



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture**

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda

TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, Italy, 20–24 November 2023

**Background Study on Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of
Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty**

Note by the Secretary

In response to the advice of the Ad hoc Technical Advisory Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the need to address the limited implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, the Secretariat prepared and presented the Background Study on the Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty (Background Study) to the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.

The primary sources of information used to prepare the Background Study to identify the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 were the 79 National Reports that had been submitted by Contracting Parties on the implementation of the International Treaty, in accordance with the Compliance Procedures of the International Treaty as at July 2022. Since the Ninth Session of the Governing Body, in September 2022, 12 additional national reports have been submitted by Contracting Parties from Africa, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, and Near East.

This document provides an update of the Background Study based on the information provided by the 12 additional national reports, in particular in relation to the Figures on the gaps in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA for each of the four regions concerned.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In response to the need to address the limited implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, the Secretariat prepared a *Background Study on the Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6* (Background Study) that was presented to the Governing Body at its Ninth Session.¹ The primary sources of information used in the Background study to identify the bottlenecks and challenges to the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 were the 79 National Reports on the implementation of the International Treaty that had been submitted by Contracting Parties in accordance with the Compliance Procedures of the International Treaty as at July 2022.²

2. It may be recalled that, although there is great diversity among and within the regions, the study identified four main types of bottlenecks to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) that are of greater or lesser significance, depending on the regions and countries concerned: (1) Legal, policy and institutional challenges; (2) Technical and scientific issues; (3) Seed distribution and marketing of landraces and farmers' crop varieties; and (4) Resource constraints.

II. UPDATING THE BACKGROUND STUDY

3. Since the Ninth Session of the Governing Body in September 2022, 12 additional national reports have been submitted by Contracting Parties, adding up to a total of 91 national reports so far, including:

- two additional reports from the Africa region, adding up to 21 national reports out of a total of 43 Contracting Parties from this region (about 49 percent of Contracting Parties for this region);
- five additional reports from the Europe region, adding up to 26 national reports out of a total of 38 Contracting Parties, excluding the European Union, from this region (about 68 percent of Contracting Parties for this region);
- one additional report from the Latin America and Caribbean Region, adding up to 15 national reports out of a total of 22 Contracting Parties from this region (about 68 percent of Contracting Parties for this region);
- four additional reports from the Near East Region, adding up to 12 national reports out of a total of 17 Contracting Parties from this region (about 71 percent of Contracting Parties for this region).

4. The information provided by the 12 additional national reports does not affect the analysis provided in the Background Study and confirms the importance of the four types of bottlenecks and challenges. However, for the four regions for which additional national reports have been submitted since the publication of the Background Study, i.e. Africa, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, and Near East, the new information impacts on the Figures under "Gaps in the conservation of PGRFA" and "Gaps in the sustainable use of PGRFA".

5. For each of the four regions concerned, the two updated Figures are provided in Annex 1. To avoid misunderstanding, the titles and numbering of the Figures are the same as in the Background Study.

¹ FAO, International Treaty on PGRFA, 2022. Background Study on the Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty (IT/GB-9/22/12/Inf.2). For more detailed information on the bottlenecks and challenges, reference is made to the Background study itself.

² The National Reports are available on the International Treaty website: www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/compliance/compliance-reports/en/

Annex 1

Background Study on the Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6: Updated Figures on the gaps in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA in Africa, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean, and Near East

Africa

Figure 1.1
Gaps in the conservation of PGRFA in Africa
(% of reporting countries - n = 21)

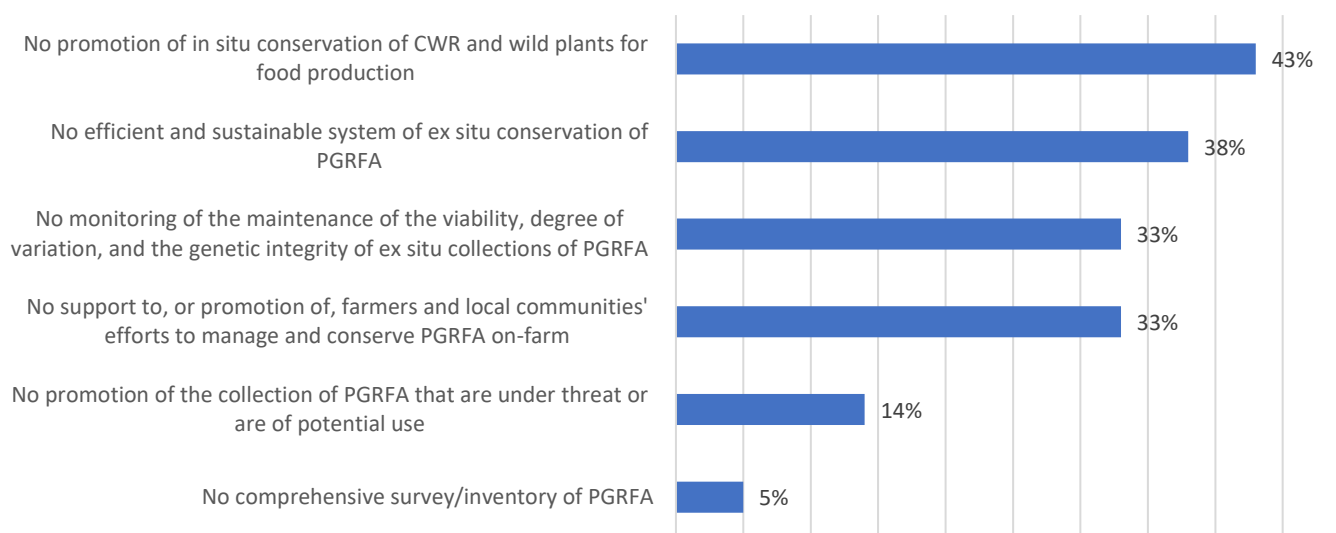
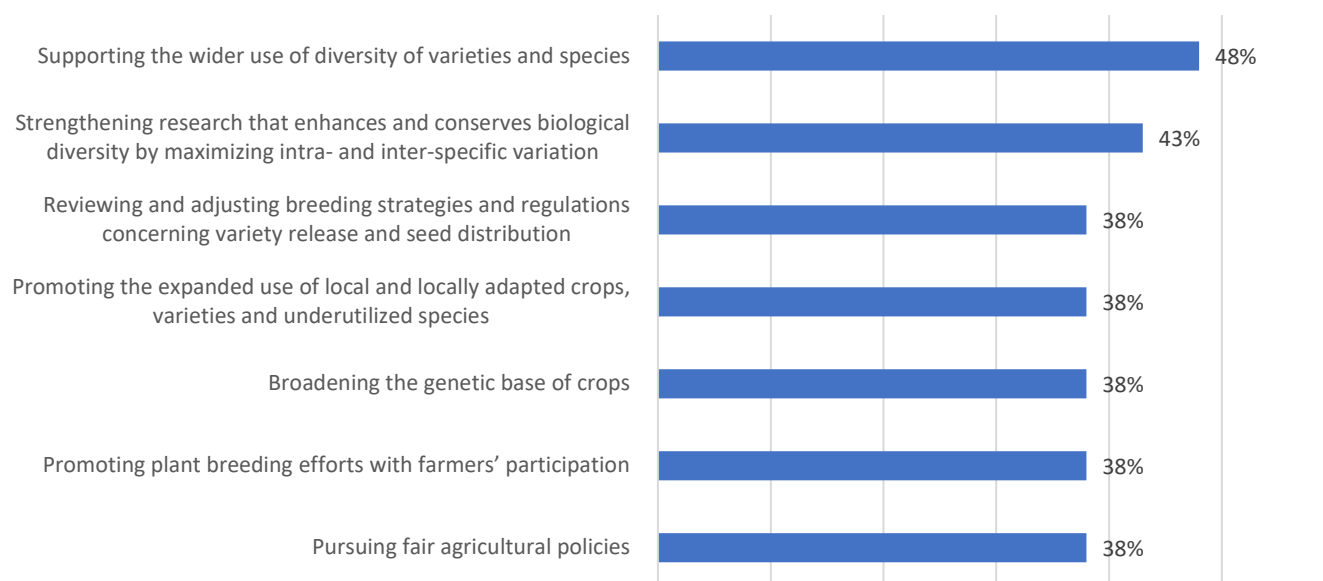


Figure 1.3
Gaps in the sustainable use of PGRFA in Africa with regard to policy/legal measures for
(% of reporting countries - n = 21)



Europe

Figure 3.1
Gaps in the conservation of PGRFA in Europe
 (% of reporting countries - n = 26)

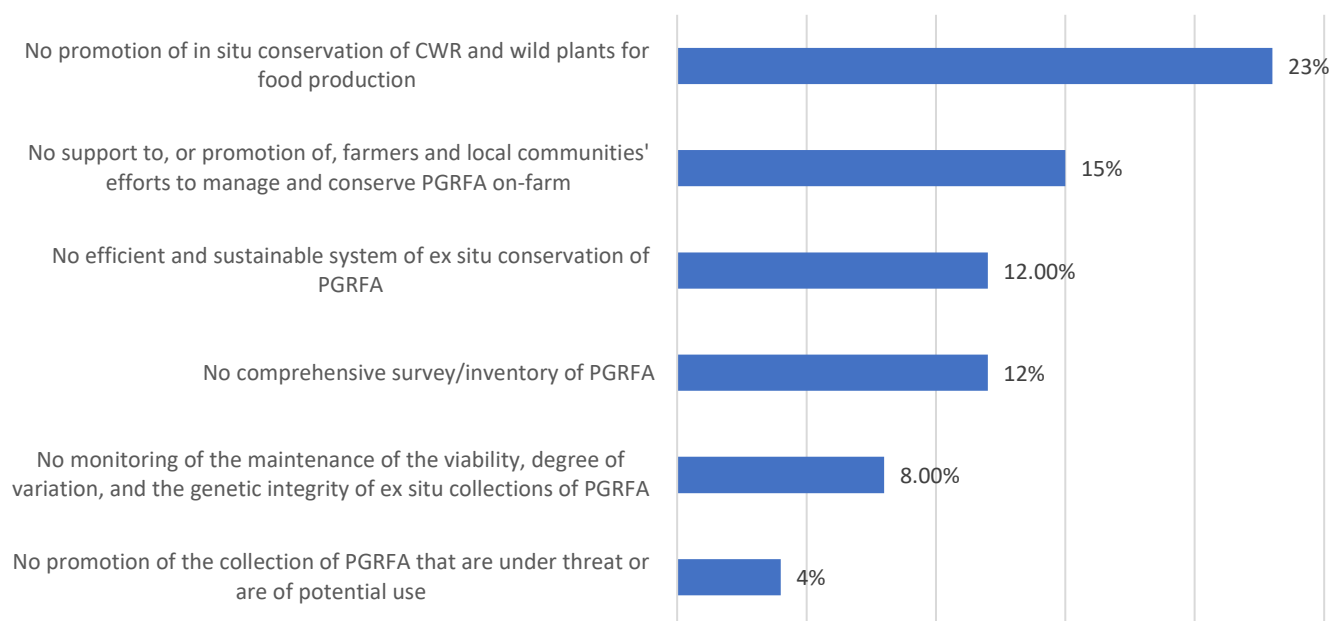
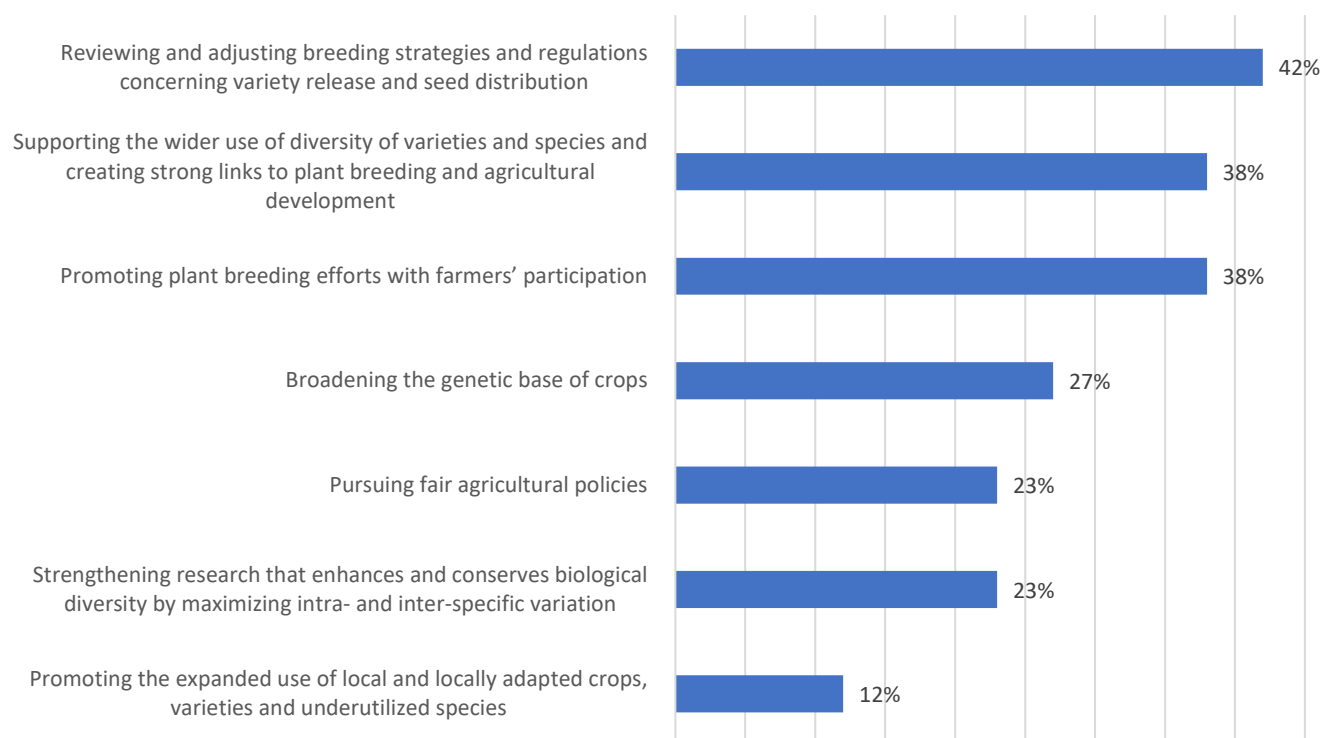


Figure 3.3
Gaps in the sustainable use of PGRFA in Europe with regard to policy/legal measures for
 (% of reporting countries - n = 26)



Latin America and Caribbean

Figure 4.1
Gaps in the conservation of PGRFA in Latin America and the Caribbean
 (% of reporting countries - n = 15)

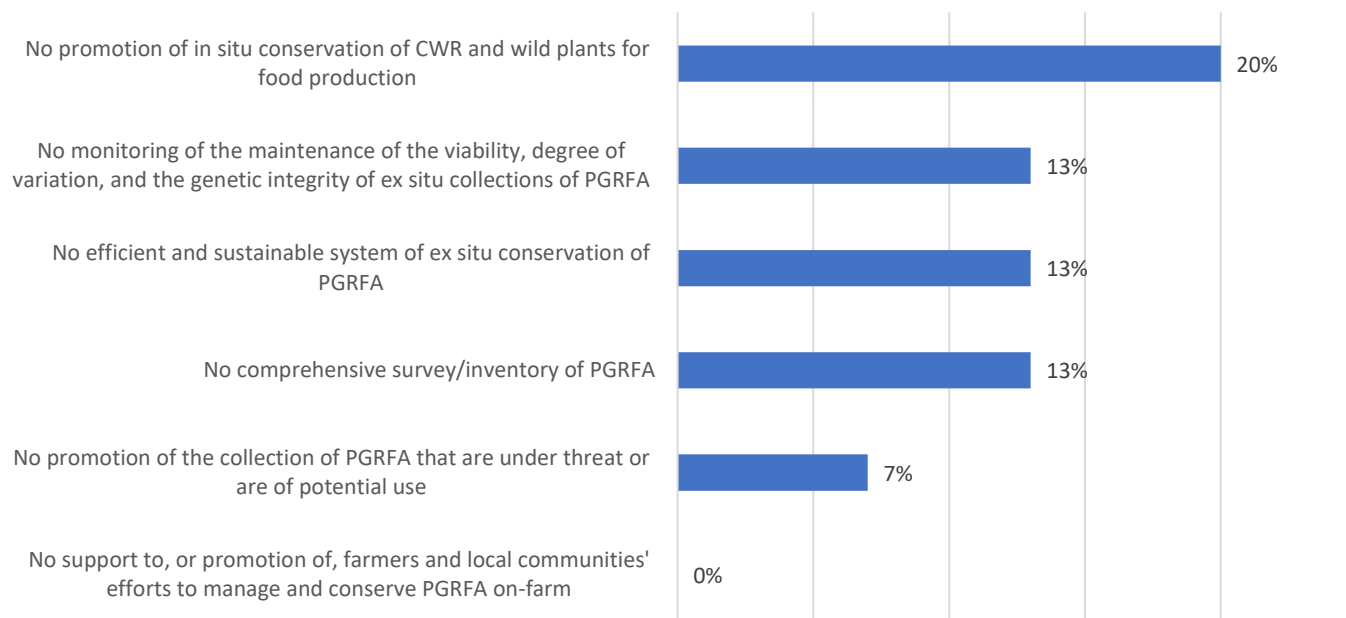
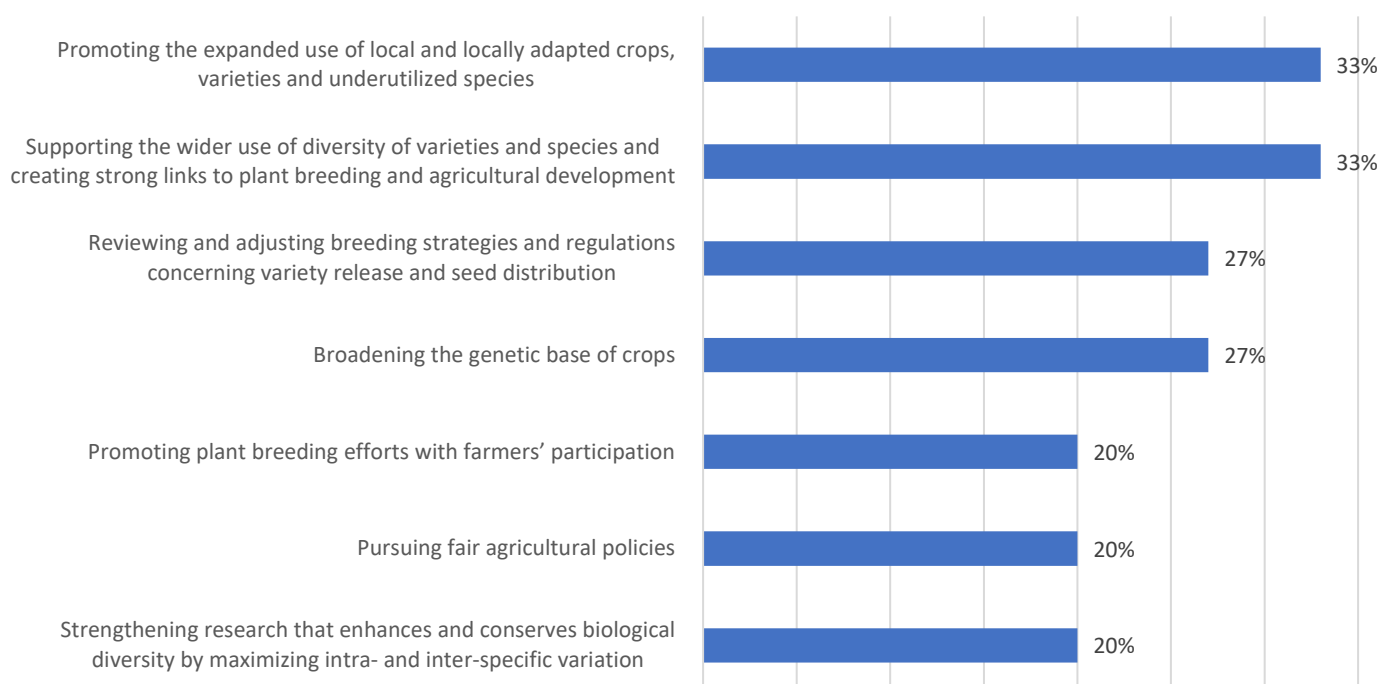


Figure 4.3

Gaps in the sustainable use of PGRFA in Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to policy/legal measures for (% of reporting countries - n = 15)



Near East

Figure 5.1

Gaps in the conservation of PGRFA in Near East (% of reporting countries - n = 12)

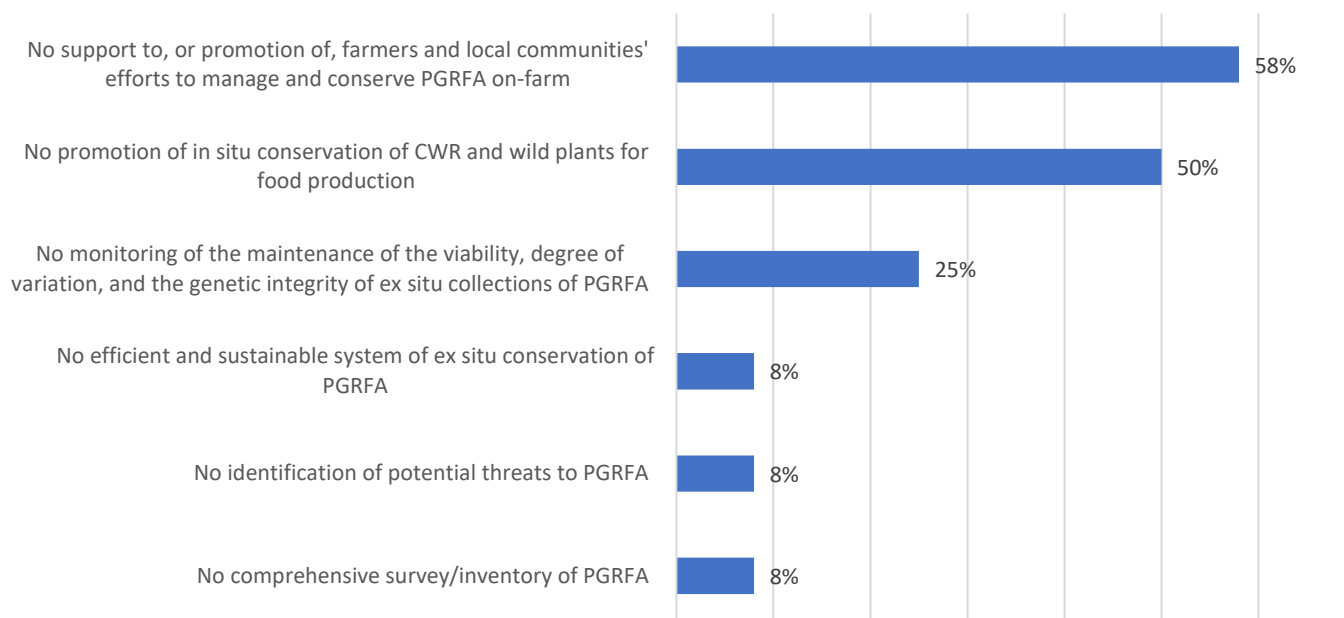


Figure 5.3

Gaps in the sustainable use of PGRFA in the Near East with regard to policy/legal measures for (% of reporting countries - n = 12)

