

October 2005



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
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the
United
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Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda
COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
Third Session
Rome, 26 – 28 October 2005
PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIME TABLE

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”.

2. Election of the Rapporteur

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

3. Adoption of the agenda and timetable

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

4. Activities undertaken by FAO, including through its Commission, to support the work of the Governing Body of the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, in relation to the supporting components of the *Treaty*

At its Tenth Session, the Commission requested its Working Group to identify and advise on activities, undertaken by FAO, to support and advance the work of the Governing Body of the *International Treaty*, in relation to the supporting components of the *International Treaty*. These are: the *Global Plan of Action*; *Ex Situ* Collections of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and

Agriculture held by the centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other international institutions; International Plant Genetic Resources Networks, and the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including the report on the *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/2 provides a brief review of FAO's most relevant activities undertaken under each of the supporting components between 2002 and 2005. It describes the responsibilities of the Commission in relation to the components and presents options to consider how technical cooperation between the Commission and the Governing Body could be developed as an input for developing a wider cooperation framework between the Commission and the Governing Body of the *International Treaty*. The Working Group is invited to note FAO's activities described and to consider the options presented in view of recommending them to the Commission and also to identify further cooperation processes.

5. Monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, and preparing the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

At its Tenth Session, the Commission requested the Working Group 'to review and provide guidance on monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, and provide guidance concerning the *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*'. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/3 reports on progress made so far on application of the new approach for monitoring implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. Information generated by the monitoring, and shared by countries, can be consulted on their own web sites and through a prototype global portal. A major benefit of using the new approach has been the reinforced national capacity for understanding and potential for cooperation. On preparation of the Second *Report*, the document reports that *Guidelines for Country Reports* have been finalized, including a revised time line. The *Guidelines*, which are presented in information document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.5, fully integrate the preparation of Country Reports with the process of monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. They were discussed with national authorities in two sub-regional meetings, reported in information documents CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.6 and Inf.7. Members have been formally requested to prepare Country Reports and to participate in national surveys and strategies for plant breeding, contributing to the preparation of the Second *Report*. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/3 also updates information on extra-budgetary resources needed to complete the *Report*, to be presented to the Commission in 2008. Activities and processes in other forums are presented to the Working Group in information documents CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.2, Inf.3 and Inf.4. The Working Group is invited to provide guidance on the ongoing application of the new monitoring approach to all countries, and on the mobilization of the necessary extra-budgetary funds.

6. FAO's initiatives for capacity-building to support the utilization of PGRFA, through seed systems and plant breeding and genetic enhancement

The Commission, at its Tenth Regular Session, requested that the Working Group in "considering the *Global Plan of Action*, [to] review and provide guidance on the Organisation's initiatives for capacity-building to support the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, through seed systems and plant breeding and genetic enhancement, including inviting information on the relevant activities of the CGIAR and other relevant stakeholders." Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/4 presents a synthesis of recent capacity building initiatives and strategies undertaken by the Organisation towards promoting sustainable use of PGRFA through crop improvement and strengthening of seed systems. It highlights initiatives in the area of plant breeding, seed production, quality control, distribution, seed information and seed biosafety, at the normative and technical levels. The various initiatives are discussed thematically, and guidance is sought from the Working Group on the way forward for accelerating capacity building and mobilising resources with the aim of strengthening national plant breeding programmes and promoting seed sector development. The Secretariat also invited information on capacity building activities from the CGIAR and other relevant stakeholders, which is provided in information document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.8.

7. Support for countries to generate, compile and disseminate cultivar-specific nutrient composition data, and the relative priority of obtaining cultivar-specific dietary consumption data

The Commission requested the Working Group to “provide guidance to FAO on how it could best support countries, on request, to generate, compile and disseminate cultivar-specific nutrient composition data, as well as indicate the relative priority of obtaining cultivar-specific dietary consumption data, in order to demonstrate the role of biodiversity in nutrition and food security...”. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/5 notes that food composition and food consumption data are important to agriculture, health, the environment and trade. The linkage between biodiversity, food and nutrition can enhance sustainable use of biodiversity to combat hunger and malnutrition, and thereby contribute to the achievement of some of the Millennium Development Goals. Absence of cultivar-specific composition and consumption data limits our ability to assess the value of these cultivars and their importance to individual, household and national food security. Various activities in the sector are described, in particular a recent consultation on a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition. The Working Group is asked to consider recommending that the Commission request FAO to prepare a draft action plan to better support countries to generate, compile and disseminate cultivar-specific nutrient composition and consumption data.

8. Guiding principles to address the possibility of unintended presence of transgenes in *ex situ* collections

The possibility of presence of transgenes in *ex situ* collections held in the International Network of *Ex Situ* Collections has been discussed by the Commission. At its Tenth Session, it further requested the Working Group to consider the document, prepared by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), that contained the ‘Draft Guiding Principles for the Future Harvest Centres to Address the Possibility of Unintended Presence of Transgenes in *Ex Situ* Collections’. The purpose of document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/6 is to present the information submitted by IPGRI on the Guiding Principles and the process undertaken to prepare them. The Working Group is requested to recommend the way forward for consideration of the Guiding Principles by the Commission, on bringing them to the attention relevant international institutions, national, regional and international genebanks, and on their being considered in the development of the draft *Code of Conduct for Biotechnology* and the *International Code of Conduct for Plant Germplasm Collection and Transfer* if and when it is updated.

9. Development of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, its relationship at the technical level with FAO and IPGRI, and its inter-relationship with other ongoing international processes

The Commission requested the Working Group to “consider the development of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, its relationship at the technical level with FAO and IPGRI in particular, and its inter-relationship with other ongoing international processes”. Information document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.10 was prepared by the Global Trust to inform the Working Group on the technical cooperation between the Trust, and FAO and IPGRI. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/7 invites the Working Group to recommend ways in which FAO and IPGRI could continue to support the Trust’s technical capacity.

10. Input of the Working Group to the Commission’s Multi-Year Programme of Work

At its Tenth Session, the Commission agreed to consider a draft Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) to be submitted by FAO to the Commission at its Eleventh Session, to lay the basis for its future activities as well as its cooperation with other international processes and intergovernmental bodies. Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/8 introduces the decisions taken by the Commission and a number of issues and international processes that the Working Group may take into account in providing inputs, on issues related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in the preparation of the draft MYPoW, including prioritisation and timing for

delivery of expected outputs, and milestones. Possible areas for consideration include further work on elements of the FAO Global System, monitoring and facilitating the implementation and rolling update of the *Global Plan of Action*, contributions to the other supporting components of the *International Treaty*, as well as addressing emerging issues such as the ecosystem approach to agrobiodiversity in the area of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, biodiversity and nutrition, development of indicators for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and strengthening interaction with other sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

11. **Other Business**

- **Information on a proposal to establish a long-term germplasm facility in Svalbard, Norway**

The information document CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.11 provides a report from the Government of Norway on the context and status of this proposal.

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

APPENDIX 1

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Date and Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Wednesday, 26 October, 2005			
10:00 – 10:15	1.	Introductory remarks from ADG, AG	
	2.	Election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs	
	3.	Election of the Rapporteur	
10:15 – 11:00	3.	Adoption of the agenda and timetable	CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/1 CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/1Add.1
11:00 – 13:00	4.	Activities undertaken by FAO, including through its Commission, to support the work of the Governing Body of the <i>International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> , in relation to the supporting components of the <i>Treaty</i>	CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/2
14:30 – 16:00	5.	Monitoring the implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i> , and preparing the second <i>Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/3
16:00 – 17:30	6.	FAO's initiatives for capacity-building to support the utilization of PGRFA, through seed systems and plant breeding and genetic enhancement	CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/4

**Thursday, 27
October, 2005**

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| 9:30 – 11:00 | 7. | Support for countries to generate, compile and disseminate cultivar-specific nutrient composition data, and the relative priority of obtaining cultivar-specific dietary consumption data | CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/5 |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | 8. | Guiding principles to address the possibility of unintended presence of transgenes in <i>ex situ</i> collections | CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/6 |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | 9. | Development of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, its relationship at the technical level with FAO and IPGRI, and its inter-relationship with other on-going international processes. | CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/7 |
| 14:30 – 17:00 | 10. | Input of the Working Group to the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work | CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/8 |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | 11. | Other Business
- Information on a proposal to establish a long-term germplasm conservation facility in Svalbard, Norway | CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Inf.11 |

**Friday, 28
October, 2005**

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| 9:30 – 12:30 | | Preparation of the Report of the Working Group | |
| 14:30 – 17:30 | 12. | Adoption of the Report of the Working Group | |