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para la  
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Agricultura

## COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### Item 3.2 of the Provisional Agenda

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

#### Sixth Session

Rome, 14-16 November 2012

#### FAO ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Thirteenth Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) agreed on the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA) and welcomed it as a major achievement in global efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA).<sup>1</sup> As mandated by the 37<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference, the FAO Council adopted the Second GPA at its 143<sup>rd</sup> Session held in November 2011.<sup>2</sup>
2. The Commission also encouraged follow-up activities related to PGRFA, including *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, plant breeding and seeds systems, the National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISM) on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) and the GPA Facilitating Mechanism. These activities directly support the implementation of a number of priority activities of the Second GPA.
3. This document provides information on follow-up action taken by FAO in response to the Commission's requests. It provides a summary of the ongoing work and progress made since the last session of the Commission and requests guidance of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) on further work in these areas, in particular in support of the implementation of the Second GPA.

## II. THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION AND ITS SYNTHETIC ACCOUNT

4. As requested by the Commission<sup>3</sup>, FAO prepared the Synthetic Account of the Second GPA in all official languages. Together with the Second GPA, it is being disseminated widely through the organization's distribution channels. A dedicated website for the Second GPA with various communication tools, including multi-media presentations, is also available.<sup>4</sup>

## III. FAO ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

5. FAO provides policy and technical assistance to Member Countries for country-based implementation of the Second GPA under the aegis of the Commission. Within the framework of the Organization's Strategic Objective on Sustainable Crop Production Intensification<sup>5</sup>, relevant technical units support countries to strengthen plant conservation, plant breeding and seeds systems. This includes capacity development of national programmes, development and implementation of seed policies and PGRFA strategies, publication of technical tools and guidelines and fostering partnerships and collaborations. FAO also facilitates monitoring of PGRFA-related activities through the World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS)<sup>6</sup> and the National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISMs)<sup>7</sup> and hosts the Facilitating Mechanism<sup>8</sup>. These activities are carried out through a combination of the FAO Regular Program and extra-budgetary resources, in collaboration with a range of partners including, among others, the Centers of the Consultative Group on International

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraphs 21-22.

<sup>2</sup> CL 143/REP, paragraph 43; *Appendix B*.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 22.

<sup>4</sup> Accessible through <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/en/> and <http://www.pgrfa.org/gpa/gpa.htm>

<sup>5</sup> C 2011/3 Medium Term Planning and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013.

<sup>6</sup> <http://apps3.fao.org/wiews/wiews.jsp>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.pgrfa.org/gpa/selectcountry.jsp>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.globalplanofaction.org/>

Agricultural Research (CGIAR), regional networks, national agriculture research centers, the private sector and civil society organisations.

6. The Second GPA provides an opportunity for raising awareness of the value and potential of PGRFA for food security and nutrition, agricultural sustainability and adaptation to climate change in national, regional and international fora. Some initiatives on these themes have been undertaken with the Secretariats of the Commission and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty), and the CGIAR Centers, but there is a need to stimulate new partnerships and strengthen linkages with all relevant organisations, in particular with the CBD. In August 2011, FAO informed the National Focal Points of the CBD of major international policy frameworks and initiatives for genetic resources for food and agriculture and encouraged them to collaborate closer with their counterparts in the various sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture<sup>9</sup>, particularly in the process of updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans<sup>10</sup>.

7. Additional resources need to be mobilized to promote interactions and partnerships at the regional and sub-regional levels and strengthen PGRFA activities for the full implementation of the Second GPA. More engagement is required at the regional level, by further strengthening existing partnerships with regional entities including the African Union, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Central American Integration System (SICA). Financial resources are required at the national level for country-led, inclusive capacity development and investment in comprehensive strategies in this sector.

#### A. *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT

8. The Commission, at its Thirteenth Regular Session, reiterated the need for greater attention to crops essential for food security and on-farm management of PGRFA, and stressed the need for improved collaboration and coordination at national, regional and global levels in these areas. In this regard, it recognized the importance of establishing a global network for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA in coordination with the Secretariat of the International Treaty, the CBD's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and other relevant stakeholders, and requested FAO to elaborate on the means and opportunities for such a global network for the Commission's consideration.<sup>11</sup>

9. In response to the Commission's request, FAO continued to strengthen its collaboration in this area with regional partners in Europe, Asia and Latin America, mainly through technical consultations and projects aimed at promoting the use of local diversity and crop wild relatives (CWR). The toolkit for *in situ* conservation of CWR and on-farm management<sup>12</sup>, that will provide countries with means and methods for strengthening national programmes, will be ready by 2013. Extra-budgetary resources will be required to validate the toolkit in the field and disseminate it in all official languages.

10. Simultaneously, consultations have been held with various partners for exploring ways and means to establish a global network for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, including with the Secretariats of the International Treaty, the Commission and the CBD as well as Bioversity International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the academia. The consultations indicate that a mechanism, such as a global platform or a network, could raise the

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<sup>9</sup> National Coordinator for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources; National Focal Point for the Preparation of Country Reports on Forest Genetic Resources; National Focal Point, Plant Genetic Resources; National Focal Point of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; International Plant Protection Convention, Contact Point;

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>

<sup>11</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 41.

<sup>12</sup> Tentatively titled 'Tools and guidelines for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture'.

awareness of the value and necessity of *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, and strengthen the collaboration between stakeholders working in this area. While there are several international initiatives and national programmes that promote *in situ* conservation and on-farm management<sup>13</sup>, such as the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas, FAO's Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, UNESCO's World Heritage Sites and Man and Biosphere Reserves and the International Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund, there is a need to better coordinate these initiatives and programmes to halt the rapid loss of crop diversity from farmers' fields and conserve the CWR of important crop gene pools. The consultations also highlighted the main differences between *in situ* conservation of CWR and on-farm management of PGRFA, and stressed that the difference in methodologies, targets and stakeholders of *in situ* conservation and on-farm management should be taken into consideration in the process of establishing a global network.

11. With regard to *in situ* conservation of CWR, a detailed study, made available to the Commission, has identified high-priority sites for *in situ* conservation of 14 priority crop gene pools and provided a methodology for establishing global CWR reserves, subject to availability of resources.<sup>14</sup> However, strategies and mechanisms for on-farm management of PGRFA are more complex, with many practitioners at community, national and regional levels. Therefore, a survey is being undertaken, specifically focusing on on-farm management of PGRFA. The purpose of the survey is to engage with policy makers and practitioners of on-farm management and to assess the options for shaping a global network. The survey will therefore:

- Provide an overview of on-farm management activities at global, regional and national levels,
- Examine the linkages of on-farm management initiatives with national PGRFA programmes,
- Identify demands for strengthening, and mechanisms for supporting, on-farm management initiatives.

12. The results of the survey will provide key inputs to a technical consultation on this theme, held in Rome on 13 November 2012. The aim of the consultation is to discuss possible objectives, options, ways and means for a global network as well as a roadmap for its establishment. Participation and commitment of National PGRFA Programmes and practitioners at grassroot levels will be essential in this regard, along with adequate resources.

## **B. EX SITU CONSERVATION**

13. In response to the Commission's request<sup>15</sup>, FAO prepared the *Draft Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*<sup>16</sup> for review and finalization by the Working Group, which may recommend them to the Commission for adoption. The Genebank Standards cover plants with orthodox and non-orthodox seeds and vegetatively propagated species. Country-based capacity development along with financial resources will be required for the implementation of the genebank standards in developing countries.

## **C. SUSTAINABLE USE**

### **Strengthening plant breeding**

14. The Commission at its last Session, emphasized the role of plant breeding in addressing food security in light of climate change and other emerging threats, and reaffirmed the importance of further work in the area of sustainable use of PGRFA to support the implementation of the Second

<sup>13</sup> Chapter 2 "The state of *in situ* management", in: *The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, FAO, Italy, 2010.

<sup>14</sup> Establishment of a Global Network for the *In Situ* Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives: Status and Need [www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1500e/i1500e18a.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1500e/i1500e18a.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 30.

<sup>16</sup> Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/4.

GPA.<sup>17</sup> It welcomed the valuable role of the FAO-led Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB) in this regard. It also requested FAO to continue its activities in support of sustainable crop production intensification and strengthen linkages between germplasm conservation, plant breeding, and seed systems.

15. Since the last session of the Commission, several activities have been undertaken to reinforce the importance of the sustainable use of PGRFA and the role of plant breeding. Within the framework of the GIPB, an e-Learning Course on Pre-breeding<sup>18</sup> has been developed with partners to provide germplasm curators and plant breeders with the skills needed for identifying useful heritable variations and introgressing them into new elite crop varieties. This resource is available online and has also been distributed widely as a CD-rom. Several joint activities have been undertaken through projects in collaboration with FAO-IAEA Joint Division and the Global Crop Diversity Trust to enhance the use of conserved germplasm and promote new multi-purpose crop varieties for biomass and animal feeds, respectively. A technical workshop was organized in Rome with the European Plant Society Organisation from 25 to 27 June 2012, as a means for fostering partnerships for leveraging the most appropriate scientific and technological tools to translate the potentials of PGRFA into the well-adapted crop varieties in Africa.<sup>19</sup> The workshop recognized an immense potential for further collaboration between scientists and institutions from Europe and sub-Saharan Africa and highlighted the need to establish long-lasting partnerships working on the same or complementary themes. Technical support was also provided to an e-consultation, organized by the Secretariat of the International Treaty, to chart the course for its work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA (Article 6).<sup>20</sup>

16. The Commission also requested FAO to develop draft sector-specific guidelines for the molecular characterization of genetic resources for food and agriculture.<sup>21</sup> With regard to PGRFA, several guidelines have already been published, including by Bioversity International<sup>22</sup> and the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)<sup>23</sup>. These complement the existing protocols for molecular techniques which are widely available in literature.<sup>24, 25</sup>

17. In order to have the most suitable, and hence, easily adoptable crop varieties to be deployed in farmers' fields, applications of novel methodologies, including biotechnologies, must occur in tandem with the incorporation of farmers' perspectives into crop improvement programs. Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) demonstrably enhances the rate of adoption of new crop varieties<sup>26</sup>, however, guidelines and protocols for integrating molecular breeding techniques in PPB programs for small-holder farming systems are lacking.

### **Diversification and Underutilized crops**

18. At its previous session, the Working Group was informed that FAO was developing an illustrated 'Atlas of African agro-biodiversity' to raise awareness and understanding of the important role of promising and endangered underutilized fruits and vegetables of tropical Africa in collaboration with national, regional and international partners and institutions. The first volume on promising and endangered, underutilized fruits and vegetables of Africa is currently being finalized. In

<sup>17</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 39.

<sup>18</sup> "Pre-breeding for Effective Use of Plant Genetic Resources": <http://km.fao.org/gipb/e-learning/gipb-pre-breeding-course/en/>

<sup>19</sup> FAO-EPSO consultation -Plant Sciences for Sustainable Crop Production: Strengthening Partnerships between Europe and Developing Countries, 25- 27June, 2012, Rome, Italy

<sup>20</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 39.

<sup>21</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 46.

<sup>22</sup> Spooner D., R. van Treuren and M.C. de Vicente. 2005. Molecular markers for genebank management. IPGRI Technical Bulletin No. 10. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

<sup>23</sup> UPOV. 2010. Guidelines for DNA-Profiling: Molecular Marker Selection and Database Construction ("BMT Guidelines"). International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants. Geneva, Switzerland.

<sup>24</sup> IAEA. 2002. Mutant Germplasm Characterization Using Molecular Markers: A Manual. International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna, Austria.

<sup>25</sup> de Vicente, M.C. and Fulton T. 2003. Using molecular marker technology in studies on plant genetic diversity. Illus. Nelly Giraldo. IPGRI, Rome, Italy and Institute for Genetic Diversity, Ithaca, New York, USA.

<sup>26</sup> S. Ceccarelli, E.P. Guimarães, E. Weltzien, *Plant breeding and farmer participation*, FAO, Italy, 2009.

collaboration with GlobalHort, the informal consortium, Diversity for Development Alliance, was initiated in 2012, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> international workshop for the promotion of agro-biodiversity, organized at FAO, Rome.<sup>27</sup> The initiative is supported by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and the International Treaty and includes a wide range of stakeholders<sup>28</sup>. Also, preparations are underway for the International Year of Quinoa-2013. Further guidance, advocacy and concerted actions are required to promote the benefits and market opportunities for rural communities and smallholder farmers from diversification of farmers' varieties and underutilized crops.

### Strengthening seed systems

19. The Commission, at its last Session, acknowledged the efforts made in collaboration with Member Countries, relevant international organizations and other partners in strengthening seed systems at national, regional and global levels, and facilitating farmers' access to quality seeds of a diverse range of adapted crop varieties.<sup>29</sup> It requested FAO to continue to provide technical and policy assistance to strengthen seed sector development and partnerships at the national and regional levels for the implementation of the Second GPA, as well as for enhancing resilience to climate change, especially for smallholder farmers.<sup>30</sup>

20. In support of the implementation of the Second GPA, FAO continued to work with Member Countries and partners in a variety of areas related to policy and capacity strengthening to support seed systems and seed enterprises and to facilitate farmers' access to highly performing varieties in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Through a combination of Technical Cooperation Projects and Trust Funds, projects were implemented for the preparation and/or review of seed policies and regulations with a view to strengthening institutions and establishing local seed enterprises.<sup>31</sup> A *Draft Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation* prepared through stakeholder consultations organised in collaboration with relevant CGIAR centers, FAO technical units and national and regional seed associations<sup>32</sup>, is presented in CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/Inf.3. Partnerships are being strengthened with the International Seed Federation (ISF), the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), OECD Seed Schemes and UPOV, to assist countries<sup>33</sup> in developing regulatory frameworks and capacities for the emergence of seed industries and the delivery of quality seed to small farmers.

21. A number of regional projects to strengthen local seed systems are ongoing in West Africa, Central America and South America.<sup>34</sup> Case studies on African Seed Enterprises<sup>35</sup> have been published and a review of community seed production is underway. To cope with disaster situations in a long-term perspective, FAO is also supporting the use of better seed system assessment

<sup>27</sup> *Development Opportunity of Crop Networks for Promotion of Agro-biodiversity*, 10-11 January 2012, FAO, Italy. <http://www.globalhort.org/activities/advocacy/>

<sup>28</sup> The Initiative includes at the moment: GlobalHort, INBAR, Crops for the Future (CFF), Plant Resources of Tropical Africa (PROTA), the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research (PAR), AVRDC - The World Vegetable Center, PROLIINOVA, GFAR, AARINENA, APAARI, FARA, ITPGRFA, and the Crop Diversification for Improved Livelihoods Team within FAO-AGPM

<sup>29</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 38.

<sup>30</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 40.

<sup>31</sup> In 2011-2012 national seed policy review/ enterprises establishment was supported in Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Lebanon Mauritania, Sierra Leone and Togo.

<sup>32</sup> Seed policy workshop for Central Asian region 12-13 October 2011, Turkey; Seed policy workshop for West Africa, Benin 5 - 6 May 2011; Seed policy experts workshop, Italy, 28-30 March, 2010

<sup>33</sup> Pilot countries are Tanzania, Ghana and Senegal.

<sup>34</sup> a) GCP/RLA/182/SPA Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá y Belize Reforzamiento de las políticas de producción de semilla de granos básicos en apoyo a la agricultura campesina para la seguridad alimentaria en países miembros del Consejo Agropecuario Centroamericano";

b) GCP/RLC/183/SPA Programa de apoyo a la agricultura familiar campesina en Perú, Bolivia y Ecuador para mejorar la disponibilidad, el acceso y el uso de semillas de calidad en las zonas Alto Andinas;

c) GCP/RAF/453/SPA Improving Rice Production in West Africa in Response to Rising of Food Prices.

<sup>35</sup> P. Van Mele, J.W. Bently (Editor), Robert G. Guéi *African Seed Enterprises: Sowing the Seeds of Food Security*, FAO, 2011, Italy.

methodologies that improve emergency seed relief interventions. In 2011-2012, Seed System Security Assessments have been undertaken in Darfur, South Sudan and Sudan.<sup>36</sup>

22. Work is also ongoing to strengthen seed systems to respond to climate change in line with the principles of sustainable crop production intensification. As a first step, baseline data need to be gathered to assess countries' needs and evaluate the impact of changing climates on national and local seed systems. Recently, a study was undertaken to examine the potential resilience of existing seed systems in coping with and adapting to climate change.<sup>37</sup>

#### **D. BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN CAPACITIES**

##### **National Strategy for PGRFA**

23. The Commission, at its last session, reaffirmed the need for improving linkages between conservation, plant breeding and seed systems for the sustainable management of PGRFA.<sup>38</sup> Work is in progress at national and regional levels in Africa<sup>39</sup>, to support countries in developing national strategies as a means for mainstreaming the continuum approach to the management of PGRFA whereby conservation, plant breeding and seed systems are interlinked to sustain crop production systems<sup>40</sup>. A national PGRFA strategy provides a model for the collaborative implementation of priority activities over specific timeframes, for identifying and assigning responsibilities to key stakeholders and for establishing a governance mechanism for harnessing PGRFA to attain defined national goals for crop production while also conserving genetic resources. Furthermore, it can provide the basis for developing and implementing relevant legislations and policies. Guidelines to assist countries in preparing a national PGRFA strategy are under development. Resources and national stakeholder support are necessary for establishing and implementing such strategies within national systems.

##### **National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISMs)**

24. The Commission, at its last session, stressed the importance of the NISMs and welcomed their further improvement. It also emphasized the need to link the information systems with the development of the Global Information System of the International Treaty.<sup>41</sup>

25. Since the last session of the Commission<sup>42</sup>, further progress has been achieved in the establishment of NISMs, supported through the FAO Regular Programme in Africa and South America, and, through extra-budgetary resources provided by Japan,<sup>43</sup> in Asia<sup>44</sup>. More than 1,150 public institutions, non-governmental and private organizations, including farmers' associations, contributed information to the 73 established NISMs. These are either hosted or mirrored by the World Information Sharing Mechanism (WISM), which during the past 24 months has been visited by more

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<sup>36</sup> Seed Security Assessment Report for Dafur Region, Sudan. FAO, 2011, Italy. Seed Security Assessment Southern Sudan. FAO, 2010, Italy.

<sup>37</sup> *Adaptation to climate change in the context of seed system development*. Available online at [www.fao.org/agriculture/seed](http://www.fao.org/agriculture/seed)

<sup>38</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 40.

<sup>39</sup> a) TCP/RWA/3401 *Preparation of a National PGRFA Strategy in Rwanda*, and b) TCP/SFS/3402 *Support for the development of national strategies for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in six countries within SADC* (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia).

<sup>40</sup> Chikelu Mba, Elcio P. Guimaraes, Gouantoueu R. Guei, Clair Hershey, Michela Paganini, Barbara Pick and Kakoli Ghosh. 2011. Mainstreaming the continuum approach to the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through national strategy. *Plant Genetic Resources: Characterization and Utilization* 10(1): 24–37.

<sup>41</sup> CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 36.

<sup>42</sup> CGRFA-13/11/10, paragraph 6-8.

<sup>43</sup> GCP/RAS/240/JPN: Capacity Building and Regional Collaboration for Enhancing the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources in Asia.

<sup>44</sup> Completed in Bhutan, Cambodia, Guyana, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar and Suriname; on-going in Ethiopia, Honduras and Rwanda.

than 340,000 users for about a million of downloaded pages.<sup>45</sup> Following the addition of two new languages, the interface of both the Web and stand-alone GPA monitoring systems now function in 26 different languages.<sup>46</sup>

26. An International Symposium and a regional consultation were held in Tsukuba, Japan, in October 2011, to assess the status of information of PGRFA, impacts and future directions in Asia.<sup>47, 48</sup> In light of the adoption of the Second GPA and the on-going revision of the indicators and reporting format for monitoring its implementation, a workshop was organised with the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources in New Delhi in December 2011 to gather suggestions for upgrading the NISM system and making it more useful and easier to use for the NISM curators and contributing stakeholders.<sup>49</sup> Inputs from the consultation will be used to develop a new system release for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA based on the indicators and reporting format which the Working Group will consider at this meeting.<sup>50</sup> Given the current budgetary situation, the new system will have to be released initially in English, and only after the indicators and reporting format are agreed by the Commission. Additional extra-budgetary resources are needed to ensure the current multi-lingual coverage, improved graphical features for data analysis, as well as data migration to the new indicators and reporting format.

### **Facilitating Mechanism**

27. The Commission, at its Thirteenth Regular Session, welcomed the progress made in the further development of the Facilitating Mechanism and recognized its important role in the implementation of the Second GPA. It stressed the need to continue to advance the Facilitating Mechanism in collaboration with the International Treaty, and called for extra-budgetary resources to further advance its operation after considering its further development.

28. Since the Commission's last session, efforts were made to update and reorient the portal in view of the adoption of the Second GPA and to maintain the Facilitating Mechanism database on funding opportunities. In order to streamline information access and delivery on the Second GPA, the portal is being integrated into the WISM. These activities have been supported exclusively through the FAO Regular Programme during the reporting period.

## **IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT**

29. The Working Group may wish to recommend that the Commission urge FAO to continue to support countries in strengthening capacities for the implementation of the Second GPA as an essential contribution to sustainable crop production intensification, in particular in collaboration with the International Treaty, CGIAR centers, networks and other relevant international, regional and national partners. It may wish to call for extra-budgetary resources to ensure the dissemination and full implementation of the Second GPA.

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<sup>45</sup> FAO statistics report for [www.pgrfa.org](http://www.pgrfa.org) (May 2010 – April 2012).

<sup>46</sup> Arabic; Armenian; Azeri; Chinese; Czech; Dutch; English; French; Georgian; German; Indonesian, Italian; Khmer; Lao; Malay; Mongolian; Myanmar; Norwegian; Portuguese; Russian; Serbian; Slovak; Spanish; Thai; Turkish; Vietnamese. [www.pgrfa.org](http://www.pgrfa.org)

<sup>47</sup> Moving forward: Status of Information on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Asia. Records of the Final National Focal Point Meeting under GCP/RAS/240/JPN. 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan. FAO RAP 2012. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/an018e/an018e00.pdf>

<sup>48</sup> Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific: Impacts and future directions. Proceedings of a symposium held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011 in Tsukuba, Japan. FAO RAP- NIAS (2012) <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/i2554e/i2554e00.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> Document CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/Inf.2, Report of Workshop on the Updating and Improvement of NISM-GPA. National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, India, 6-7th December 2011.

<sup>50</sup> Documents CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/2 and CGRFA/WG-PGR-6/12/Inf.1.



30. The Working Group may also wish to recommend that the Commission:

#### ***IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND ON-FARM MANAGEMENT**

- a) Request FAO to present to the Commission at its next session, a roadmap for establishing a global network for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, in collaboration with the International treaty, CGIAR centers and other relevant networks and institutions;
- b) Invite Member Countries to participate in the development of the roadmap for establishing a global network, including through provision of extra-budgetary resources for the involvement of developing countries;
- c) Stress the importance of establishing genetic reserves for *in situ* conservation of priority CWR and request FAO to provide technical support and remind donors of the extra-budgetary resources that are necessary for the establishment of such reserves;

#### ***EX SITU* CONSERVATION**

- d) Confirm the need for comprehensive capacity development and call upon donors to provide adequate resources for the implementation of the updated genebank standards, particularly in developing countries;

#### **SUSTAINABLE USE**

- e) Reaffirm the importance of further capacity development in the areas of plant breeding and seed systems, urge FAO to continue to work in collaboration with partners in capacity strengthening and related activities and call upon donors to continue supporting this work through extra-budgetary resources;
- f) Endorse the *Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation*, as reviewed by the Working Group, and request FAO to ensure its wide availability in all official languages;
- g) Urge FAO to continue supporting Member Countries in mainstreaming crop diversification and increase the use of underutilized crops;
- h) Request FAO to continue strengthening seed systems and integrating climate change and related aspects;

#### **BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN CAPACITIES**

- i) Request FAO to continue supporting Member Countries in strengthening their capacity in decision-making processes which are relevant to the implementation of the Second GPA, including support through national strategies;
- j) Request FAO to prepare draft guidelines for preparation of national PGRFA strategies, for review by the Working Group at its next session;
- k) Invite Member Countries to establish or continue updating NISMs, in line with the new indicators and reporting format for monitoring the Second GPA;
- l) Reiterate the need to strengthen collaboration with the International Treaty to ensure that the NISMs and the Facilitating Mechanism provide a cost effective support for building the Global Information System; and
- m) Call for extra-budgetary resources to ensure continuity in the implementation of the Second GPA including the development of an improved version of the NISM software and the application of the indicators and reporting format of the Second GPA in a maximum number of countries.