

March 2001



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

### Item 1.3 of the Provisional Agenda

## COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

First Session

Rome, 2 - 4 July 2001

## PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

### 1. Organizational matters

#### 1.1 Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair(s)

In accordance with its statutes, “the Working Group shall elect its Chairperson and one or more Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of Members of the Working Group at the beginning of each session. These officers shall remain in office until the next session of the Working Group and shall be eligible for re-election”.

#### 1.2 Appointment of the *Rapporteur*

The Working Group may also wish to appoint a *Rapporteur*.

#### 1.3 Adoption of the agenda and timetable

A provisional agenda and timetable is in *Appendix 1* to the present document, for consideration by the Working Group.

### 2. Progress Report on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission agreed at its Eighth Regular Session that the Working Group should meet to guide the implementation and review of the *Global Plan of Action*. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-

1/01/2 reports on progress in the implementation of the *Plan* in 109 countries, based on a questionnaire circulated to National Focal Points in 151 countries, and identifies various recent developments of relevance to the implementation of the *Plan*. The Working Group is invited to discuss additional efforts that may be needed by stakeholders to implement the plan, areas that may need further analysis, and other areas with policy implications.

### **3. Monitoring the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The Commission requested “that FAO play a proactive and creative role in facilitating and monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*”. It agreed to develop a transparent and efficient monitoring process and recommended that a core set of indicators be established, within the framework of the priority activity areas of the *Plan*, to facilitate the process. At its last regular session, the Commission further noted that “monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* was important for efficient resource-utilization”, and agreed that “FAO should continue to strengthen collaboration among relevant international organizations in monitoring and preparing reports on genetic resources for food and agriculture”. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/3, which has been prepared following consultations with the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), considers how best to establish an effective long-term monitoring system. It reports on monitoring activities undertaken in 1998 and 2000, and draws lessons from this experience for the further development of the monitoring process. Plans for future monitoring activities – including the establishment of national clearing-house mechanisms for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* and the complementary capacity-building – are described and budgeted. The Working Group is invited to give guidance on the proposed monitoring process and timetable, and on the mobilization of the necessary extra-budgetary funds.

#### **3.1. Defining the Indicators and the Reporting Format for Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action**

A proposed set of indicators and a reporting format incorporating these indicators have been developed, as requested by the International Technical Conference (1996) and the Commission at its Seventh Regular Session. The Annex to document CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/3 contains the proposed indicators, and document CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/Inf.1 contains a proposed standardized, tabular reporting format, for the consideration of the Working Group.

#### **3.2. Updating the Report on the State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The Commission, at its Eighth Regular Session, agreed that it would consider the preparation of a second report on the *State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the amendment of the *Global Plan of Action*, after the completion of the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/04 discusses how the updating of the *State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* can be addressed as complementary processes. The Working Group may wish to provide guidance on thematic areas to be addressed, the integration of the updating of the *State of the World’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* with the process of monitoring the *Global Plan of Action*, and the role of the World Information and early Warning System in this regard.

**4. Facilitating the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

At its Seventh and Eighth Regular Sessions, the Commission requested FAO to play a proactive role, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, in facilitating and monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/5 was developed, in response to the Commission's request, in consultation with both IPGRI and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research. It documents the call from stakeholders for coordinated action; considers the implications of FAO's new programmatic approach; and discusses four options for action, with particular emphasis on the possible establishment of a Facility as an articulated and formal mechanism to facilitate implementation of the *Plan*. The Working Group may wish to provide guidance on steps to be taken, and on the initiation of discussions with other organizations and donors, in order to be able to report further to the Commission at its Ninth Regular Session.

**5. Progress Report on the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

At its Eighth Regular Session, the Commission expressed its appreciation for the follow-up action already taken by the Secretariat, in the light of the recommendations of the external review of the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) and suggested that the WIEWS "should be developed in a simple and cost-effective way, building on existing databases". Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/6 highlights progress achieved since then, addressing, in particular, issues related to data content, accessibility, integration and consistency, and system integration and sustainability. The WIEWS' future perspectives as a supportive tool for (i) the continuing monitoring process of the *Global Plan of Action*, (ii) the development of the second report of the *State of the World's Plant Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture*, and (iii) as an early warning mechanism on plant genetic erosion are also discussed. The guidance of the Working Group is sought regarding the WIEWS' role in these three areas.

**6. Matters Related to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture arising from the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

The Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in 2000, by decision V/5, invited FAO, in close collaboration with other competent organizations and research bodies, to further study the potential implications of genetic use restriction technologies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and the range of agricultural production systems in different countries, and identify relevant policy questions and socio-economic issues that may need to be addressed. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/7 responds to this request. It discusses various technical aspects of GURTs, the potential impacts of these technologies on agricultural biodiversity, biosecurity implications and impacts at farming system level (especially seed systems), as well as economic implications, and identifies policy issues, which governments may wish to consider.

Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/Inf.2 provides additional information of relevance to the Working Group on decisions of the Fifth Conference of the Parties.

**7. Other Business**

**8. Adoption of the Report of the Working Group**

**APPENDIX 1****PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Working Documents</b>
<b>Monday, 2 July 2001</b>			
10:00-10:15	1.1/1.2	Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair(s), and appointment of the <i>Rapporteur</i>	
10:15-11:00	1.3	Adoption of the agenda and timetable	CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/1 Add. 1
11:00-12:30	2	Progress Report on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/2
14:30-17:30	3/3.1	Monitoring the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/ 1/3 CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/Inf.1
<b>Tuesday, 3 July 2001</b>			
09:30-11:00	3.2	Updating the Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/4
11:00-12:30	5	Progress Report on the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/6
14:30-17:30	4	Facilitating the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/5

**PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Working Documents</b>
<b>Wednesday, 4 July 2001</b>			
09:30-12:00	6	Matters Related to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture arising from the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Study on Potential Impacts of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs) on Agricultural Biodiversity and Agricultural Production Systems	CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/7 CGRFA/WG-PGR-1/01/Inf.2
12:00-12:30	7	Any other business	
16:00-18:00	8	Adoption of the Report of the Working Group	