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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

Seventeenth Regular Session

Rome, 18–22 February 2019

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

The present document contains the *Provisional annotated agenda and timetable*, for consideration by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission). The timetable is contained in the *Appendix*.

The Commission's work is guided by its Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014–2023, including its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), as last revised by the Commission at its last session.¹ In working through agenda items 2 to 14, the Commission may wish to take into consideration recommendations by its subsidiary bodies² as well as submissions by international instruments and organizations, which are contained in the document *Submissions by international instruments and organizations* (CGRFA-17/19/14/Inf.1).

CROSS-SECTORAL MATTERS

ITEM 2: THE ROLE OF GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The Commission, at its last session stressed the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) to food production, and to all four dimensions of food security. It requested Members and observers to provide inputs to the Secretariat and requested FAO to prepare a study addressing the contribution of GRFA to the four pillars of food security and to the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to reflect the outcomes of the study in the revised report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.³

¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, *Appendix C*.

² CGRFA-17/19/3.1; CGRFA-17/19/3.2/Inf.2; CGRFA-17/19/7.2; CGRFA-17/19/8.1; CGRFA-17/19/9.1; CGRFA-17/19/10.1; CGRFA-17/19/11.1.

³ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 21.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
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Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



CGRFA 17

The document *Submissions by Members on the contribution of genetic resources for food and agriculture to the four pillars of food security and to the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals (CGRFA-17/19/2/Inf.1)* compiles the submissions received.

In response to the Commission's request, the Secretariat commissioned **Background Study Paper No.69** on *Biodiversity for food and agriculture and food security - An exploration of inter-relationships*.

The document *Review of work on the role of genetic resources for food and agriculture and food security (CGRFA-17/19/2)* presents a selection of FAO activities contributing to raising awareness of the important role of GRFA to food security and the achievement of relevant SDGs.

ITEM 3: ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING FOR GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

3.1 Report of the Fourth Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing

The Fourth Session of the ABS Expert Team was held from 29 to 31 October 2018 and the report (**CGRFA-17/19/3.1**) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

3.2 Distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, agreed to produce non-prescriptive explanatory notes describing, within the context of the *Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture*⁴ (ABS Elements), the distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of GRFA, to complement the ABS Elements. It invited Members, observers and other stakeholders to provide relevant inputs for such explanatory notes.⁵

The document *Inputs by Members and observers on access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/3.2/Inf.1)* compiles the submissions received.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to gather, as an input for developing the explanatory notes, information from countries, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders on a whole range of issues, including current exchange practices and country experiences.⁶ The document *Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture: Survey findings (CGRFA-17/19/3.2/Inf.4)* reports the results of two surveys commissioned by the Secretariat to provide the information requested.

The Commission also requested the Secretariat to convene, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), an international workshop to assist countries to identify and raise awareness of distinctive features and specific practices of subsectors of GRFA in the context of the ABS Elements⁷ and to provide outputs for subsequent elaboration into the non-prescriptive explanatory notes.

The document *Outputs of the International Workshop on Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/3.2/Inf.3)* provides the outputs produced by sectorial working groups during the international workshop that was held on 10 to 12 January 2018. A summary of the workshop as well as presentations given during the workshop are contained in the

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5033e.pdf>

⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 25(iii).

⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 25(xii).

⁷ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 25(v).

*Proceedings of the International Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*⁸

The Commission, in addition, requested that the Commission's intergovernmental technical working groups on animal, aquatic, forest and plant genetic resources (Working Groups) as well as an Expert Group on Micro-Organism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (EG MIGR), review the draft explanatory notes for their subsectors and that the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS Expert Team) consolidate all the explanatory notes.⁹

Sector-specific draft explanatory notes, as reviewed and revised by the Commission's intergovernmental technical working groups¹⁰ and the EG MIGR (CGRFA-17/19/3.2/Inf.2) and consolidated by the ABS Expert Team (CGRFA-17/19/3.1), are given in the document *Draft explanatory notes describing, within the context of the ABS Elements, the distinctive features of the different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture* (CGRFA-17/19/3.2), for consideration by the Commission.

ITEM 4: “DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION” ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

At its last session, the Commission established a new workstream on “digital sequence information”¹¹ on GRFA and requested the Secretariat to prepare an exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information on GRFA” to provide information on, *inter alia*, terminology used in this area, actors involved with “digital sequence information on GRFA”, the types and extent of uses of “digital sequence information on GRFA”, such as:

- characterization,
- breeding and genetic improvement,
- conservation, and
- identification of GRFA

as well as on the relevance of “digital sequence information on GRFA” for food security and nutrition.¹²

Background Study Paper No. 68 contains the *Exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture*.

As requested by the Commission,¹³ the Working Groups as well as the EG MIGR reviewed and provided inputs to earlier versions of the study.¹⁴

The Commission also requested the Secretary to invite Members to submit information on the use of “digital sequence information on GRFA” and potential implications for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including exchange, access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, and to compile and submit this information to the Executive Secretary of the CBD, as a timely contribution to the process set by decision CBD COP XIII/16.¹⁵

⁸ <http://www.fao.org/3/CA0099EN/ca0099en.pdf>

⁹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 25(viii)–(xi).

¹⁰ CGRFA-17/19/3.2/Inf.2, paragraphs 8–13; CGRFA-17/19/8.1, paragraphs 37–41; CGRFA-17/19/9.1, paragraphs 39–44; CGRFA-17/19/10.1, paragraphs 25–29; CGRFA-17/19/11.1, paragraphs 17–20.

¹¹ The term is taken from decision CBD COP XIII/16 and is subject to further discussion. There is a recognition that there are a multiplicity of terms that have been used in this area (including, *inter alia*, “genetic sequence data”, “genetic sequence information”, “genetic information”, “dematerialized genetic resources”, “*in silico* utilization”, etc.) and that further consideration is needed regarding the appropriate term or terms to be used.

¹² CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 86.

¹³ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 90.

¹⁴ CGRFA-17/19/8.1, *Appendix C*; CGRFA-17/19/9.1, *Appendix D*; CGRFA-17/19/10.1, *Appendix C*; CGRFA-17/19/11.1, *Appendix B*.

¹⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 88.

The document *Submissions by Members and observers on “digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/4/Inf.1)* compiles the submissions received, which were also made available to the Executive Secretary of the CBD.¹⁶

The document “*Digital Sequence Information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture and its relevance to food security (CGRFA-17/19/4)* summarizes some of the main findings of the exploratory fact-finding scoping study, gives an overview of recent developments in other relevant fora and seeks the Commission’s advice on possible future work on this matter.

ITEM 5: THE ROLE OF GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN MITIGATION OF AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Commission, at its last session, welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture¹⁷ and agreed to integrate the Commission’s work on climate change into its MYPOW.¹⁸ The Commission requested a proposal for the preparation of a country-driven global assessment of the role of GRFA in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, for its consideration at this session.¹⁹

The document *Assessment of the role of genetic resources for food and agriculture for climate change adaptation and mitigation (CGRFA-17/19/5)* provides background information on the role of GRFA in the international climate change policy context, provides information on selected activities of FAO related to GRFA and biodiversity for food and agriculture and climate change, and proposes next steps with regard to the country-driven global assessment.

ITEM 6: NUTRITION AND GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Commission, at its Fifteenth Regular Session, endorsed the *Voluntary Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition (Voluntary Guidelines)*.²⁰ At its last Session, the Commission, in revising the major outputs and milestones of its MYPOW, decided to review its work on GRFA and nutrition at this session.²¹ The document *Review of work on genetic resources for food and agriculture and nutrition (CGRFA-17/19/6)* summarizes work undertaken by FAO, in collaboration with its partners, on genetic resources diversity and nutrition and to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines.

BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

ITEM 7: BIODIVERSITY

7.1 *The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*

The Commission, at its last session, welcomed the draft report on *The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. It requested the Secretariat to finalize the Report, taking into account comments received from Members and observers, and prepare and publish an in-brief version of the Report in all UN languages.²²

The finalized report and the in-brief version will be made available during the Session.

¹⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/abs/dsi-gr/ahteg.shtml#submissions>

¹⁷ CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix D*.

¹⁸ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 27.

¹⁹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 31.

²⁰ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 24; *Appendix C*.

²¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, *Appendix C*.

²² CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 13.

The document *Preparation of The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/7.1)* presents some of the key findings of the report and an overview of activities undertaken since the Sixteenth Regular Session to finalize the Report.

The Commission may wish to welcome the report and consider follow-up action.

7.2 Report of the First Meeting of the Group of National Focal Points on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, requested the Secretary to convene a group of national focal points nominated by the regions for a three-day meeting to review and revise, as appropriate, draft needs and possible actions on biodiversity for food and agriculture. The Group of National Focal Points on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture met from 18 to 20 June 2018 and its report (CGRFA-17/19/7.2) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

7.3 Needs and possible actions in response to *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*

The Commission, at its last session, requested the Secretariat to invite Members and observers to submit comments on the needs and possible actions on biodiversity for food and agriculture and to review and revise the document in the light of comments received.²³

Comments by countries on the original document presented to the Commission at its last session are contained in the document *Submissions by countries on the draft needs and possible actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/7.3/Inf.1)*, for information.

The document *Biodiversity for food and agriculture – needs and possible actions (CGRFA-17/19/7.3)* contains the draft needs and possible actions on biodiversity for food and agriculture, as amended by the Secretariat in the light of comments received and subsequently revised by the Group of National Focal Points on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.²⁴

The Commission may wish to review and revise, as appropriate, the revised draft needs and possible actions and invite the Director-General of the Organization to bring the document to the attention of the Conference with a view to adopting it as the Global Plan of Action for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.

ITEM 8: AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES

8.1 Report of the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, requested its Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to meet prior to its next regular session.²⁵ The Second Session of the Working Group was held from 23 to 25 April 2018 and its report (CGRFA-17/19/8.1) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

If the Commission wishes the Working Group to meet prior to its next regular session, it will have to elect the Members of the Working Group.

8.2 *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

At its last session, the Commission welcomed the draft report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.²⁶ It requested FAO to revise the draft report, taking into

²³ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 16.

²⁴ See CGRFA-17/19/7.2, *Appendix B*.

²⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 41.

²⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 39.

account country reports, thematic background studies, information provided by international organizations, and the comments and recommendations provided by its Ad Hoc Working Group.

The document *Preparation of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-17/19/8.2 Rev.1) provides an update on the follow-up to the Commission's requests and shows the status of preparation of the report and its in-brief version, for consideration by the Commission. The document *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Proofing version* (CGRFA-17/19/8.2/Inf.1) contains the close-to final version of the report.

The Commission invited countries to comment on the revised draft report and requested the Committee on Fisheries and its subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to review the revised draft report and provide inputs.²⁷ The reports of the Thirty-third Session of COFI (CGRFA-17/19/8.2/Inf.2), the Ninth Session of its Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI:AQ) (CGRFA-17/19/8.2/Inf.3) and the Second Session of its Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies (COFI Working Group) (CGRFA-17/19/8.2/Inf.4) are provided, for information of the Commission.

8.3 Options for follow-up to *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

The MYPOW foresees, as a major output/milestone for its Eighteenth Regular Session, the *Follow-up to The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

The Commission's Ad Hoc Working Group, at its last session, reviewed options for follow-up actions and recommended, *inter alia*, to prepare, in close collaboration with the COFI:AQ and the COFI Working Group, a draft Global Plan of Action on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.²⁸

The document *Options for follow-up to The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-17/19/8.3) identifies, based on the report, specific areas in which further action by the Commission could enhance and strengthen the sustainable use and conservation of aquatic genetic resources, for consideration by the Commission.

ITEM 9: PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

9.1 Report of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to meet prior to its next regular session.²⁹ The Ninth Session of the Working Group was held from 25 to 27 July 2018 and its report (CGRFA-17/19/9.1) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

If the Commission wishes the Working Group to meet prior to its next regular session, it will have to elect the Members of the Working Group.

9.2 Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

At its last session, the Commission took note of FAO's work in support of the implementation of the Second Global Plan for Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA)³⁰ and welcomed the overall progress made in this regard.³¹

²⁷ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 40.

²⁸ CGRFA-17/19/8.1, paragraph 29.

²⁹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 64.

³⁰ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2624e/i2624e00.htm>

³¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 52.

The document *FAO activities in support of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/9.2)* provides summative background to the role of the Second GPA in the global biodiversity framework and reports, for consideration by the Commission, on activities carried out by FAO in support of the implementation of the Second GPA.

In situ conservation and on-farm management

The Commission, at its last session, reviewed a concept note on *Global networking on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*³² and referred it to its Working Group for further consultations.³³

In response to the Commission's request and upon consultation with experts and stakeholders, FAO developed two separate concept notes, one on on-farm management³⁴ and one on *in situ* conservation.³⁵

In reviewing the two concept notes, the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture agreed that the establishment of global networks was premature and recommended instead that both concept notes be revised to propose, rather than global networks, an international symposium for each of the two themes to be held, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, prior to the Working Group's Tenth Session and in cooperation with the Treaty.³⁶

The Commission may wish to discuss the *Proposal for an international symposium on on-farm management of farmers' varieties/landraces (CGRFA-17/19/9.2/Inf.3)* and the *Proposal for an international symposium on in situ conservation of crop wild relatives and wild food plants (CGRFA-17/19/9.2 Inf.4)*.

The Commission, at its last session, also referred the revised draft *Voluntary guidelines on national level conservation and sustainable use of farmers' varieties/landraces*³⁷ to the Working Group for further review and invited Members, observers and National Focal Points (NFPs) to provide comments on this document.³⁸

The Working Group considered a revised draft prepared by FAO in the light of comments received from seven countries and two international organizations. It invited Commission Members and observers to submit written comments to the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat to revise the draft guidelines in the light of the comments received, for endorsement by the Commission at its Seventeenth Regular Session. The revised voluntary guidelines, incorporating comments from 14 countries, are contained in the document *Draft voluntary guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of farmers' varieties/landraces - Second revision (CGRFA-17/19/9.2/Inf.1)*.

Implementation of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

At its Fifteenth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to continue supporting countries in the implementation of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Genebank Standards)³⁹ and requested FAO to propose a mechanism to monitor their application.⁴⁰

In response to the Commission's request, FAO undertook a global survey on the use of the Genebank Standards and organized an expert consultation in conjunction with the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

³² CGRFA-16/17/Inf.20.

³³ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 64.

³⁴ CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.5. Rev.1.

³⁵ CGRFA/WG-PGR-9/18/Inf.6.

³⁶ CGRFA-17/19/9.1, paragraphs 10–11.

³⁷ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.18.

³⁸ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 63.

³⁹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3704e.pdf>

⁴⁰ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 51.

In response to the results of the survey and the outcome of the expert consultation, and with a view to increase the user-friendliness of the Genebank Standards, the Secretariat developed a set of routine draft actions steps for (i) the conservation of orthodox seeds, (ii) the conservation in field genebanks, and (iii) *in vitro* conservation, which could be developed into three stand-alone practical guides. The Working Group, at its last session, considered the draft action steps as well as a proposal for monitoring the implementation of the Genebank Standards.

The document *Facilitating the implementation and monitoring of the Genebank Standards (CGRFA-17/19/9.2/Inf.5)* contains in its Annexes the draft action steps, as revised in the light of comments received from countries since the last session of the Working Group.

World Information and Early Warning System on PGRFA

The Commission, at its last session, stressed the role of the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) as a key information system with respect to the implementation of Article 17 of the Treaty and requested FAO to complete the restructuring of WIEWS and publish, through it, information on the implementation of the Second GPA and SDG Target 2.5.⁴¹

More detailed information on the restructuring of WIEWS and the use of WIEWS for monitoring the implementation of the plant component of SDG Target 2.5 is provided in the document *Status of development of the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/9.2/Inf.2)*.

The Commission also requested FAO to consult the Members and observers of the Commission on options for further simplifying the Reporting Format for Monitoring the Implementation of the Second GPA and to prepare a proposal for review by the Working Group.⁴² The Reporting Format, as simplified in the light of inputs received from Members and observers, is contained in the document *Draft revised Reporting Format for Monitoring the Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/9.2/Inf.6)*, for information of the Commission.

9.3 Status and trends of seed policies

At its last session, the Commission included, as a major output in its MYPOW, a review of the status and trends of seed policies.⁴³ The document *Status and trends of seed policies and laws (CGRFA-17/19/9.3)* presents a brief introduction into the rationale of seed policies and legislation. It is based on a *Review of the status and trends of seed policies and seed laws (CGRFA-17/19/9.3/Inf.1)* focusing on areas where seed policies may have actual impact on the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

9.4 Preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

The Commission, at its last session, endorsed the revised timeline for the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report) and the monitoring of the implementation of the Second GPA and took note of the revised provisional budget.⁴⁴ According to the revised timeline, the Commission should review the guidelines for the preparation of country reports for the Third Report at this Session.

The document *Preparing The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/9.4)* provides background information on the preparation of the Third Report and proposes modalities for country reporting for the Third Report. The approach proposed for the preparation of country reports is outlined in the document *Preparation of country*

⁴¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 57.

⁴² CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 56.

⁴³ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, *Appendix C*.

⁴⁴ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 66. For the revised time-line, see CGRFA-16/17/17, *Appendix I*; for the revised provisional budget, see CGRFA-16/17/17, *Appendix II*.

reports for *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (CGRFA-17/19/9.4/Inf.1).

ITEM 10: FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

10.1 Report of the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources

The Commission requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources to meet prior to its next regular session.⁴⁵ The Fifth Session of the Working Group was held from 8 to 10 May 2018 and its report (CGRFA-17/19/10.1) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

If the Commission wishes the Working Group to meet prior to its next regular session, it will have to elect the Members of the Working Group.

10.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

At its last session, the Commission requested FAO to continue coordinating and supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources, in collaboration with the regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations, bodies and processes.⁴⁶

The document *Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-17/19/10.2) summarizes the activities undertaken by FAO in collaboration with its partners as a follow-up to the Global Plan of Action since the Commission's last session. The *First Report on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-17/19/10.2/Inf.1) provides more detailed information on the progress made by countries in implementing of the Global Plan of Action and reflects the contributions of regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations.

The Commission also requested FAO to develop a funding strategy to assist countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and encourage donors to provide support. The documents *Global framework on forests and main forest-related financing mechanisms* (CGRFA-17/19/10.2/Inf.2) and *Updated draft Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-17/19/10.2/Inf.4) respond to this request.

The Commission requested FAO to prepare draft voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources in line with the proposed outline⁴⁷ and taking into account existing guidelines for the preparation of national forest programmes and for the formulation of forest policy to avoid duplication of work. The document *Revised draft voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources* (CGRFA-17/19/10.2/Inf.3) contains the draft guidelines.

10.3 Preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*

The Commission, at its last session, adopted a schedule for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan for Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (Global Plan of Action) and the preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (Second Report).⁴⁸ According to the schedule, the Commission should consider the preparation of the Second Report and guidelines for the preparation of country

⁴⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 75.

⁴⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 73.

⁴⁷ CGRFA-16/17/19, Appendix A.

⁴⁸ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 74.

reports for the Second Report at this session.⁴⁹ The document *Preparation of The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-17/19/10.3) presents the scope, outline and preparatory process for the Second Report, for consideration by the Commission.

The document *Draft guidelines for the preparation of country reports for The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-17/19/10.3/Inf.1) presents draft guidelines, as revised based on the comments received, for countries to prepare their country reports for the Second Report.

ITEM 11: ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

11.1 Report of the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, requested its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to meet prior to its next regular session.⁵⁰ The Tenth Session of the Working Group was held from 27 to 29 June 2018 and its report (CGRFA-17/19/11.1) is before the Commission, for its consideration.

If the Commission wishes the Working Group to meet prior to its next regular session, it will have to elect the Members of the Working Group.

11.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

At its last session, the Commission requested FAO to continue supporting countries in their efforts to implement the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* in order to contribute to global food security and sustainable rural development.⁵¹

The document *Review of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-17/19/11.2) reports on relevant FAO activities since the Commission's last session, for consideration by the Commission. The document *Status and trends of animal genetic resources – 2018* (CGRFA-17/19/11.2/Inf.4) updates the data made available to the last session of the Commission.⁵²

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to review methods for identification and valuation of the ecosystem services provided by livestock breeds.⁵³ The document *Review of methods for identification and valuation of the ecosystem services provided by livestock breeds* (CGRFA-17/19/11.2/Inf.1) responds to this request and incorporates amendments recommended by the Working Group at its last session.⁵⁴

The Commission also requested FAO to compile reports and achievements of projects under the Funding Strategy and publicize these on the website of FAO.⁵⁵ All reports have been made available online⁵⁶ and the document *Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources: achievements and challenges* (CGRFA-17/19/11.2/Inf.2) reports on the status of implementation of the first project cycle under the FAO Trust Account, including on achievements made and challenges encountered, and on FAO's activities in the implementation of the FAO Trust Account since the Commission's last session.

The Commission, at its last session, stressed the importance of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) as the international clearing-house mechanism for animal genetic resources and welcomed the development of its updated version.⁵⁷ It requested FAO to develop

⁴⁹ CGRFA-16/17/20, Appendix C.

⁵⁰ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 47.

⁵¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 45.

⁵² CGRFA-16/17/Inf.3.

⁵³ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 47.

⁵⁴ CGRFA-17/19/11.1, paragraph 10.

⁵⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 49.

⁵⁶ http://www.fao.org/AG/AGAInfo/programmes/en/genetics/Funding_strategy.html

⁵⁷ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 46.

options for improving the linkages between DAD-IS and other databases, and to include in future versions of DAD-IS data from genebank databases. The document *Report on the status of development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (CGRFA-17/19/11.2/Inf.3 Rev.1)* provides a summary of FAO's activities related to DAD-IS since the Commission's last session.

At its Twelfth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to continue updating and further developing technical guidelines on the management of animal genetic resources as important support for countries in their implementation of the Global Plan of Action.⁵⁸ FAO, with the contribution of international experts, has developed guidelines on developing sustainable value chains for small-scale livestock producers. The document *Revised draft FAO guidelines on developing sustainable value chains for small-scale livestock producers (CGRFA-17/19/11.2/Inf.5)* contains the draft guidelines, as revised in the light of comments received from the Working Group.⁵⁹

The Commission also encouraged countries to investigate the feasibility of results-based incentive systems supporting the continued provision of ecosystem services, with special consideration to locally adapted breeds, in compliance with international trade regulations, and called on FAO to develop guidelines in this regard.⁶⁰ The document *Status of preparation of guidelines on results-based incentive systems supporting the continued provision of ecosystem services (CGRFA-17/19/11.2/Inf.6)* summarizes the activities undertaken since the Commission's last session in preparation of the guidelines and envisages actions for the future.

ITEM 12: MICRO-ORGANISMS AND INVERTEBRATES

12.1 Report on the consultative process for the draft work plan for the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture

At its last session, the Commission requested the Secretary to invite countries to provide their views on the development of a draft work plan for future work on the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture.⁶¹ The *Report on the consultative process for the draft work plan for the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/12.1)* summarizes the consultative process conducted for the preparation of the draft work plan.

12.2 Future work on sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, welcomed FAO's work on the conservation and sustainable use of micro-organisms and invertebrates.⁶² It requested FAO to prepare a draft work plan for future work on the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates, taking into account the findings of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and any other relevant information, including inputs provided by Members and observers, for consideration by the Commission.⁶³

The document *Draft work plan for the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/12.2)* recapitulates the Commission's activities in this sector and presents a draft work plan.

The document *Submissions by Members and observers on the draft work plan for future work on sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources (CGRFA-17/19/12.2/Inf.1)* compiles the views received from Members and observers. The *Report of the First*

⁵⁸ CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 41.

⁵⁹ CGRFA-17/19/11.1, paragraph 11.

⁶⁰ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 48.

⁶¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 78.

⁶² CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 77.

⁶³ CGRFA/16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 78.

Meeting of the Expert Group on Micro-organism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/3.2/Inf.2) reflects the Expert Group's views on the draft work plan.⁶⁴

Additional relevant information is contained in the documents: *Progress report on the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (CGRFA-17/19/12.2/Inf.2)* and *Progress report on the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity (CGRFA-17/19/12.2/Inf.3)*.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

ITEM 13: PROGRESS REPORT AND REVIEW

At its last session, the Commission recapitulated its achievements⁶⁵ and expressed its appreciation for the substantive progress made, in collaboration with its partners, in the implementation of the MYPOW over the last decade. It reviewed and updated the major outputs and milestones of the MYPOW,⁶⁶ requested the Secretary to invite Members and observers to comment during the intersessional period on a draft Strategic Plan and to revise the draft Strategic Plan in the light of comments received, relevant international developments and FAO's Strategic Framework.⁶⁷

The MYPOW (2018–2027) foresees for this Session of the Commission a “Progress report/review of the Strategic Plan.”⁶⁸ The document *Progress report and review of the draft revised strategic plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027), including the Multi-Year Programme of Work (CGRFA-17/19/13)* contains a progress report on the implementation of the MYPOW. The document briefly considers possible adjustments the Commission may wish to consider with regard to the organization of its future work. The document further contains the *Draft revised Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018–2027)*, as revised by the Commission's Working Groups, for review and adoption by the Commission.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

ITEM 14: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS

At its last session, the Commission thanked the international instruments and organizations for reporting on their activities to the Commission. It also welcomed inputs provided by international instruments and organizations to the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. The Commission requested the Secretary to continue seeking inputs on prioritized themes of the regular sessions from international instruments and organizations and other relevant stakeholders and to make them available to the Commission for its information.⁶⁹

The document *Cooperation with international instruments and organizations (CGRFA-17/19/14)* provides information on the process through which international instruments and organizations provided information to this session.

Comments and inputs received from international instruments and organizations on prioritized themes of this session are contained in the document *Submissions by international instruments and organizations on biodiversity for food and agriculture (CGRFA-17/19/14/Inf.1)*. Additional reports have been received from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (*CGRFA-17/19/14/Inf.2*), the Global Crop Diversity Trust (*CGRFA-17/19/14/Inf.3*), the CGIAR System

⁶⁴ Paragraphs 14–18.

⁶⁵ See CGRFA-16/17/22.

⁶⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, *Appendix C*.

⁶⁷ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 82.

⁶⁸ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, *Appendix C*.

⁶⁹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 92.

Organization (**CGRFA-17/19/14/Inf.4**) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (**CGRFA-17/19/14/Inf.5**).

The document *Collaboration with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (**CGRFA-17/19/14/Inf.6**), prepared jointly by the Secretaries of the Treaty and the Commission, provides information on the Commission's cooperation with the Treaty Governing Body, for information of the Commission.

OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 15: OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 16: DATE AND PLACE OF THE COMMISSION'S EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION

ITEM 17: ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIRS AND *RAPPORTEUR*

ITEM 18: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Monday, 18 February 2019 morning			
10:00 – 13:00	Opening of the Session		
	1	Adoption of the agenda and timetable	CGRFA-17/19/1 CGRFA-17/19/1 Add.1 Rev.1
	CROSS-SECTORAL MATTERS		
	2	The role of genetic resources for food and agriculture for food security and nutrition	CGRFA-17/19/2
	3	Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture	
		3.1 Report of the Fourth Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing	CGRFA-17/19/3.1
		3.2 Distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA-17/19/3.2
	4	“Digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA-17/19/4
Monday, 18 February 2019 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	5	The role of genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change	CGRFA-17/19/5
	6	Nutrition and genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA-17/19/6
	BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE		
	7	Biodiversity	
		7.1 <i>The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-17/19/7.1
		7.2 Report of the First Meeting of the Group of National Focal Points on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-17/19/7.2
		7.3 Needs and possible actions in response to <i>The State of the World’s Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-17/19/7.3

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Tuesday, 19 February 2019 morning			
10:00 – 13:00	8	Aquatic genetic resources	
		8.1 Report of the Second Session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-17/19/8.1
		8.2 <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-17/19/8.2 Rev.1
		8.3 Options for follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-17/19/8.3
Tuesday, 19 February 2019 afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	9	Plant genetic resources	
		9.1 Report of the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-17/19/9.1
		9.2 Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-17/19/9.2
		9.3 Status and trends of seed policies	CGRFA-17/19/9.3
		9.4 Preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-17/19/9.4
Wednesday, 20 February 2019 morning			
10:00 – 13:00	10	Forest genetic resources	
		10.1 Report of the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources	CGRFA-17/19/10.1
		10.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources	CGRFA-17/19/10.2
		10.3 Preparation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i>	CGRFA-17/19/10.3

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents	
Wednesday, 20 February 2019 afternoon				
15:00 – 18:00	11	Animal genetic resources		
		11.1 Report of the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-17/19/11.1	
		11.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources	CGRFA-17/19/11.2	
Thursday, 21 February 2019 morning				
10:00 – 13:00	12	Micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources		
		12.1 Report on the Consultation on future work on sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA-17/19/12.1	
		12.2 Future work on sustainable use and conservation of micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA-17/19/12.2	
Thursday, 21 February 2019 afternoon				
15:00 – 18:00	STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE			
	13	Progress report and review	CGRFA-17/19/13	
	COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS			
	14	Cooperation with international instruments and organizations	CGRFA-17/19/14	
	OTHER MATTERS			
	15	Other business		
	16	Date and place of the Commission's Eighteenth Regular Session		
	17	Election of Chair, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur		
Friday, 22 February 2019 afternoon				
15:00 – 18:00	18	Adoption of the Report		