E

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Item 18 of the Provisional Agenda

ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Lima, Peru, 24–29 November 2025

Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2026–2027 Biennium – Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes

Executive Summary

This document is presented to the Governing Body as an addendum to the draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2026–2027 biennium. It provides a summary of possible supporting projects to be carried out during the next biennium, with additional financial contributions outside the Core Administrative Budget.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to recommend the proposed activities and, should it so wish, suggest priority areas for the consideration of donors who intend to provide funds during the 2026–2027 biennium to support the attainment of expected outcomes.

FAO-ITPGRFA documents can be consulted at: https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/events/events-detail/Eleventh-Session-of-the-Governing-Body/en

NS814/E

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This document is presented to the Governing Body as an addendum to the draft Work Programme and Budget (WPB) for the 2026–2027 Biennium (IT/GB-11/25/18). It provides a summary of possible supporting projects to be carried out in the next biennium, with additional financial contributions outside the Core Administrative Budget.

2. Much of the content and information provided remains the same as in the previous WPB Addendum document (IT/GB-10/23/18 Add.1).[1] As in past biennia, supporting projects play a critical role in the realization of decisions made by the Governing Body and the effective execution of the Work Programme, contributing to the continued successful implementation and advancement of the International Treaty.

3. Additional voluntary contributions will be received by the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes and managed based on the individual agreements made between respective donors and the Secretary, including for the development and implementation of specific projects.

4. The Governing Body is invited to recommend the proposed activities, as set out below, and should it so wish, suggest priority areas for the consideration of donors who intend to provide funds during the 2026–2027 biennium to support the attainment of expected outcomes. Relevant elements for a possible decision are included in the draft Resolution contained in the Annex of document IT/GB-11/25/18 for the consideration of the Governing Body.

II. SUPPORTING PROJECTS

A. Conservation, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Farmers' Rights under Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the International Treaty

5. Supporting Contracting Parties in their efforts to promote the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), as well as in the realization of Farmers' Rights, as provided for in the International Treaty, requires the development and dissemination of a broad spectrum of policy, administrative, legal and technical measures. It also requires the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers and farmers' organizations, civil society and both public and private institutions.

6. Following the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA (ACSU), possible activities to enhance the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty would focus on:

a. Strengthening and capitalizing on ongoing initiatives to increase effectiveness, impact and visibility, including through the following:

   i. the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA, as a valuable source of information supporting Contracting Parties and stakeholders in implementing Articles 5 and 6;

   ii. country-/region-specific studies to address bottlenecks in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6;

   iii. development of a series of training materials on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including cryopreservation;

   iv. policies and regulatory frameworks supporting the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including Crop Wild Relatives, and recognition schemes for local and indigenous communities and farmers;

   v. awareness-raising of the value of crop genetic diversity;

   vi. regional briefings among Contracting Parties and interested stakeholders on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6; and

[1] Draft Work Programme and Budget for the 2024–2025 Biennium – Donor-supported activities under the Special Fund for Agreed Purposes

vii. enhanced coordination and partnerships among public institutions, researchers, private entities and other stakeholders.

b. Possible future strategies to address bottlenecks in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, through the following:

viii. development by the ACSU of voluntary guidelines on the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty;

ix. elaboration of an inclusive process to develop voluntary guidelines, such as a global symposium, with expert inputs to address different types of bottlenecks; and

x. development of a mechanism to identify levels and forms of implementation of Articles 5 and 6 and support for countries in need, according to specific contexts and local conditions.

7. To sustain the progress made in the implementation of Article 9, the Secretariat will continue to update, promote and disseminate: the Inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty; the Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty; and the Educational Module and other available information resources on Farmers' Rights.

8. The Secretariat will also continue to support and facilitate initiatives of Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to promote and realize Farmers' Rights, such as training, workshops, consultations and other capacity-building activities, including the possible organization of a Third Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights.

9. Document IT/GB-11/25/13, *Report on the implementation of Farmers' Rights*, provides an overview of the priority activities and proposals for future work on Farmers' Rights.

Estimated cost: USD 600 000

B. Multilateral System Support and Extension Programme: expanding operations and safeguarding germplasm collections

10. The International Treaty community benefits from a rational and science-based system of *ex situ* conservation of germplasm collections, in order to make them available for research, breeding and training on a global scale. A global network of national and international collections is essential for the future of global food security and sustainable agriculture. It therefore remains critical to strengthen the operations of those collections operating within the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System), and to safeguard collections and conserve unique and globally valuable genetic diversity.

11. The operations of the Multilateral System will benefit from enhanced knowledge and sharing of experiences between users and providers. Active participation of all actors in workshops and in mechanisms to exchange experiences will contribute to the increased availability and accessibility of material, including samples recently included in the Multilateral System.

12. Germplasm collections of important food crops around the world continue to suffer significant damage, or are under imminent threat of damage due to a range of emergencies or rapidly changing circumstances. These include pandemics, natural disasters, pest and pathogen outbreaks, institutional changes, land-use and ownership issues, and conflict. Damage to unique germplasm collections not only represents a loss for the holding institution concerned, but also for global agricultural research and breeding communities, as well as for farmers and society as a whole. The International Treaty will continue to cooperate with partners, such as the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust) through the Emergency Reserve, as well as with the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, in order to safeguard and rehabilitate plant germplasm collections and assist farmers in rehabilitating affected crop systems based on locally adapted germplasm.

13. The network of Article 15 collections has been expanded through new agreements with interested international institutions and host governments. The Governing Body has regularly mandated the Secretary to explore prospects for new agreements, as was the case with the signature of Article 15 agreements to ensure the conservation of olive genetic resources. In cases where new agreements are in place, the

Secretary, in close collaboration with technical partners, should also provide initial support to facilitate the availability of germplasm and related data in the Multilateral System, for example through Easy-SMTA, Digital Object Identifiers and Genesys. The allocation of financial resources for expansion of the network of Article 15 agreements would enable these activities to be upgraded into a coherent programme, jointly designed and implemented together with CGIAR Centers and the Crop Trust, and coordinated with an updated, rational system of international germplasm conservation and availability. Short-term support to Article 15 collections is provided through the joint facility developed with the Crop Trust.

14. Field collections play an essential role, both in terms of the conservation of unique material and as a complement to *in situ* conservation in the context of local agricultural systems. *In situ* and field collections are particularly vulnerable, as they are exposed to environmental and development threats. There is consequently an urgent need to secure resources that can be mobilized rapidly to respond to immediate threats to unique, international germplasm field collections that fall under the framework of the International Treaty, with a status that is in all respects equivalent to the *ex situ* collections under the management of CGIAR Centers.

15. Proposed activities will include:

- organizing regional implementation workshops to support Contracting Parties and other users of the Multilateral System, including for the identification and notification of material available in the Multilateral System and use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement;
- supporting Contracting Parties in the documentation and exchange of national experiences in implementing the Multilateral System and publishing these on the website of the International Treaty;
- undertaking further research on possible measures to encourage natural and legal persons to include material in the Multilateral System, including the convening of small focus groups;
- facilitating the rapid mobilization and deployment of technical and financial assistance in emergency situations for Article 15 collections, as well as short-term support, alongside existing mechanisms, (for example the Benefit-sharing Fund) and mandates, (for example the Crop Trust and CGIAR);
- devising and implementing short-term measures to safeguard and ensure continuous availability of threatened unique germplasm;
- planning and implementing a programme of expansion of Article 15 collections; and
- for new signatory institutions, delivering backstop support on the operation of the Multilateral System and the Global Information System (GLIS).

Estimated cost: USD 600 000

C. Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

16. The Ninth Session of the Governing Body adopted a revised Programme of Work on the Global Information System (PoW-GLIS) for 2023–2028, with five objectives: i) the GLIS Portal; ii) interoperability; iii) access and use of information; iv) information and knowledge sharing; and v) capacity development and technology transfer.[2]

17. Document IT/GB-11/25/11, *Report on the Implementation of the Global Information System*, provides information on the priorities identified by the Sixth meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the GLIS, including further improvement of the GLIS Portal, and support to developing countries on capacity building related to documentation, catalogues, inventories and information exchange.[3]

18. Possible activities to be supported would include:

- at least one meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee;

[2] www.fao.org/3/nk240en/nk240en.pdf
[3] Report on the Implementation of the Global Information System

- further development of the GLIS Portal;
- provision of direct technical assistance for publishing and sharing information about national collections available in the Multilateral System, particularly for developing countries;
- provision of training and capacity-building workshops for the development of national inventories of Crop Wild Relatives in selected developing countries, by linking *ex situ* and *in situ* information; and
- development and publication of crop descriptor lists, in partnership with relevant organizations.

Estimated cost: USD 450 000

D. Implementation of the Funding Strategy

19. At its Eighth Session, the Governing Body adopted a new Funding Strategy of the International Treaty for the period 2020 to 2025. At its Tenth Session, the Governing Body decided to revise the timeline of the Funding Strategy to 2020–2027.

20. Since the adoption of the Funding Strategy, the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (the Funding Committee) has developed and regularly updated an Operational Plan for its implementation, which encompasses the requests made by the Governing Body in relation to the Funding Strategy. The Funding Strategy and Operational Plan set a heavy agenda for the Funding Committee to take forward. Many of the planned activities require additional funds, and as the Funding Strategy enters its final biennium, it is imperative that progress is made.

21. Additionally, the Committee has acknowledged that if the package of measures to enhance the MLS is adopted, this will have implications for implementation of the Funding Strategy and the work of the Committee.

22. The proposed activities to be supported, derived from the Funding Strategy and its Operational Plan, are as follows:

- a post GB-11 analysis, if the process for the enhancement of the Multilateral System is finalized, to understand the effects on the work of the Committee. Such an exercise may require background documentation, such as a technical analysis of the resources needed to support implementation of the package of measures, in particular by developing countries;
- a light review of the Funding Strategy during the next biennium to support implementation of the Funding Strategy;
- implementation of the approved Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy;
- scaling out of analysis on financial flows to PGRFA and possible financial solutions that could be replicated elsewhere through a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and resulting compilation of tools and best practices for better integration of PGRFA into national development plans;
- development of communication tools, products and platforms to help resource mobilization efforts and increase outreach with users of the Multilateral System, new donors and stakeholders, including the food processing industry, and the visibility and recognition of donors;
- development and streamlining of monitoring and review processes and tools for the Funding Strategy, including those related to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) monitoring framework;
- rollout of a methodology for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of Non-Monetary Benefit-sharing.

Estimated cost: USD 350 000

E. Benefit-sharing Support Programme

23. The Funding Strategy includes, in its Annex 2, the Benefit-sharing Fund: Operations Manual (BSF Manual). This manual further defines the programmatic approach of the BSF, with targeted priorities, an improved monitoring, evaluation and learning framework, and a stronger focus on knowledge management, communication and visibility.

24. The Fifth Cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF-5) is now in its first years of implementation. BSF-5 is the first cycle to implement a programmatic approach with an overall Results Framework for a long-term and strategic arrangement of individual yet interlinked projects that aim to achieve large-scale impacts on the global conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. BSF-5 is also the first project cycle to apply the new Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework, outlining the basis for knowledge management and learning within and among projects.

25. To further support implementation of the programmatic approach and the MEL Framework, the proposed activities requiring additional financial support are as follows:

- technical advisory expertise in the areas of M&E (monitoring and evaluation) and project data management systems;
- scientific advisory expertise in areas of relevance to the BSF project implementation to deepen knowledge and learning and the impact of project implementation;
- analysis and knowledge and learning products that demonstrate functional, scalable and sustainable models of access and benefit-sharing of PGRFA management from local and national to global levels through the piloting of Phase 2 projects;
- deployment of a communication toolkit to support BSF partners in effectively communicating the results and achievements arising from BSF projects, within the framework of the broader communication strategy of the International Treaty; and
- further promotion of non-monetary benefit-sharing under the International Treaty (exchange of information; access to and transfer of technology; capacity building) and dissemination of the information and data arising from such schemes.

Estimated cost: USD 250 000

F. Capacity Development Programme for Mutual Supportiveness between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

26. The objectives of the International Treaty are attained through close linkages with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Governing Body has repeatedly stressed the need to enhance such connections. The CBD's Conference of the Parties (COP), in adopting the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol), formally recognized the International Treaty as one of the complementary instruments that constitute the International Regime of Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS). Since the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, the Secretariat and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT have been implementing capacity-building activities for mutual supportiveness with the International Treaty, in the context of the ongoing Joint Capacity Building Programme. Such activities have contributed to maintaining the relevance of the International Treaty in the context of wider ABS initiatives, and to promoting implementation of the Multilateral System within, or in parallel with, new or revised ABS frameworks.

27. Continuing and enhancing such activities will be critical, given the targets, goals and indicators of the GBF. The GBF sets specific targets for monetary and non-monetary benefits linked to access to genetic resources (Goal C, Target 13), but also includes several other targets of relevance to PGRFA. The GBF promotes coherence, complementarity and cooperation between the CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions and relevant multilateral agreements and international institutions, respecting their mandates, and creates opportunities for cooperation and partnerships among diverse actors to enhance implementation of the GBF (paragraph 6). While several processes under the Nagoya Protocol – for example, Article 10 regarding global benefit-sharing mechanisms and Article 4 regarding the relationship with other international

instruments – continue to have implications for implementation of the International Treaty in terms of global ABS policy, the GBF offers the opportunity to generate new impetus for mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty. The GBF highlights the need to strengthen, on a wider scale, policy dialogue and operational coordination between national authorities responsible for the International Treaty and environmental authorities in charge of implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, at international, regional and national levels. This coordination would contribute to the whole-of-government approach that is at the heart of GBF implementation (paragraph 7 (c)).

28. In relation to ABS, the GBF Monitoring Framework, as approved in Decision 15/5 and complemented by Decision 16/31 of the CBD COP, contains indicators (i.e. monetary benefits received in accordance with applicable internationally agreed ABS instruments, non-monetary benefits arising from applicable international ABS instruments, number of transfers of crop material under the Multilateral System), for which the contribution by Contracting Parties and other relevant International Treaty stakeholders is expected, and mutual supportiveness firmly and practically established in national policy and legal frameworks will be necessary.

29. National planning processes for biodiversity are being strengthened to support implementation of the GBF, in particular National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans (NBSAPs) and Biodiversity Finance Plans. PGRFA actors need specific tools and training in order to participate in the development and implementation of such national plans. The Secretariat is collaborating within FAO and others, including UNDP BIOFIN, to support countries in better integrating PGRFA in key biodiversity plans and their implementation.

30. Under the Capacity Building Programme for Mutual Supportiveness, coordination and synergies will be promoted through:

1. the preparation of joint decision-support tools for relevant ministries engaged in implementing the Nagoya Protocol and the Multilateral System and in meeting the relevant GBF goals and targets in accordance with established indicators, and the development of specialized awareness-raising and outreach materials;
2. joint capacity-building workshops for the national focal points and competent authorities of both agreements, on selected themes of reciprocal, immediate relevance that are linked to the relevant GBF goals, targets and indicators, in particular those related to benefit-sharing; and
3. technical and expert advice to governments, on request, for the harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Multilateral System and the Nagoya Protocol for the pursuit of the GBF goals and targets.

31. Through these activities, it will also be possible to connect International Treaty stakeholders to CBD capacity-building stakeholders. A coherent and coordinated approach to capacity development will be pursued in order to integrate wider ABS experiences and lessons learned into the programme.

Estimated cost: USD 600 000