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Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PLANT AND GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Rome, 27-29 April 2011

REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION'S MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK-PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) agreed to review progress made in the implementation of its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) at its Thirteenth and Fifteenth Regular Sessions.¹
2. The Commission, at its Twelfth Regular Session, adopted the *Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (Strategic Plan 2010-2017)*, a detailed planning framework to assist Members of the Commission, the Bureau, and the Secretariat of the Commission, FAO and other organizations, to plan their contributions to the implementation of the MYPOW.² Amendments to the MYPOW should also be reflected in the *Strategic Plan 2010-2017*.
3. This document briefly summarizes the progress made in the implementation of the MYPOW with regard to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, assesses the extent to which MYPOW outputs and milestones foreseen for future sessions of the Commission are still relevant and may realistically be achieved, and proposes new and additional outputs/ milestones related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
4. The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) is invited to review this document and provide comments and recommendations in its area of expertise to the Commission, which will review the progress in the implementation of the MYPOW and consider possible amendments to the MYPOW at its Thirteenth Regular Session.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

Table 1: The Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work: Major outputs and milestones (Plant Genetic Resources)

	12th Session	13th Session	14th Session	15th Session	16th Session
Plant Genetic Resources (PGRFA)	Presentation of <i>The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources</i>	Consideration of the updated <i>Global Plan of Action for adoption, and review of cooperation with the International Treaty</i>			Update of <i>The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources</i>

5. FAO presented *The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SoWPGR-2)* to the Commission's Twelfth Regular Session, which endorsed it as the authoritative assessment of this sector.³ The Director-General of FAO officially launched the SoWPGR-2 on 26 October 2010.
6. The Commission, at its forthcoming Thirteenth Regular Session, is expected to consider the updated *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant*

¹ CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 90.

² CGRFA-12/09/Report, Appendix G.

³ CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 17.

Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Global Plan of Action), in the light of comments and inputs received from consultations held by FAO in all the regions, from a joint meeting of the Bureaus of the Commission and the International Treaty, and from the Governing Body of the International Treaty (*Table 1*).

7. The draft updated Global Plan of Action is given as an Annex to the document, Preparation of the updated Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.⁴ This document, as well as the document, Summary report of the regional consultations for the updating of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the document Comments on the draft updated Global Plan of Action, reflect the progress in the preparation of the draft updated Global Plan of Action.

8. The Commission, at its Thirteenth Regular Session, is also expected to review its cooperation with the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. A vision paper, jointly prepared by the Secretariats of the two bodies and reviewed by their Bureaus, is given in the document, *Policy coherence and complementarity of the work of the Commission and of the Governing Body*.⁵

9. Following the Commission's recommendations, a series of technical papers have been prepared for consideration by the Working Group at this session. The documents address: the preparation of the draft updated Genebank Standards; possibilities of strengthening plant breeding capacities; a gap analysis of the seed systems; and options to promote food security through on-farm and *in-situ* management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

III. PERIODIC ASSESSMENT OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK

10. In view of the progress made in the implementation of the MYPOW, as it relates to plant genetic resources, the agreed milestones and outputs planned for the Commission's Thirteenth Regular Session are still relevant and realistically achievable.

11. The presentation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Third Report)* currently foreseen for the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session may need to be re-examined in the light of human and financial resources available and countries' ability to timely provide Country Reports.

12. The Working Group may also wish to consider if, as currently foreseen in the *Strategic Plan 2010-2017*, the *Third Report* should be presented to the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session as indicated in *Table 1*, or postponed to its Seventeenth Regular Session, as suggested in *Table 2*. The Working Group may wish to take into consideration that Commission Members will need some time to take action on the basis of the updated *Global Plan of Action* and that formats for reporting and monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* need to be developed and agreed before the preparation of the *Third Report* can be initiated.

IV. REVIEW OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK – PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

13. The Multi-Year Programme of Work is a rolling programme. Now might therefore be an opportune time for the Commission to consider extending the MYPOW which currently expires with the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session (2016/2017) and to plan future work on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, beyond the expiry date of the current MYPOW.

⁴ CGRFA/WG-PGR-5/11/2.

⁵ CGRFA/WG-PGR-5/11/6.

14. Considering the outcomes of the progress report and the periodic assessment, changes to any of the MYPOW milestones related to plant genetic resources planned for the Commission's Thirteenth Regular Session do not seem to be necessary. Postponing the presentation of the *Third Report* from the Commission's Sixteenth to its Seventeenth Regular Session may, however, be desirable; in the follow-up to the presentation of the *Third Report* another update of the *Global Plan of Action* could be considered.

15. To better monitor and facilitate the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, it may also be appropriate to add a milestone to the Commission's Fifteenth Regular Session, which could consist of reviewing the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.

16. Additional major outputs and milestones in the MYPOW as it relates to plant genetic resources could therefore include:

- A review of the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action* (CGRFA-15); and
- Consideration of the updated *Global Plan of Action* for adoption (CGRA-18).

A draft revised Multi-Year Programme of Work related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in view of the proposed changes, is given in *Table 2*.

Table 2: Revised Commission's draft revised Multi-Year Programme of Work (2013-2021): Major outputs and milestones (Plant Genetic Resources)

	14th Session	15th Session	16th Session	17th Session	18th Session
Plant Genetic Resources (PGRFA)		Review of implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i>		Presentation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	Consideration of the updated <i>Global Plan of Action</i> for adoption

17. Any possible changes in the division of tasks and activities between the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty would need to be reflected in the MYPOW.

V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

18. The Working Group is invited to review the progress in the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work as it relates to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, to assess the need for adjustments and to review the outputs/milestones proposed for the Commission's Fifteenth and Eighteenth Regular Sessions.