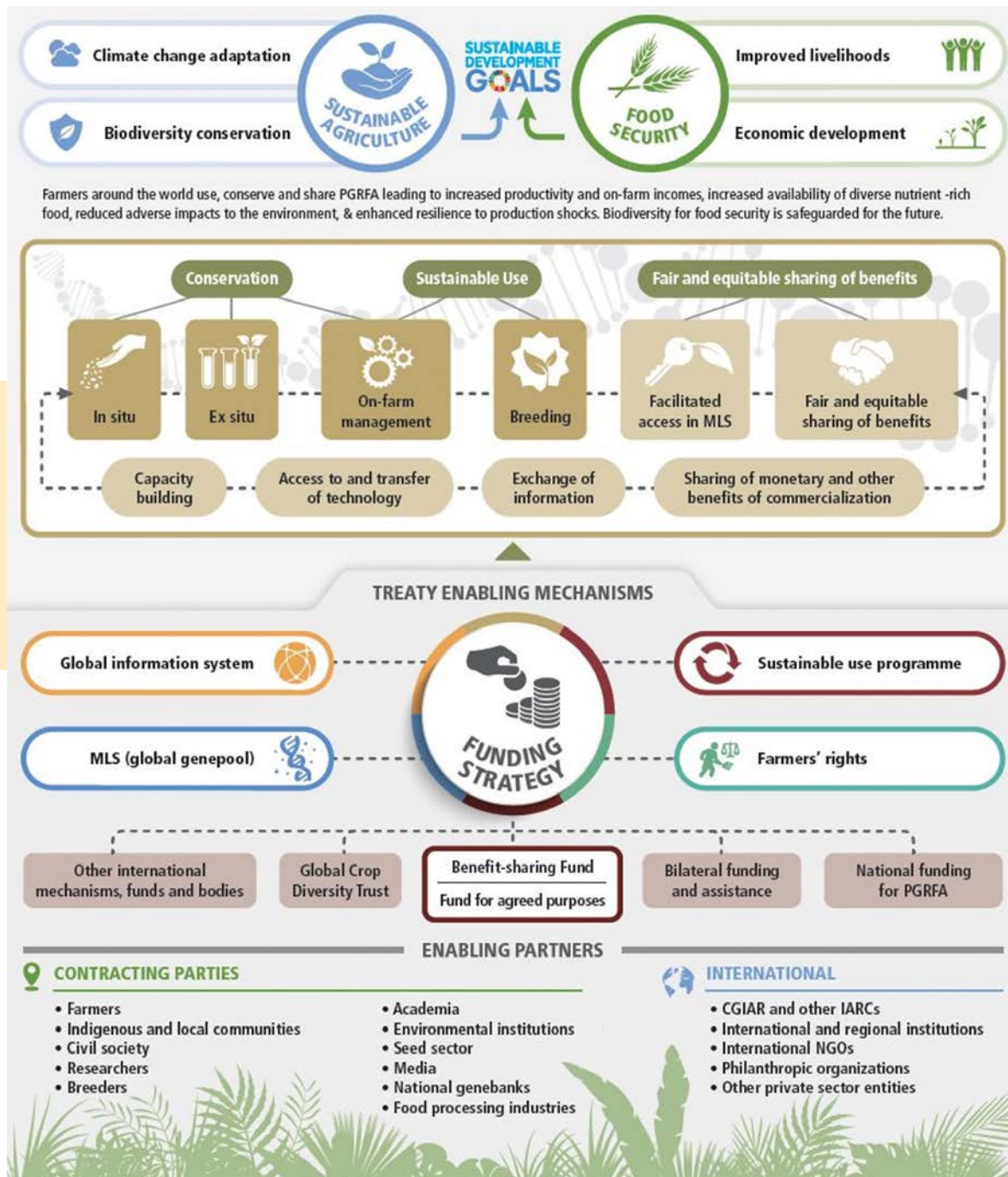
- The Benefit-sharing Fund after adoption of the updated Funding Strategy by the Governing Body (Res. 3/2019)
- Preparing the 5th funding cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF-5)
- Discussion by the Regional Group in preparation of the next Funding Committee meeting

The Benefit-sharing Fund: Background

- An essential element of the Funding Strategy and of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS)
- Operational mechanism for receiving, utilizing and sharing the monetary benefits arising from MLS (Article 19.3.f)
- Established by the Governing Body in 2009; under its direct control
- An evolving mechanism: since its first Session, the Governing Body has regularly reviewed and enhanced BSF governance and operations
- Through Resolution 3/2019, the Governing Body updated the Treaty's Funding Strategy (2020–2025), including the BSF Operations Manual



The Benefit-sharing Fund within the new Funding Strategy



Challenges



Food scarcity
or insecurity



Climate
change



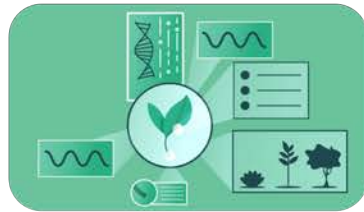
Loss of
biodiversity

Impact

Since 2010, the Benefit-sharing Fund supported projects in **67 developing countries**. In collaboration with over **500 institutions**, the programme nurtures diverse approaches to encourage sustainable agriculture and improve food and nutrition security.



To date, farmers tested over **30 000 genetic materials** to match preferences and respond to needs and challenges in diverse agro-ecological settings.



Researchers expanded their knowledge and techniques. Jointly with farmers they developed at least **400 climate-resilient crop varieties**.



Almost 94 000 working with plant genetic resources increased know-how and skills on conservation, management and policy engagement



Lessons learned and best practices at local level informed policy makers in their **national and regional planning** on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The International Plant Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund programme works with farmers and indigenous communities in developing countries.

Benefit-sharing Fund



Focus

Sustainable use
and conservation



Strengthening local
value chains



Exchange of plant
genetic resources,
data and knowledge



Join us to take care of
the plants that feed us all



Highlights of the BSF-3 Independent Evaluation

Conclusion 1-Relevance: BSF-3 was highly relevant in leveraging PGRFA as an indispensable element of farmers' food security and adaptation for climate change.

Conclusion 2-Effectiveness: The multi-stakeholders and multi-country collaboration delivered a likely unprecedented number of PGRFA materials to be accessed by farmers.

Conclusion 4-Efficiency: For a relatively small amount of money, BSF-3 provided an effective and reasonably efficient funding modality, that enabled the funding and implementation of a number of relatively small but critical PGRFA interventions, which otherwise would not have been possible to be funded individually by major donors.

Link to *Draft Final Report of the Independent Evaluation of BSF-3*

<https://www.fao.org/3/cb8470en/cb8470en.pdf>

Highlights of the Independent Evaluation of BSF-3

Recommendation 2-Effectiveness: The Funding Committee [should] commission the development of the BSF multi-year programme framework that is: both strategic and operational, both technical and political, both visionary and results oriented; link short- and medium-term objectives to long term goals.

Recommendation 7-Knowledge Management and Communications: The BSF strategic programme framework should include the development and budget allocation of a corresponding knowledge management and communication strategy. [...]The communications component should weave a compelling, evidence-based narrative on the achievements of the BSF and the significance of PGRFA on the achievements of the BSF and the significance of PGRFA for food and nutrition security and for climate change adaptation and resilience.

Link to *Draft Final Report of the Independent Evaluation of BSF-3*

<https://www.fao.org/3/cb8470en/cb8470en.pdf>

Presentation of phase 1 of BSF-3 evaluation(webinar) available at

<https://www.fao.org/3/cb3342en/cb3342en.pdf>

Video: The Benefit-sharing Fund



...matching the needs of farmers.

Watch at: www.fao.org/plant-treaty

The Benefit-sharing Fund in the updated Funding Strategy

- A new Operations Manual was adopted by the Governing Body as Annex 2 to the revised Funding Strategy (Res. 3/2019).
- The Manual brings together resource mobilization, allocation and disbursement in an integrated manner.
- A new Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MEL Framework) was finalized by the Funding Committee at its 4th meeting.
- Key Areas of improvement:
 1. Enhanced programmatic focus and approach
 2. Updated resource mobilization strategy
 3. New Operational Procedures: enhanced governance and new options for fund allocation
 4. Strengthened monitoring and learning processes: learning, knowledge-sharing, communication at the center
- Improvements are based on lessons learned in previous project cycles.



BSF Manual: Enhanced programmatic focus and approach

Primary beneficiaries are farmers, especially in developing countries, and countries with economies in transition, who conserve and sustainably utilize plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (Art. 13.3).

NEW! Within the Second GPA priorities the BSF will focus on:

- PA 2: Supporting on-farm management and improvement of PGRFA, and;
- PA 11: Promoting development and commercialization of all varieties, primarily farmers' varieties and underutilized crops.

These priorities are set to fill GPA implementation gaps and after mapping funding available through other Funding Strategy channels (section I, para. 6,7 and 8).

NEW! All funded projects have to contribute to the BSF Results Framework (Impact, Outcome and Outputs).

For more information: Annex 2 – Section I of Res. 3/2019 available at <https://www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf>



Programmatic approach: niche and distinctive elements

- Ensure farmers access to a wide range of seeds adapted to their needs.
- In-situ/on-farm and ex-situ conservation as a continuum
- Support participatory plant breeding
- Improve local seed value chains
- Enhance flow of genetic resources and information: knowledge, information and germplasm generated feeds back into the Treaty global mechanisms
- Help inform national planning through lessons learned
- Catalyze partnerships (multiple level, dynamic and inclusive)
- Show how local to global conservation efforts are linked



 Climate change adaptation

 Biodiversity conservation



Improved livelihoods

Economic development



Benefit-sharing Fund Results Framework



Impact

Livelihoods improved for small-scale farmers in developing countries, and food security and sustainable agriculture promoted, through the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA

Outcome

Adapted PGRFA managed or improved with farmers' participation

Enhanced local value chains improve production and consumption of adapted PGRFA

Mechanisms strengthened to enhance the sharing of PGRFA materials, data and knowledge

Outputs

Benefit-sharing Fund Results Framework

Impact



Farmers around the world use, conserve and share Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) leading to increased productivity and on-farm incomes, increased availability of diverse nutrient-rich food, reduced adverse impacts to the environment and enhanced resilience to production shocks.

Biodiversity for food security is safeguarded for the future.

Benefit-sharing Fund Results Framework

Outcome

Livelihoods improved for small-scale farmers in developing countries, and food security and sustainable agriculture promoted, through the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA

Benefit-sharing Fund Results Framework

Outputs

Adapted PGRFA managed or improved with farmers' participation

Enhanced local value chains improve production and consumption of adapted PGRFA

Mechanisms strengthened to enhance the sharing of PGRFA materials, data and knowledge

1.1 Use and conservation of farmers' varieties enhanced

1.2 New adapted varieties developed through participatory plant breeding

1.3 Dynamic linkages strengthened between on-farm programmes and genebanks and others in the agricultural research systems

2.1 Local seed value chains improved for dissemination of adapted varieties

2.2 Use of adapted PGRFA and their products enhanced in the local food value chain

3.1 Linkages strengthened to ensure the dynamic flow of PGRFA materials and data from local to global through MLS and GLIS

3.2 Capacities of BSF partners enhanced to document&disseminate knowledge on innovations for PGRFA management

3.3 Knowledge-gained and lessons learned accessed and used by all regions through the community of practice

3.4 Visibility on innovations for PGRFA management increased for evidence-based policy and planning

Resource mobilization

- Two main sources of funding for the BSF (2020-2025)
 - User-based income from the MLS
 - Voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and others

NEW! The regular review of the Funding Strategy by the Committee will inform the GB of the user-based income from MLS to BSF

NEW! The Funding Committee will regularly provide advice on Resource Mobilization efforts for the BSF

- BSF funding target remains bracketed in the updated Funding Strategy, for further action by the Governing Body
- Funding available for the 5th cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund: approx. 9 million USD



New Operational Procedures: enhanced governance and new options for fund allocation

NEW! Governing Body delegates the authority for the operations of the BSF during the biennium to the Funding Committee.

- Improved design, management and approval of BSF cycles.
- BSF decision-making process integrated and in synergy with the Funding Strategy.

NEW! New options for fund allocation:

- Fund projects that receive a Certificate of Excellence from the Panel of Experts
- Fund second phase of projects previously funded by the BSF.
- Contribute to larger development programmes that are aligned with the programmatic approach of the BSF.
- Provide preparation funding for larger projects contributing to the programmatic approach of the BSF.

NEW! Streamlined selection and approval process to reduce transaction costs, based on lessons learnt from previous cycles.



Strengthened monitoring and learning processes: learning, knowledge-sharing, communication at the center

- The MEL Framework is an integral part of the monitoring of the overall Funding Strategy
- Sets out the objectives, basic principles, steps and responsibilities for monitoring progress under the BSF
 - Promotes accountability within the BSF
 - Promotes learning, feedback and knowledge-sharing on results and lessons learned
- Serves to review and improve the contribution of the BSF to the programmatic approach of the Funding Strategy
- Contains an Annex with targets and indicators to be used in all funded projects



Strengthened monitoring and learning processes: learning, knowledge-sharing, communication at the center

NEW! Learning enabled within and between projects and programmes and the external environment.

- Lessons learned and continuous learning are regularly provided to all Regions so to increase commitment to the Fund.

Learning should:

- occur on a continuous basis, so that knowledge and lessons can be applied and facilitated through a community of practice of enabling partners;
- be a responsibility of the executing entities and the Secretariat; and the wider dissemination of synthesis of lessons learned by National Focal Points, donors, the Funding Committee and other enabling partners;
- inform the regular review of the Funding Strategy.



Strengthened monitoring and learning processes: learning, knowledge-sharing, communication at the center

- MEL framework approved by the Funding Committee at its 4th meeting - Appendix 3: IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/Proceedings (<https://www.fao.org/3/cb7281en/cb7281en.pdf>).
- A living document and complementary to the requirements set out in the BSF Operations Manual.

NEW! Addresses monitoring, evaluation and reporting in an integrated manner

NEW! Communication, learning and knowledge management are an integral part of reporting system for BSF

NEW! Outreach and visibility for BSF further streamlined and linked to knowledge management

NEW! Independent Evaluation also enhanced, not only of each BSF cycle; a review of the BSF programmatic approach is also foreseen.





The Benefit-sharing Fund

Summary of main novelties

- New governance through the Funding Committee
- Enhanced programmatic focus and approach
- New options for fund allocation
- Strengthened monitoring and learning through the new MEL Framework
- Strong focus on learning, knowledge management, communication and visibility

Preparing the launch of BSF-5

- The Funding Committee aims to launch BSF-5 in 2022
- Inputs from Regional Consultations will be shared with the Funding Committee at its fifth meeting for consideration in finalizing BSF-5
- The Independent Panel of Experts is being reconvened by the Bureau
- A total of approximately 9 million USD available
- First cycle where a fully developed MEL framework will be used
- First cycle to test some of the new options for fund allocation
- Strong focus on knowledge sharing and learning
- Visibility and communication streamlined

Guiding questions for discussion

1. How can the Treaty improve the dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned arising from BSF within your Region? How can intra-regional participation in BSF be enhanced?
2. Are there any suggestions from the Region regarding further resource mobilization for BSF-5? How can BSF-5 assist to mobilize additional resources not under the direct control of the Governing Body, as called for in para.10 of the new BSF Manual? Examples: build linkages between different funding sources, explore collaborative planning and co-spending opportunities with others, promote scientific fellowships among BSF researchers, etc.
3. What role could National Focal Points play to strengthen the implementation of BSF programmatic approach and visibility of projects funded?

BSF-3 Independent Evaluation:

- ✓ *The National Focal Points should be encouraged and supported to coordinate with their counterparts for multi-country projects; and to report to their respective regional groups in the ITPGRFA.*
- ✓ *Enable the regions to define their specific regional and intra-regional needs and priorities as inputs to the programme strategic framework of the BSF and for the specific call for proposals.*



THANK YOU