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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**

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

22 – 23 FEBRUARY 2022

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF
ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

Note by the Secretary

At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body requested “Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue reporting on their implementation of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and *invite[d]* the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to provide the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty with the reports received from its members on the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”.¹

This document has been prepared by the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) of FAO, to respond to the request made by the Governing Body through the Resolution 5/2019, and is presented as received for the information of the Committee.

¹ Resolution 5/2019: Implementation of articles 5 and 6, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources For Food And Agriculture <https://www.fao.org/3/nb783en/nb783en.pdf>

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1. The Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA) is important to the International Treaty which calls upon its Contracting Parties to promote its effective implementation, including through national actions and, as appropriate, international cooperation to provide a coherent framework, *inter alia*, for capacity-building, technology transfer and exchange of information, taking into account the provisions of Article 13.² Contracting Parties shall also cooperate with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) in its periodic reassessment of the state of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in order to facilitate the updating of the rolling Global Plan of Action.³

Key findings of the first assessment (2012-2014)

2. The Governing Body of the International Treaty, at its Eighth Session, requested Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue reporting on their implementation of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and invited the Commission to provide the Secretary of the Governing Body of the International Treaty with the reports received from its members on the implementation of the Second GPA. It further requested the Secretary to compile and summarize these reports and submit the compilation and the summary to the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for further review, and to support the Committee in its work.⁴

3. As reported to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body in 2017, FAO invited in October 2015 officially appointed National Focal Points (NFPs) to report through the WIEWS Reporting Tool on the status of PGRFA in their countries (as of 30 June 2014) and on activities undertaken by their countries between 1 January 2012 and 30 June 2014 to implement the Second GPA. FAO also invited regional and international agricultural research centres holding PGRFA *ex situ* collections to provide information.

4. In 2017, on the occasion of the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session, FAO published a *Summary assessment of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2012-2014*⁵ outlining the process undertaken to prepare the assessment and summarizing the key results. The summary assessment was made available in all UN languages. Key findings of the assessment were reported to the Commission⁶ and the Governing Body⁷. A more detailed assessment of the implementation of the Second GPA was provided in the document *Assessment of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2012–2014*⁸. All country data of this first reporting round, including data provided after the publication of the 2012-2014 assessment are available on the website of World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS).⁹

² [International Treaty](#), Article 14.

³ [International Treaty](#), Article 17.3.

⁴ [Resolution 5/2019](#), paragraphs 2.

⁵ [CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.1](#).

⁶ [CGRFA-16/17/16](#), paragraphs 3-8.

⁷ [IT/GB-7/17/Inf.23](#), paragraphs 5-12.

⁸ [CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.2](#).

⁹ <https://www.fao.org/wiews/data/domains/monitoring-framework/en/>.

5. As of March 2016, 43 countries had completed the online Reporting Format (answering on average 58 percent of the questions). For one specific question and its three indicators associated with *ex situ* collection holdings, data on about 3.6 million accessions could be gathered from 71 countries and 12 international centres. Countries reported directly to FAO on 1.17 million accessions, while the other accessions were sourced from EURISCO and Genesys.

6. Overall, it was noted that a greater number of country reports is needed to be able to draw conclusions as to the global state of implementation of the Second GPA.

Conservation

The assessment seems to indicate that in many countries *ex situ* conservation receives often more attention and tends to be better integrated into the PGRFA management cycle than in situ conservation. Overall progress on *ex situ* conservation was rated higher than progress on in situ conservation. Nevertheless, this relatively high satisfaction with the overall progress made on *ex situ* conservation should not obscure the fact that a high number of accessions is due for regeneration and the budget necessary for regeneration is in many cases not available, even in the case of some collections of global importance. The insufficient level of safety duplication makes the lack of funding for regeneration all the more worrisome.

NFP ratings show a mixed picture with regard to in situ conservation and on-farm management. The ratings clearly indicate low progress on in situ conservation and management of crop wild relatives and wild food plants and therefore underscore the need for their adequate integration into national programmes. On the other hand, relatively good progress was reported on specific activities, such as surveying and inventorying of PGRFA and on-farm management of farmers' varieties/landraces.

Sustainable use

Activities in support of sustainable use of PGRFA have been given the second highest rating. Activities reported include the characterization and evaluation of accessions, the management and distribution of collections, pre-breeding and breeding, seed systems and promotion of the diversification of crop production and increase of crop diversity on-farm. There were variations in the ratings provided for the different Priority Activities (PAs) of the Second GPA: supporting seed production received the highest average rating. Promoting diversification actions received the lowest average rating.

Building sustainable institutional and human capacities

On a positive note, progress in building institutional and human capacities was rated highest. The PA 13, *Building and Strengthening National Programmes*, received the highest rating of all PAs. On the other hand, PA 16, *Developing and strengthening systems for monitoring and safeguarding genetic diversity and minimizing genetic erosion*, scored lowest among the PAs of this area.

7. The Commission welcomed the assessment and stressed the need for a greater number of country reports. It expressed concern regarding the high number of gene bank accessions due for regeneration for which no resources for this purpose were available at that time. It requested governments and relevant international organizations to provide the necessary resources for the regeneration of accessions and invited FAO to continue monitoring this issue. The Commission requested FAO to continue supporting NFPs in their reporting on the implementation of the Second GPA. It invited all countries that have not yet done so to provide information on their implementation of the Second GPA between January 2012 and June 2014 as soon as possible, and in no case later than 31 December 2017, through the Reporting Tool of WIEWS¹⁰. As at January 2018, an additional 32 countries reported, bringing the total number of countries that reported on their

¹⁰ [CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1](#), paragraphs 53-57.

activities contributing to the implementation of the Second GPA between January 2012 and June 2014 to 75.

Second assessment

8. As reported to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, the Commission, at its Seventeenth Regular Session in 2019, invited NFPs to report through WIEWS between January and December 2020 on the implementation of the Second GPA for the period of July 2014 to December 2019.¹¹ In addition, it invited NFPs to provide a summative narrative of the progress made (between January 2012 and December 2019) and the remaining gaps and constraints. The Commission further endorsed the proposal that country reports contributing to the first and the second assessment of the implementation of the Second GPA would also contribute to the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report).¹²

9. As of 29 June 2021, 55 countries had completed online reporting, while one country had provided a stand-alone report. In addition, 16 countries were in an advanced stage of the reporting process while 18 had just begun.¹³ Even though considerable progress had been made by countries in the preparation of their reports, the Commission, at its Eighteenth Regular Session in September 2021, agreed to extend the deadline for country reporting on the state of PGRFA to the end of 2021. It urged National Focal Points that have not yet done so to report through WIEWS on the implementation of the Second GPA and to provide a summative narrative of the overall progress made in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, as well as on the remaining gaps and constraints.¹⁴

10. Data submitted by countries through WIEWS are currently being validated and analysed. Given that data are still being submitted by countries and that validation and data analysis are still on-going, no assessment of or conclusion on any of the priority areas can be made yet. The data submitted for the first and the second assessment will form the basis of the draft Third Report, which will be made available by FAO in early 2023, for review by the Working Group and the Commission. At this stage, all data on the implementation of the Second GPA will also become available to the Governing Body and its *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

¹¹ [IT/GB-8/19/15.1/Inf.1](#), paragraph 9.

¹² [CGRFA-17/19/Report](#), paragraph 69.

¹³ [CGRFA-18/21/12.4](#), paragraph 14.

¹⁴ [CGRFA-18/21/Report](#), paragraph 107.