



# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### Twelfth Session

Rome, 18–20 January 2023

### ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

#### 1. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and *Rapporteur*

The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) shall elect its Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and *Rapporteur* from among the representatives of its Members at the beginning of the session. Relevant information is contained in document **CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/1**. The Statutes of the Working Group and its composition are given in the document **CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/1/Inf.1**. The list of documents for this session is contained in document **CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/1/Inf.2**.

#### 2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

The provisional agenda is contained in document **CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/2**. A provisional timetable is provided in the *Appendix* to the present document, which provides annotations to the provisional agenda.

#### 3. Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Eighteenth Regular Session, called upon countries to continue implementing the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources<sup>1</sup> (Global Plan of Action), and requested FAO to provide complementary technical and policy support.<sup>2</sup>

The document *Review of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* (**CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/3**) provides an overview of FAO activities since the Commission's last

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/a1404e/a1404e.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 70.

session, including the preparation of technical guidelines, capacity development and training, technical support to countries and collaboration, and gives an update on the status of the *Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action*.<sup>3</sup> FAO activities are grouped according to their relevance to the four Strategic Priority Areas of the Global Plan of Action: (1) Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks; (2) Sustainable use and development; (3) Conservation; and (4) Policies, institutions and capacity building. The document *Summary progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/3/Inf.1)* provides more detailed information about expert meetings, workshops for National Coordinators for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources and capacity-building events held, projects initiated and communication materials prepared by FAO and its partners since the Commission's Eighteenth Regular Session.

The Working Group is invited to take note of the review of FAO's work and to guide the Commission on future work supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

#### 4. Monitoring the diversity of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Global Plan of Action calls for strengthening global and regional information systems and networks for inventory, monitoring and characterization, including the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS). The document *Monitoring the diversity of animal genetic resources (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4)* contains information about DAD-IS and other matters associated with FAO's work in monitoring genetic diversity. It responds in particular to the Commission's requests to the Working Group to consider:

- (i) the implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 2.4.1 (Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture) as another tool for assessing the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;<sup>4</sup>
- (ii) raising awareness of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the necessity to broaden the scope of SDG Indicator 2.5.1b to include all breeds registered in DAD-IS, to account for the entire spectrum of AnGR;<sup>5</sup> and
- (iii) investigating the rationale behind the population size thresholds used to identify breeds considered to be at risk of extinction, and to present its findings to the next session of the Working Group.<sup>6</sup>

As requested by the Commission, up-to-date national breed data and information based on DAD-IS are provided in the document *Status and trends of animal genetic resources – 2022 (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4/Inf.1)*.

Efforts to increase the user-friendliness of DAD-IS, integrate into DAD-IS additional data fields and develop a tool allowing automated translation of DAD-IS content provided by National Coordinators for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources are summarized in the document *Detailed report on the development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4/Inf.2)*.

In response to the Commission's request, the document *Methods for estimation of within-population genetic variation (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4/Inf.3)* explores the availability of, access to, and optimal use of genomic and/or breed demographic data to estimate parameters that may be suitable to complement breed population size data as indicators for monitoring the genetic diversity within livestock breeds.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/i1674e/i1674e00.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 71.

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 78.

<sup>6</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 77.

The Working Group is invited to take note of the information provided and to guide the Commission and its Members with regard to improving the monitoring of the diversity of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

#### **5. Preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture***

The document *Preparation of The Third Report on The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/5)* proposes a timeline, scope, content and process for the preparation of the Third Report and the required resources.

The Working Group may wish to review the proposed outline, process, questionnaire and timeline for the preparation of the Third Report. The Working Group may also wish to consider the proposal to launch the Third Report at the Commission's Twenty-first rather than at its Twentieth Regular Session (see also Agenda Item 10).

#### **6. The role of micro-organisms relevant to ruminant digestion**

The Commission will consider at its next session the micro-organisms of relevance to ruminant digestion.<sup>7</sup> At its last session, the Commission decided to consult the Working Group on this topic.<sup>8</sup> The document *Micro-organisms relevant to ruminant digestion (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/6)* provides an overview of status and trends of rumen microbiota, of their characterization, conservation and use, of policy, legal and institutional frameworks and an analysis of the gaps and needs, and possibilities for the Commission and its Members to address them. The *Draft study on the status of micro-organisms of relevance to ruminant digestion and their management (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/6/Inf.1)* provides more detailed information.

The Working Group is invited to review the documents and advise the Commission accordingly.

#### **7. The role of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change**

The Working Group is invited to consider the role of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. More specifically, it is invited to consider, in response to the Commission's request,<sup>9</sup> next steps with regard to the review of the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*,<sup>10</sup> taking into account the need to address the vulnerabilities of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) to climate change and relevant international agreements.<sup>11</sup> The Working Group is further invited to review and revise, as appropriate, draft questions on climate change and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, as shortened, simplified and pre-tested by the Commission Secretariat at the request of the Commission.<sup>12</sup>

Next steps for the review and possible revision of the Voluntary Guidelines are discussed in the document *Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/7)*. The updated questionnaire is attached to the same document. An overview of FAO activities on climate change is given in the document *FAO's work on climate change (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/7/Inf.1)*.

<sup>7</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix E*.

<sup>8</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 92.

<sup>9</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 20.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/a-i4940e.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 20.

<sup>12</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 19.

## 8. Access and benefit-sharing for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Working Group is invited to consider access and benefit-sharing (ABS) for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. It is invited to:

- review a typology of ABS country measures reflecting the importance of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture and associated traditional knowledge, their special role for food security and their distinctive features;<sup>13</sup> and
- take note and provide comments on a questionnaire prepared in response to the Commission's request for a report on the practical application and effects of ABS country measures to the different subsectors of GRFA and associated traditional knowledge.<sup>14</sup>

The document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8)* provides an overview of relevant developments under other international agreements and instruments, and introduces the typology of ABS country measures, for review by the Working Group. The populated typology is provided in the document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture: Typology of country measures (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8/Inf.1)*. The Working Group may also wish to take note of and provide comments on the draft questionnaire developed for the preparation of the report on the effects of ABS measures. The draft questionnaire is contained in the document, *Draft questionnaire on the implications of access and benefit-sharing measures for the use and exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture and for benefit-sharing (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8/Inf.2)*.

## 9. “Digital sequence information” on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Working Group is invited to consider the role of “digital sequence information” (DSI) for the sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture and for the sharing of benefits. The Working Group may wish to take into account relevant developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and in other fora and consider their potential implications for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The document *Digital sequence information and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/9)* provides information on how DSI is generated, stored, accessed and used for research and development related to GRFA, and summarizes relevant developments that have taken place in other fora, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, prior to 15 November 2022. The document draws on a study commissioned by the Commission Secretariat contained in the document *The role of digital sequence information for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/9/Inf.1)*.

As requested by the Commission, its Secretariat held a global workshop on DSI and GRFA, to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders of the role of DSI for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA and the sharing of benefits derived from them, address the state of the art of DSI on genetic resources, present possible implications that related technologies might have for research and development related to GRFA, and consider the challenges associated with accessing and making full use of DSI. The workshop was held virtually on 14 and 15 November 2022 in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, CAB International and the CGIAR Genebank Initiative. The webcast of the workshop is available online.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 26.

<sup>14</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 27.

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/dsi\\_workshop\\_2022/en/](https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/dsi_workshop_2022/en/)

## **10. Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

Since 2007, the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) has guided the work of the Commission in the implementation of its mandate.<sup>16</sup> The document *Strategic plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: review and update (CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/10)* reviews progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, including the MYPOW, since the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session. It also contains the draft updated Strategic Plan spanning the Commission's next five sessions.

The Working Group is invited to review the progress made in the implementation of the MYPOW and to review and revise, as appropriate, the draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031 and the MYPOW, as given in *Appendix I* to the document.

## **11. Any other matters**

## **12. Adoption of the Report**

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<sup>16</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

**APPENDIX  
PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Working document</b>
<b>Wednesday, 18 January 2023</b>			
<b>Morning</b>			
10.00– 13.00	1	Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and <i>Rapporteur</i>	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/1
	2	Adoption of the agenda and timetable	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/2 CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/2 Add.1
	3	Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/3
<b>Wednesday, 18 January 2023</b>			
<b>afternoon</b>			
14:30– 17:30	4	Monitoring the diversity of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4
	5	Preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/5
<b>Thursday, 19 January 2023</b>			
<b>morning</b>			
10.00– 13.00	6	The role of micro-organisms relevant to ruminant digestion	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/6
	7	The role of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/7
	8	Access and benefit-sharing for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8
<b>Thursday, 19 January 2023</b>			
<b>Afternoon</b>			
14:30– 17:30	9	“Digital sequence information” and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/9
	10	Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/10
	11	Any other business	
<b>Friday, 20 January 2023</b>			
<b>Afternoon</b>			
14:30– 17:30	12	Adoption of the Report	