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Our Ref.: AGP/GPA-13 Your Ref.:

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to invite its Members, and the National Focal Points for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) to contribute to the review of the draft *Genebank Standards for the Conservation of Non-Orthodox Seeds*.

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, at its Thirteenth Regular Session,

requested FAO to prepare draft genebank standards for germplasm not covered by the draft *Genebank Standards* *for the Conservation of Orthodox Seeds*, in cooperation with the International Treaty, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international institutions. It also requested the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources to review and finalize these genebank standards at its next session for consideration by the Commission for endorsement at its Fourteenth Regular Session.

Thedraft *Genebank Standards for the Conservation of Non-Orthodox Seeds* (currently available in English only) have been prepared in collaboration with Bioversity International, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Commission, through technical consultations organized jointly with Bioversity International.

In order to ensure a thorough review of the draft *Genebank Standards for the Conservation of Non-Orthodox Seeds*, and as previously done for those related to orthodox seeds, FAO Members, as well as the National Focal Points for Plant Genetic Resources are invited to provide inputs to the current draft by **14 May 2012** by email to: [ITWG-PGRFA@fao.org](mailto:ITWG-PGRFA@fao.org) or by fax: (+39) 06570-56499. FAO Members and National Focal Points are also invited to widely circulate this request to other relevant stakeholders for additional inputs and suggestions. The document may be downloaded from: <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/en/>. The draft *Genebank Standards for the Conservation of Non-Orthodox Seeds* will be presented to the Working Group at its Sixth Session to be held in Rome from 12 to14 November 2012.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to its Members, and the National Focal Points for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture the assurance of its high consideration.

Rome, 30 March 2012