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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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COFI ADVISORY WORKING GROUP ON AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGIES

Second Meeting

Pakistan Room, FAO Headquarters

Rome, Italy, 19–20 October 2017

BACKGROUND

The creation of the Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies (Working Group) and the terms of reference were approved at the 31st session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in 2014. Eight experts were confirmed as members of the Working Group (Annex 2) taking into consideration technical expertise, gender and geographical balance and the first meeting was held in Brasilia, Brazil, 1–2 October, 2015¹.

The second meeting of the Working Group (Annex 1) will provide guidance on issues identified earlier,² particularly on the process leading to the first Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SoW Report) and on the Working Group's recommendation to produce a Framework of Minimum Requirements for Sustainable Management, Development, Conservation and Use of Aquatic Genetic Resources (Framework).

¹ www.fao.org/3/a-i5553e.pdf

² www.fao.org/aquatic-genetic-resources/working-groups/awg/en/

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OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The objectives of the meeting are to:

1. Provide guidance on the process leading to the SoW Report;
2. Provide comments on the Thematic Background Studies prepared for the SoW Report;³
3. Provide guidance on a glossary of terms and concepts relevant to Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR);
4. Review and refine the draft Framework;
5. Inform the Working Group on current activities and needs of FAO in regards to AqGR; and
6. Review and refine the Terms of Reference and general work plan for the Working Group (Annex 3).

FOLLOW-UP AND NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP

It is expected that FAO will call on the advisory group to provide information or additional advice on AqGR and in particular on the preparation of the SoW Report. The last session of the CGRFA invited COFI to consider asking the Working Group to contribute to the preparation of this report. The deliberations of this meeting will be communicated to the next session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, 24–27 October, 2017 for endorsement.

REQUESTED GUIDANCE FROM THE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group is requested to:

1. Provide guidance on the process leading to the SoW Report;
2. Provide comments on the Thematic Background Studies prepared for the SoW Report;³
3. Provide guidance on a glossary of terms and concepts relevant to Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR)
4. Review and refine the draft Framework;
5. Provide advice on current activities and needs of FAO in regards to AqGR; and
6. Review and refine the Terms of Reference and general work plan for the Working Group.

³ www.fao.org/aquatic-genetic-resources/background/sow/background-studies/en/

Draft AGENDA

**COFI Advisory Working Group on
Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies
19-20 October, 2017
Pakistan Room
FAO, Rome**

19 October 2017, Thursday		
08.30 – 09.00	Registration	
09.00 – 09.15	Welcome	ADG Fisheries and Aquaculture Dept (FAO)
09.15 – 09.30	Introduction and objectives of the meeting	Secretariat (FAO)
09.30 – 09.45	Election of officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Rapporteur) and confirmation of membership for next 2 years	Secretariat (FAO)
09.45 – 10.15	Preparation of <i>The First State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – for discussion</i> Background documents: (i) First draft of the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources (ii) COFI:AQ/IX/2017/6/Rev.1 Aquatic Genetic Resources for Aquaculture Development and (iii) COFI:AQ/IX/2017/Inf.8 Status of preparation of The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Matthias Halwart (FAO)
10.15 – 10.30	Health break	
10.30 – 12.30	Preparation of <i>The First State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – for discussion</i> (cont'd) Background documents: 5 Thematic Background Studies ⁴	FAO
12.30 – 13.00	Summarize conclusions for Report and advice for statement to COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture	Rapporteur and Devin Bartley (WFT)
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 – 14.30	Definitions on AqGR in FAO glossaries reviewed and improvements proposed Background documents: (i) <i>Preparation of a glossary and the harmonization of terms within the State of the World Report on Aquatic Genetic Resources</i> and (ii) <i>Draft glossary to accompany the State of the World report on Aquatic Genetic Resources</i>	Anne Kapuscinski and Graham Mair (Adv WG)
14.30 – 15.30	FAO priorities for AqGR – for input Background document: COFI:AQ/IX/2017/6/Rev.1 Aquatic genetic resources for aquaculture development	Austin Stankus (FAO)
15.30 – 16.00	Health break	
16.00 – 16.30	Cont'd	FAO
16.30 – 17.00	Summarize conclusions for Report and advice for statement to COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture	Rapporteur and Devin Bartley (WFT)
17.00	Close for the day	

4 SBD.3 Thematic Background Study No 1: [Incorporating genetic diversity and indicators into statistics and monitoring of farmed aquatic species and their wild relatives](#)

SBD.4 Thematic Background Study No 2: [Genetic resources for microorganisms of current and potential use in aquaculture](#)

SBD.5 Thematic Background Study No 3: [Genome-based Biotechnologies in Aquaculture](#)

SBD.6 Thematic Background Study No 4: [Genetic resources for farmed seaweeds](#)

SBD.7 Thematic Background Study No. 5: [Genetic resources for farmed freshwater macrophytes: a review](#)

20 October 2017, Friday		
09.00 – 10.30	Preparation of the <i>Framework of minimum requirements for sustainable management, development, conservation and use of AqGR – for input</i> <u>Background document:</u> Responsible Development and Management of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: towards a Framework of Minimum Criteria (Draft Report of the SADC/WorldFish/FAO Workshop)	Daniela Lucente (FAO)
10.30 – 11.00	Health break	
11.00 – 12.00	Preparation of <i>Framework</i> (cont'd)	FAO
12.00 – 12.30	Review of ToRs and workplan	All
12.30 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00 – 15.30	Summarize conclusions for Report and advice for statement to COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture	Rapporteur and Devin Bartley (WFT)
15.30 – 16.00	Health break	
16.00 – 16.30	Arrangements for next session	Matthias Halwart (FAO)
16.30 – 17.00	Closing remarks	FAO
17.00	Adjourn	

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
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**TERMS OF REFERENCE⁶ FOR THE ADVISORY WORKING GROUP ON
AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGIES
and
WORKPLAN**

1. FAO will establish the Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies to advise FAO on matters concerning aquatic genetic resources and technologies, and to enhance international cooperation on aquatic genetic resource management.
2. The Advisory Working Group shall be established according to FAO's rules.
3. The Advisory Working Group shall consist of no more than ten recognized experts in genetic resource use and conservation in fisheries and aquaculture.
4. Advisory Working Group members shall be appointed by the Director-General for a period of two years but may be renewable. In appointing experts, in addition to scientific and technical excellence, FAO will consider diversity and complementarity of scientific backgrounds and observe, as appropriate, the principle of equitable geographical representation and gender representation. Experts will be invited to participate in the Advisory Working Group in their personal capacity, as experts, and shall not represent the position of the government of which s/he is an official, or of the organization with which s/he is associated.
5. The working language of the Advisory Working Group will be English.
6. The scope of the Advisory Working Group shall include the conservation, sustainable use and development of all aquatic genetic resources relevant for fisheries and aquaculture.
7. Specific tasks of the Advisory Working Group shall be assigned by FAO with due consideration of the advice from COFI.
8. The membership of the Advisory Working Group may be changed by FAO depending on the specific advice being requested by FAO and/or COFI.
9. The Secretariat of the Advisory Working Group will be based in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department of FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy.
10. The plan of work of the Advisory Working Group will be prepared and approved by the Advisory Working Group in consultation with the secretariat taking into account tasks assigned to it in accordance with paragraph 7 above and available financial resources.
11. The Advisory Working Group shall prepare a report to the FAO secretariat providing information on its activities and recommendations.
12. The Advisory Working Group may propose amendments to these terms of reference which shall be transmitted to COFI for consideration.

⁵ From COFI:AQ/VII/2013/2

⁶ Based on the FAO Consultation to Establish Terms of Reference for a COFI Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies, 31 January – 1 February, 2013, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand.

WORKPLAN

The first meeting of the Working Group established the following as a tentative workplan. Several activities have been completed and others are in progress.

- Approval of the Working Group members
- First meeting (Brazil, October 2015)
- Biography of Working Group members submitted
- Shared directory established
- List of relevant links and publications submitted
- Web page established
- Terms of Reference for the Thematic Background Papers reviewed
- Technical assistance on the national reports provided
- Advice on the analysis of country reports provided
- Definitions on AqGR in FAO glossaries reviewed and improvements proposed
- Draft *SoW AqGR* reviewed
- Draft road map developed
- Road map refined
- Promotion of *SoW AqGR* enhanced
- Linkages with the ITWG AqGR established
- Intersessional meeting (Video conference, depending on funds) held
- Work plan revised (based on available resources)
- Second meeting (October 2017)
 - Work plan to be revised following the second meeting