



COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

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

Eleventh Session

Rome, 18 – 20 April 2023

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

1. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and *Rapporteur*

The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) shall elect its Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and *Rapporteur* from among the representatives of its Members at the beginning of the session. Relevant information is contained in document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/1**. The Statutes of the Working Group and its composition are given in the document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/1/Inf.1**. The list of documents for this session is contained in the document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/1/Inf.2**.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

The provisional agenda is contained in the document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/2**. A provisional timetable is provided in the *Appendix* to the present document, which provides annotations to the provisional agenda.

3. *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Eighteenth Regular Session, considered the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report). The Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), as reviewed by the Commission at its Seventeenth Regular Session, foresees the presentation of the Third Report for the Commission's forthcoming Nineteenth Regular

Session.¹ The document *Preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/3)* details progress on the preparation of the Third Report and provides a summary of its key findings. The draft Third Report is contained in the document, *Draft Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/3/Inf.1)*.

4. Status of implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its Eighteenth Regular Session, considered FAO's activities in support of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA)² and formulated several requests. The document, *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: implementation and review CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4*, provides a summary of the work completed or initiated since the last session of the Commission in support of the implementation of the Second GPA, for consideration by the Working Group. The Working Group is invited to take note of the review of FAO's work and to guide the Commission on future work supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

4.1 Application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

At its Eighteenth Regular Session, the Commission took note of three practical guides for the use of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture³ (Genebank Standards), which have been published in the meantime.⁴ The practical guides present relevant information contained in the Genebank Standards in a format that details the different actions of the genebank workflow in a sequential manner and provide guidance on the complex steps and decisions required when operating a genebank. The Commission requested FAO to develop additional practical guides on the conservation in genebanks of species producing recalcitrant seeds, and cryopreservation, in collaboration with relevant international and national partners, including the CGIAR and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.⁵ The document *Application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.1)* provides an update on the finalization of the three practical guides and proposes outlines for the two additional practical guides for the application of the Genebank Standards, for consideration by the Working Group.

4.2 Impact of seed policies, laws and regulations

The Commission, at its Eighteenth Regular Session, considered the effects of seed policies, laws and regulations on the diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). It requested FAO, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, to continue to support countries in the development or revision of their national seed policies, as appropriate and according to their specific situations, taking into account the Commission's *Voluntary Guide for National Seed Policy*

¹ CGRFA-17/19/Report, Appendix F.

² FAO. 2011. *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/i2624e/i2624e.pdf>

³ FAO. 2014. *Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/i3704e/i3704e.pdf>

⁴ FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation of orthodox seeds in seed genebanks*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0021en> 9;

FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation in field genebanks*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0023en>;

FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation via in vitro culture*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0025en>.

⁵ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 100.

*Formulation.*⁶ Furthermore, it requested FAO to undertake, in collaboration with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty), further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations, taking into account the variety of factors that may affect, and possibly improve, farmers' ability to access sufficient and affordable seeds and planting materials of diverse, locally adapted varieties, including farmers' varieties/landraces.⁷ The document *Further Research on the Impact of Seed Policies, Laws and Regulations (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.2)* summarizes the steps undertaken to carry out further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations. The draft concept note is contained in the document *Draft concept note on further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations affecting farmers' ability to access seeds (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.2/Inf.1)*.

5. The role of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change

The Working Group is invited to consider the role of PGRFA in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. More specifically, it is invited to consider, in response to the Commission's request,⁸ next steps with regard to the review of the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*,⁹ taking into account the need to address the vulnerabilities of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) to climate change and relevant international agreements.¹⁰ The Working Group is further invited to review and revise, as appropriate, draft questions on climate change and PGRFA, as shortened, simplified and pre-tested by the Commission Secretariat at the request of the Commission.¹¹

Next steps for the review and possible revision of the Voluntary Guidelines are discussed in the document *Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/5)*. The updated questionnaire is attached to the same document. An overview of FAO activities on climate change is given in the document *FAO's work on climate change (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/5/Inf.1)*.

6. Access and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources

The Working Group is invited to consider access and benefit-sharing (ABS) for PGRFA. It is invited to:

- review a typology of ABS country measures reflecting the importance of PGRFA and associated traditional knowledge, their special role for food security and their distinctive features, prepared at the request of the Commission;¹² and
- take note and provide comments on a questionnaire prepared in response to the Commission's request for a report on the practical application and effects of ABS country measures to the different subsectors of GRFA and associated traditional knowledge.¹³

The document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6)* provides an overview of relevant developments under other international agreements and instruments, and introduces the typology of ABS country measures, for

⁶ FAO. 2015. *Voluntary Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation*. Rome. <http://www.fao.org/3/i4916e/i4916e.pdf>.

⁷ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 105.

⁸ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 20.

⁹ FAO. 2015. *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/a-i4940e.pdf>

¹⁰ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 20.

¹¹ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 19.

¹² CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 26.

¹³ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 27.

review by the Working Group. The populated typology is provided in the document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture: Typology of country measures (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6/Inf.1)*. The Working Group may also wish to take note of and provide comments on the draft questionnaire developed for the preparation of the report on the effects of ABS measures. The draft questionnaire is contained in the document *Draft questionnaire on the implications of access and benefit-sharing measures for the use and exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture and for benefit-sharing (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6/Inf.2)*.

7. Digital sequence information and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

The Working Group is invited to consider the role of digital sequence information (DSI) for the sustainable use and conservation of PGRFA and for the sharing of benefits. The Working Group may wish to take into account relevant developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and in other fora and consider their potential implications for PGRFA.

The document *Digital sequence information and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/7)* provides information on how DSI is generated, stored, accessed and used for research and development related to GRFA, and summarizes relevant developments that have taken place in other fora, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, prior to 15 November 2022. The document draws on a study commissioned by the Commission Secretariat contained in the document *The role of digital sequence information for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/7/Inf.1)*.

As requested by the Commission, its Secretariat held a global workshop on DSI and GRFA, to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders of the role of DSI for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA and the sharing of benefits derived from them, address the state of the art of DSI on genetic resources, present possible implications that related technologies might have for research and development related to GRFA, and consider the challenges associated with accessing and making full use of DSI. The workshop was held virtually on 14 and 15 November 2022 in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, CAB International and the CGIAR Genebank Initiative. The webcast of the workshop is available online.¹⁴

8. Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Since 2007, the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) has guided the work of the Commission in the implementation of its mandate.¹⁵ The document *Strategic plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: review and update (CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/8)* reviews progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, including the MYPOW, since the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session. It also contains the draft updated Strategic Plan spanning the Commission's next five sessions.

The Working Group is invited to review the progress made in the implementation of the MYPOW and to review and revise, as appropriate, the draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031 and the MYPOW, as given in *Appendix I* to the document.

9. Reports from international organizations and instruments

10. Any other matters

¹⁴ https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/dsi_workshop_2022/en/

¹⁵ CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

11. Adoption of the report

**APPENDIX
PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

Date and Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working documents
Tuesday, 18 April 2023, morning			
10:30 – 13:00	1	Election of the Chair, the Vice-Chair(s) and the <i>Rapporteur</i>	CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/1
	2	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/2
	3	<i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/3
Tuesday, 18 April 2023, afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	4	Status of implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4
	4.1	Application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.1
	4.2	Impact of seed policies, laws and regulations	CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.2
Wednesday, 19 April 2023, morning			
10:00 – 13:00	5	The role of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change	CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/5
	6	Access and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6
	7	Digital sequence information and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/7
Wednesday, 19 April 2023, afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	8	Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/8
	9	Reports from international organizations and instruments	CGRFA/WG-PGR- 11/23/9
	10	Any other matters	
Thursday, 20 April 2023, afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	11	Adoption of the Report	