

联合国 粮食及 农业组织

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Organisation des Nations et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и Unies pour l'alimentation сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتخدة

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## COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### Item 4.2 of the Provisional Agenda

### **Nineteenth Regular Session**

Rome, 17-21 July 2023

DRAFT ONLINE 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

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### I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Eighteenth Regular Session, reviewed its past work on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) for genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) and associated traditional knowledge (TK) and identified several areas for further work.
- 2. The Commission, initiated a report on the practical application of ABS country measures to the different subsectors of GRFA and TK, including monitoring of ABS compliance, with a view to identifying the effects of ABS measures on the utilization and conservation of the different subsectors of GRFA and TK and the sharing of benefits. The Commission requested that the report be based on a country questionnaire.
- 3. The draft online questionnaire is therefore provided as *Appendix I* to this in the document, as reviewed and revised by the Commission's intergovernmental technical working groups and the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS Expert Team).<sup>2</sup>

#### II. ADDRESSEES AND TIMELINE

- 4. The online questionnaire is addressed to the Commission's national focal points, national focal points for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty) and national focal points for the Nagoya Protocol (Group I). In addition, it is addressed to relevant stakeholders and user communities (Group II) and Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC). Depending on the group to which the respondent belongs and depending on the answers of the respondent, questions will either appear or not appear while the respondent goes through the online questionnaire.
- 5. Following the review by the Commission and a pre-testing phase, the questionnaire will be put online. As recommended by the ABS Expert Team, the Secretariat will invite the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretary of the Treaty to bring the questionnaire to the attention of their national focal points.
- 6. The questionnaire should be completed by respondents by 1 March 2024. The results will form the basis for the report on the practical application of ABS measures, for review and consideration by the Commission's intergovernmental technical working groups, the ABS Expert Team and the Commission, at their next sessions.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-19/23/7.1; CGRFA-19/23/8.1; CGRFA-19/23/10.1; CGRFA-19/23/11.1; CGRFA-19/23/4.1.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 27.

#### APPENDIX I

# DRAFT ONLINE 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

The Secretariat of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) is conducting a survey, to collect information from National Focal Points/National Coordinators, relevant stakeholders and user communities and Indigenous Peoples and local communities about access and benefit-sharing (ABS).

The survey responds to a request by the Commission for a report on the practical application of ABS country measures to the different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) and associated traditional knowledge (TK). The report will aim to identify the effects of ABS measures on the utilization and conservation of the different subsectors of GRFA and TK and the sharing of benefits.

The survey's purpose is to gather information on the awareness of ABS country measures, the status of their implementation and relevant experiences of the different stakeholder groups with ABS measures.

You will be asked questions about ABS policies in general, about subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture (plant, animal, forest, aquatic and micro-organism/invertebrate genetic resources), and your practical experiences with the application of ABS measures.

The survey will take about 30 minutes to complete and should be completed by 1 March 2024.

Your participation is voluntary and confidential. You will not be identified in the results.

By clicking on the survey link, you are agreeing to be part of the study.

If you have any questions about this survey or its procedures, please contact the Commission Secretariat by email: <a href="mailto:CGRFA-ABS@fao.org">CGRFA-ABS@fao.org</a>.

### **Part A: General information** Please provide some background information about yourself and/or the institution you work 1 for or represent. Please identify your role in responding to this survey. **GROUP I (Commission Members/National Focal Points or Coordinators): FAO Commission Member** National Focal Point for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture National Coordinator for Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture National Focal Point for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture National Focal Point for Forest Genetic Resources National Focal Point for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture National Focal Point for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture National Focal Point for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity National Focal Point for the International Plant Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Other (please provide details) **GROUP II (Stakeholders/user communities):** Intergovernmental organization Public research organization/Academia/University Genebank collection Farmer organization Fisher organization Livestock keeper organization Forester organization Private sector Responding as an individual e.g. researcher Other (please provide details) **GROUP III (Indigenous Peoples and/or Local Communities):** Please provide details if you so wish Please provide the title and address of the entity you represent or where you work. Full name Title Name of entity Function Street City Postcode Country May we contact you for further information? If yes, please provide contact information: o Phone Email Part B.1: Application of national legislative, administrative and policy measures on

### access and benefit-sharing to genetic resources for food and agriculture **GROUP I: Does your country have ABS measures?**

Yes, no, I don't know

(a) If yes, do they require PIC?

Yes, no, I don't know

(b) If yes, do they require fair and equitable benefit-sharing?

Yes, no, I don't know

5			
	agriculture (GRFA)?		
	Yes, no, I don't know		
6	GROUP I: Do the ABS measures of your country require compliance with the ABS		
	measures of other countries providing access to genetic resources?		
	Yes, no, I don't know		
7 GROUP I: Do the ABS measures of your country include special provisions for			
	or all) GRFA?		
	Yes, no, I don't know		
	(a) If yes, please identify the genetic resources for which the ABS measures of your country		
	provide special provisions:		
	All genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	Forest genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	Microorganism genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	<ul> <li>Invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture</li> </ul>		
	(b) If yes, please identify the type(s) of special provisions and the GRFA to which they apply:		
	Exemptions of GRFA from scope of the ABS measures    GRFA		
	If yes, please specify relevant GRFA		
	• Special (e.g. simplified) authorization procedures for GRFA and/or activities related		
	to GRFA		
	If yes, please specify procedure, relevant GRFA and/or activities related to GRFA		
	Special provisions on benefit-sharing		
	If yes, please specify provisions and relevant GRFA		
	Other provisions for GRFA  CORP.  CORP.		
	If yes, please specify provision(s) and relevant GRFA		
8	GROUP I: Do the ABS measures of your country apply to privately held genetic		
	resources?		
	Yes, no, I don't know?		
	If yes, do they also apply to privately held GRFA?		
	Yes, no, I don't know		
9	GROUP I: Have efforts been made to inform stakeholders who utilize GRFA for		
	research and development on ABS measures, as they apply to GRFA?		
10	Yes, no, I don't know		
10	GROUP II: Have you been informed on ABS measures as they apply to GRFA?		
	Yes, no, I don't know		
	If yes, how have stakeholders been informed?		
	ABS Clearinghouse ( <u>https://absch.cbd.int/en/</u> )		
	National Clearinghouse		
	Information seminars		
	Guidance documentation		
	Other (if other, please provide details)		
11	GROUP I: Has your country granted ABS permits for the use of genetic resources for		
	research and development?		
	Yes, no, I don't know		
	(a) If yes, how many ABS permits has your country granted for the use of GRFA for research		
	and development?		
	• Less than 10		
	Between 11 and 50		
	• More than 50		
	• I don't know		
	1		

- (b) Please specify the GRFA for which ABS permits have been granted by your country (*Please specify all that apply*):
  - Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Forest genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Microorganism genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - I don't know

# Part B.2 Application of measures on access and benefit-sharing for traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources (TK) that is held by indigenous peoples and/or local communities

GROUP I: Does your country have ABS measures in place requiring that TK that is held by indigenous peoples and/or local communities is accessed with their prior informed consent (PIC) or their approval and involvement and that mutually agreed terms (MAT) have been established?

Yes, no, I don't know

GROUP III: Does your country have ABS measures in place requiring that TK is accessed with your prior informed consent (PIC) or your approval and involvement and that mutually agreed terms (MAT) have been established?

Yes, no, I don't know

GROUP I: Have efforts been made to inform stakeholders on ABS measures, as they apply to TK?

Yes, no, I don't know

If yes, how?

- ABS Clearinghouse (<a href="https://absch.cbd.int/en/">https://absch.cbd.int/en/</a>)
- National Clearinghouse
- Information seminars
- Guidance documentation
- Other (*if other, please provide details*)

### 15 GROUPS II & III: Have you been informed on ABS measures, as they apply to TK?

Yes, no, I don't know

If yes, how?

- ABS Clearinghouse (<a href="https://absch.cbd.int/en/">https://absch.cbd.int/en/</a>)
- National Clearinghouse
- Information seminars
- Guidance documentation
- Other (*if other, please provide details*)

### 16 GROUP III: Have you or your community approved access to TK?

Yes, no, I don't know

- (a) If yes, in how many cases have you or your community approved access to TK?
  - Less than 5
  - Between 5 and 10
  - More than 10
- (b) Have you or your community approved access to TK associated with any of the following genetic resources? (*Please specify all that apply*)
  - Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Forest genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Microorganism genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture
- 17 GROUP I: Has access to TK been approved by indigenous peoples and/or local

#### communities in your country?

If yes, in how many cases have indigenous peoples and/or local communities approved access to TK?

- Less than 10
- Between 10 and 50
- More than 50

## Part B.3 Application of measures for access to genetic resources where indigenous peoples and/or local communities have the established right to determine access to such resources

# GROUPS I & II: Does your country have measures in place, which provide indigenous peoples and/or local communities with the right to determine access to its genetic resources?

Yes, no, I don't know

If yes, are there measures in place in your country which aim at ensuring that the PIC or approval and involvement of indigenous peoples and/or local communities is obtained for access to their genetic resources?

Yes, no, I don't know

## 19 GROUP III: Does your country have measures in place which provide your community with the right to determine access to its genetic resources?

Yes, no, I don't know

If yes, are there measures in place in your country which aim at ensuring that the PIC or approval and involvement of your community is obtained for access to your genetic resources? Yes, no, I don't know

# GROUPS I–III: Are stakeholders informed of the need for consultation or approval of indigenous peoples and/or local communities when seeking access to their genetic resources?

Yes, no, I don't know

If yes, how are stakeholders informed?

- ABS Clearinghouse (https://absch.cbd.int/en/)
- National Clearinghouse
- Information seminars
- Guidance documentation
- Other (*if other, please provide details*)

## 21 GROUP III: Have you or your community approved access to the genetic resources of your community?

Yes, no, I don't know

- (a) If yes, in how many cases has your community approved access to its genetic resources?
  - Less than 10
  - Between 10 and 50
  - More than 50

# (b) Has your community approved access for any of the following genetic resources? (*Please specify all that apply*)

- Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture
- Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture
- Forest genetic resources for food and agriculture
- Microorganism genetic resources for food and agriculture
- Invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture

### Part C.1: Exchange experience – GRFA

## **GROUPS I–III: Do you use or exchange GRFA for research and development?** Yes, no, I don't know

- (a) If yes, please specify which (*Please specify all that apply*):
  - Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture
  - Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture Forest genetic resources for food and agriculture Microorganism genetic resources for food and agriculture Invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture (b) Please identify the GRFA you are most knowledgeable about or familiar with (Please select only one): Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture Forest genetic resources for food and agriculture Microorganism genetic resources for food and agriculture Invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture For the remainder of this part, please limit your answers to the GRFA you have identified as the one you are most knowledgeable about or familiar with. GROUPS I-III: During the last five years, have you/your institution/your community exchanged (provided or received) GRFA? Yes, no, I don't know (a) If yes, how many exchanges on average per year? (b) If yes, how many samples on average per year? (c) With whom of the following have you exchanged (provided or received) GRFA during the last five years? (*Please specify all that apply*) • Intergovernmental organization • Domestic public research organization/academia/university • Foreign public research organization/academia/university • Domestic indigenous people/local community • Foreign indigenous people/local community • Domestic genebank collection • Foreign genebank collection • Domestic private sector • Foreign private sector • Domestic individual, e.g. researcher • Foreign individual, e.g. researcher • Other (*please specify*) (d) Have the exchanges been made pursuant to ABS measures? Yes, always • Yes, in most cases Sometimes Rarely Never Don't know (e) If yes, how long, on average, did it take to negotiate the agreement? (f) After conclusion of the agreement, how long, on average, did it take before GRFA could be accessed? 24 GROUPS I-III: Have you received any monetary or non-monetary benefits in return for providing access to GRFA? Yes, no, no but expecting If yes, please specify which: • Capacity development/training • Results of research/development on the GRFA provided • Transfer of or access to technology • Other non-monetary benefits (*please specify*)

	Monetary benefits (please specify if you wish)		
25 GROUP II: Have you provided one or more of the following in return for reco			
	GRFA?		
	Capacity development/training		
	<ul> <li>Results of research/development on the GRFA provided</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Transfer of or access to technology</li> </ul>		
	• Other non-monetary benefits ( <i>please specify</i> )		
	<ul> <li>Monetary benefits (please specify if you wish)</li> </ul>		
26	GROUPS I-III: During the last five years, have you ever been denied access to GRFA		
	a result of ABS measures?		
	(a) If yes, what were the reasons for the denial?		
	I did not receive a reply		
	I received a reply, but no reasons were given		
	<ul> <li>Absence of ABS measures or implementing regulations</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>No agreement was reached on access modalities and/or benefit-sharing</li> </ul>		
	Non-compliance with applicable rules and/or procedures		
	• Other reasons (please specify)		
	(b) During the last five years, how many and what percentage of your access requests have		
	been denied?		
	(c) Countries where access to GRFA has been denied are located in the following region(s)		
	(Please specify all that apply) <sup>1</sup> :		
	• Africa		
	• Asia		
	• Europe		
	Latin America and the Caribbean		
	Near East		
	North America		
	• Southwest Pacific		
27	GROUPS I-III: Could you share additional information about factors contributing to		
	you and your community being able to obtain access to GRFA or not?		
28	GROUP I: In the last five years has the competent authority in your country denied		
	access to GRFA as a result of ABS measures?		
	Yes, no, I don't know		
	(a) If yes, for which reasons?		
	Absence of ABS measures or implementing regulations		
	No agreement was reached on access modalities and/or benefit-sharing		
	• Other reasons (please specify)		
	(b) During the last five years, how many and what percentage of requests for access to GRFA		
	have you rejected?		
	Part C.2: Exchange experience – TK		
29	GROUPS I-III: Do you use or exchange TK?		
	Yes, no, I don't know		
	(a) If yes, please specify to which GRFA the TK applies ( <i>Please specify all that apply</i> ):		
	Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture  Forest possible resources for food and agriculture		
	• Forest genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	Microorganism genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	Invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	(b) Please identify the GRFA you are most knowledgeable about or familiar with ( <i>Please</i>		
	select only one):		
	<ul> <li>Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture</li> </ul>		
	Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture		
	<ul> <li>Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture</li> </ul>		

Forest genetic resources for food and agriculture Microorganism genetic resources for food and agriculture • Invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture For the remainder of this part, please limit your answers to TK you have identified as the one you are most knowledgeable about or familiar with. GROUPS I-II: During the last five years, have you/your institution/your community exchanged (provided or received) TK? Yes, no, I don't know (a) If yes, how many exchanges on average per year? (b) With which of the following have you exchanged (provided or received) TK during the last five years? (*Please specify all that apply*) Intergovernmental organization Domestic public research organization/academia/university Foreign public research organization/academia/university Domestic indigenous people/local community Foreign indigenous people/local community Domestic genebank collection Foreign genebank collection Domestic private sector Foreign private sector Domestic individual, e.g. researcher Foreign individual, e.g. researcher Other (please specify) (c) Have the exchanges been made pursuant to ABS measures? • Yes, always • Yes, in most cases Sometimes • Rarely • Never • Don't know (d) If yes, how long, on average, did it take to negotiate the agreement? (e) After conclusion of the agreement, how long on average did it take before TK could be accessed? GROUPS I & II: Have you provided one or more of the following in return for receiving Yes, no, no but expecting

### 31 TK that was held by indigenous peoples and/or local communities?

- Capacity development/training
- Results of related research/development
- Transfer of or access to technology
- Other non-monetary benefits (*please specify*)
- Monetary benefits (please specify if you wish)

#### 32 GROUP III: Have you received one or more of the following in return for providing TK?

- Capacity development/training
- Results of related research/development
- Transfer of or access to technology
- Other non-monetary benefits (*please specify*)
- Monetary benefits (please specify if you wish)

#### 33 GROUPS I-II: During the last five years, have you been denied access to TK as a result of **ABS** measures?

- (a) If yes, what have been the reasons for the denial? (*Please specify all that apply*)
  - I did not receive a reply
  - I received a reply, but no reasons were given

• Absence of ABS measures or implementing regulations • No agreement was reached on access modalities and/or benefit-sharing • Non-compliance with applicable rules and/or procedures • Other reasons (please specify) (b) During the last five years, how many and what percentage of your requests to access TK have been denied? (c) Countries where access to TK has been denied are located in the following region(s) (*Please specify all that apply*): <sup>1</sup> • Africa • Asia Europe Latin America and the Caribbean Near East • North America • Southwest Pacific GROUP I-III: Could you share additional information about factors contributing to you being able to obtain access to TK or not? 35 GROUPS I & III: In the last five year's has access to TK in your country been denied as a result of the ABS measures? Yes, no, I don't know (a) If yes, for which reasons? • Absence of ABS measures or implementing regulations • No agreement was reached on access modalities and/or benefit-sharing • Other reasons (please specify) (b) During the last five years, how many and what percentage of requests for access to TK have been rejected? **Part D: ABS Elements** 36 GROUPS I-III: Are you familiar with the publication *Elements to facilitate domestic* implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture with explanatory notes (ABS Elements) by FAO in 2019 (a) If yes, how important have the ABS Elements been in guiding interactions on ABS policy development and implementation in your opinion? Very important **Important** Somewhat important Not important I don't know (b) If yes, please specify the genetic resources for which the ABS Elements have been guiding interactions on ABS policy development and implementation? All genetic resources for food and agriculture Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture Aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture Forest genetic resources for food and agriculture Microorganism genetic resources for food and agriculture Invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture I don't know 37 GROUP I: In using the ABS Elements in the implementation or development of ABS measures, which challenges, if any, have you faced?

### GLOSSARY

ABS measure	Measures of legislative, administrative or policy nature addressing access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits resulting from their utilization.
Country	States and federated state.
GR (genetic resources)	Genetic material (of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity) of actual or potential value.
GRFA (genetic resources for food and agriculture)	Genetic material (of plant, animal, microbial or other origin containing functional units of heredity) of actual or potential value for food and agriculture.
Permit	Evidence of the decision to grant prior informed consent and of the establishment of mutually agreed terms
SMTA	Standard Material Transfer Agreement (see Treaty, Article 12.4)
special provisions	Provisions that provide for specific cases, e.g. specific uses or users of genetic resources, rules that are different from the rules applying to other uses or users
TK	Traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources
Utilization of genetic resources	To conduct research and development on the genetic and/or biochemical composition of genetic resources, including through the application of biotechnology.