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联合国粮食及农业组织 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 4.4 of the Provisional Agenda

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

Twelfth Session

Rome, 10–12 December 2024

REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR AFRICA: REVIEW OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR AFRICA:
REVIEW OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION
FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

MEETING REPORT

NAIROBI, KENYA,

7–9 MAY 2024

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONSULTATION

1. The Regional Consultation for Africa: Review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 7 to 9 May 2024. The workshop was co-organized by the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty) and was hosted by the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF). The list of participants is given in *Appendix IV* to this report.

2. The workshop was divided into six sessions. Session 1 included welcoming remarks to open the regional consultation, as well as presentations to introduce the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA)[1] and the findings of the draft Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOW3)[2] and to provide the objectives of the regional consultation. Session 2 addressed the state of *in situ* conservation and management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), including key regional findings from the SOW3. Session 3 addressed the state of *ex situ* conservation of PGRFA. Session 4 addressed the state of sustainable use of PGRFA. Session 5 addressed the state of human and institutional capacities. Session 6 addressed the structure of the revised Second GPA. The full agenda of the regional consultation is provided in *Appendix I* to this report.

II. WELCOMING REMARKS AND OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

3. Welcoming remarks were provided by representatives from FAO Kenya, FAO Regional Office for Africa, CIFOR-ICRAF and the Secretariats of the Commission and Treaty.

4. Mr Hamisi Williams, Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) Kenya, welcomed participants, stating that Kenya was proud to host the regional consultation, and wished everyone a fruitful meeting.

5. Mr Abebe Haile-- Gabriel, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, provided context on the status of PGRFA globally. He stressed that the best way to preserve PGRFA diversity is by sustainable use, including development of evidence-based policies and frameworks provided by periodic assessment. He expressed his wish that the consultations would catalyse collaboration among governments, international organizations, and research institutions for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

6. Ms Alice Muchugi, Theme leader, Biodiversity and Tree Genetic Resources, CIFOR-ICRAF, welcomed delegates on behalf of Ms. Eliane Ubalijoro, Chief Executive Officer of the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry and Director General of ICRAF. She noted that the consultations are timely considering that Africa is endowed with plant genetic diversity, most of which is not fully utilized, and stressed the need to implement the global biodiversity framework to reverse the loss of biodiversity, including PGRFA.

7. Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission, welcomed participants and thanked the FAO Office in Kenya for supporting the organization of the workshop and the Treaty for its collaboration in its organization, and recognized the excellent work of CIFOR-ICRAF in hosting the workshop. He stressed that the outcomes of the regional workshops would be brought to the attention of the Twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources that will be held in December 2024 and the Twentieth Regular Session of the Commission in March 2025.

8. Mr Tobias Kiene, Technical Officer, Secretariat of the Treaty, reiterated the importance of collaborating with the Commission and thanked CIFOR-ICRAF for hosting the workshop. He expressed his hope that the support provided will enable Contracting Parties to actively participate in

[1] FAO. 2012. *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome. https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/i2624e
[2] CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/3/Inf.1.

the process of updating the Second GPA noting that it is particularly relevant for the Treaty's work on conservation and sustainable use under Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty.

III. SETTING THE SCENE: INTRODUCTION TO THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION

9. Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, Information Management Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO gave a presentation on the Second GPA and provided the context of the rolling GPA and the periodic assessments of its implementation. Mr Diulgheroff also presented the key findings and conclusion of the draft SOW3. He ended Session 1 by introducing the objectives of the regional consultation.

IV. *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PGRFA

10. Ms Arshiya Noorani, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO, summarized the status of *in situ* conservation and management of PGRFA including gaps and needs at the regional level. The gaps and needs identified are presented in *Appendix II* to this report.

11. Participants broke into subregional working groups to discuss the relevance and fitness for purpose of Priority Activities (PAs) 1–4 of the Second GPA in light of the gaps and needs and to provide suggestions for any revisions. The working groups reported back to the plenary. Summary recommendations are provided in Section 1 of *Appendix III* to this report.

V. *EX SITU* CONSERVATION OF PGRFA

12. Ms Bonnie Furman, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO, summarized the status of *ex situ* conservation of PGRFA including gaps and needs at the regional level. The gaps and needs identified are presented in Section 2 of *Appendix II* to this report.

13. Participants then broke into subregional working groups to discuss the relevance and fitness for purpose of PAs 3–7 of the Second GPA in light of the gaps and needs and to provide suggestions for any revisions. The working groups reported back to the plenary. Summary recommendations are provided in Section 2 of *Appendix III* to this report.

VI. THE STATE OF SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA

14. Mr Chikelu Mba, Deputy Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO, summarized the status of the sustainable use of PGRFA including gaps and needs at the regional level. The gaps and needs identified are presented in Section 3 *Appendix II* to this report.

15. Participants then broke into subregional working groups to discuss the relevance and fitness for purpose of PAs 8–12 of the Second GPA in light of the gaps and needs and to provide suggestions for any revisions. The working groups reported back to the plenary. Summary recommendations are provided in Section 3 of *Appendix III* to this report.

VII. THE STATE OF HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES FOR PGRFA

16. Mr Diulgheroff summarized the status of human and institutional capacities for PGRFA including gaps and needs at the regional level. The gaps and needs identified are presented in Section 4 of *Appendix II* to this report.

17. Participants then broke into subregional working groups to discuss the relevance and fitness for purpose of PAs 13–18 of the Second GPA in light of the gaps and needs and to provide suggestions for any revisions. The working groups reported back to the plenary. Summary recommendations are provided in Section 4 of *Appendix III* to this report.

VIII. STRUCTURE OF THE REVISED SECOND GPA

18. Ms Noorani presented three possible options for a revised Second GPA. These included: (1) a lightly revised version that included new content based on technical and policy updates of the past 10–12 years; (2) a reduced version including technical and policy updates and minor rearrangements of PAs; and (3) a synthetic version of option 2 with all PAs reduced to actions. Options 2 and 3 would be complemented by standalone guidelines for their implementation. Discussions were held in plenary. Overall, participants considered that all PAs were relevant and that the structure of the Second GPA did not require major changes, but any redundancies could be addressed. There was a need to reflect synergies with global priorities and address the gaps and needs identified in the SOW3.

IX. CLOSING

19. Mr Mba reiterated the importance of convening such a workshop. He congratulated CIFOR-ICRAF for having provided excellent support for the organization and operation of the consultation. He thanked all the speakers and participants for their enthusiasm and active engagement and expressed his gratitude to the Commission and Treaty Secretariats for having co-organized the event. He also thanked the interpreters and the technicians for their excellent work.

APPENDIX I

AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR AFRICA: REVIEW OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

7 May – Day 1	
08:15 – 09:00	Registration
SESSION 1	**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**
09:00 – 09:30	Mr Abebe Haile-Gabriel FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa Ms Alice Muchugi Theme Leader, Biodiversity and Tree Genetic Resources, Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) Mr Dan Leskien Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO Mr Tobias Kiene Technical Officer, Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO Mr Hamisi Williams Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) Kenya
09:30 – 09:45	**Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: an overview** Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, Information Management Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
09:45 – 10:15	**The draft *Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SOW-3): Key findings and conclusions** Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, Information Management Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
10:15 – 10:45	***Coffee Break***
10:45 – 11:00	**Introduction to objectives of the regional consultation** Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, Information Management Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
SESSION 2	***IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PGRFA**
11:00 – 11:15	**The state of *in situ* conservation and management - Key regional findings from SOW-3** Ms Arshiya Noorani, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
11:15 – 12:45	**Working groups – *In Situ* Conservation and Management: Review of Priority Activities in the light of regional gaps and needs**
12:45 – 14:15	**Lunch**
14:15 – 15:00	**Plenary: Working Group reports and discussion**
SESSION 3	***EX SITU* CONSERVATION OF PGRFA**
15:00 – 15:15	**The state of *ex situ* conservation: Key regional findings from SOW-3**

	Ms Bonnie Furman, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
15:15- 15:45	**Working groups – *Ex Situ* Conservation: Review of Priority Activities in the light of regional gaps and needs**
15:45 – 16:15	**Coffee Break**
16:15 – 17:15	**Working groups (ctd.) – *Ex Situ* Conservation: Review of Priority Activities in the light of regional gaps and needs**
17:15 – 18:00	**Plenary: Working Group reports and discussion**
18:00 – 20:00	**Reception**

8 May – Day 2	
9:00 – 9:45	**Draft recommendations on *In Situ* Conservation and Management**
9:45 – 10:30	**Draft recommandations on *Ex Situ* Conservation**
10:30 – 11:00	***Coffee Break***
SESSION 4	**SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA**
11:00 – 11:15	**The state of sustainable use - Key regional findings from SOW-3** Mr Chikelu Mba, Deputy Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
11:15- 12:45	**Working groups – Sustainable Use: Review of Priority Activities in the light of regional gaps and needs**
12:45 - 14:15	***Lunch***
14:15 – 15:00	**Plenary: Working Group reports and discussion**
SESSION 5	**INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN CAPACITIES**
15:00 - 15:15	**The state of human and institutional capacities -** **Key regional findings from SOW-3** Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, Information Management Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
15:15- 16:00	**Working groups – Human and Institutional Capacities: Review of Priority Activities in the light of regional gaps and needs**
16:00 – 16:30	***Coffee Break***
16:30 – 17:15	**Working groups (ctd.) – Review of Priority Activities according to regional gaps and needs: Institutional and Human Capacities**
17:15 – 18:00	**Plenary: Working Group reports and discussion**

9 May - Day 3	
9:00 – 9:45	**Draft recommendations on Sustainable Use**
9:45 – 10:30	**Draft recommendations on Human and Institutional Capacities**
10:30 – 11:00	***Coffee Break***
SESSION 6	**STRUCTURE OF THE REVISED SECOND GPA**
11:00 – 11:15	**Possible options for a revised Second GPA** Ms Arshiya Noorani, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
11:15 – 12:30	**Plenary discussion: Options for the revised GPA: Pros and Cons**
12:30 – 12:40	**Closing remarks** Mr Chikelu Mba, Deputy Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
12:40 - 14:00	***Lunch***
14:00 – 16:00	**Tour of ICRAF facilities**

APPENDIX II

MAIN REGIONAL GAPS AND NEEDS IDENTIFIED

The following sections summarize the regional gaps and needs identified from the draft *Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

SECTION 1: *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PGRFA

Main gaps in the region

- Insufficient financial resources.
- Insufficient expertise, especially in taxonomy.
- Lack of coordination among the forestry, environmental and agricultural sectors, especially regarding wild plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA).
- Insufficient policy support.
- Unknown threat status of farmers' varieties/landraces on-farm.
- Emergency provision of quality seeds and planting materials not fully adapted to local conditions/cultural environment.
- Loss of traditional varieties in restored crop systems.
- Lack of mechanisms for monitoring changes in crop diversity post disasters.
- Conservation activities are often fragmented.
- Taxonomic capacity lacking.

Main needs in the region

- Action to mitigate genetic erosion.
- Baselines, methodologies and tools for long-term monitoring.
- Identification and classification of farmers' varieties/landraces on-farm.
- On-farm management and crop improvement, including selection and breeding.
- Adequate policies for restoration of cropping systems.
- Policy support and collaboration across different sectors.

SECTION 2: *EX SITU* CONSERVATION OF PGRFA

Main gaps in the region

- Lack of genebank strategies for gap identification and targeted collection.
- Lack of financial capacity – collecting is often in collaboration with international organizations and projects, which is not sustainable.
- Many countries struggle to document passport and other genebank management data.
- Lack of adequate germination testing facilities or reliable electricity supply.
- Lack of infrastructure and field/greenhouse space.
- Lack of adequate documentation system to flag accessions requiring regeneration.
- Lack of sufficient seeds for safety duplication.

Main needs in the region

- Specialized expertise such as in taxonomy and phenology.
- Capacity for collecting minor and local crops.
- Increase and modernize storage capacity, facilities and equipment or re-establish genebank.
- Financial and human resources (especially for health testing and managing storage pests and diseases).
- Enhanced collaboration needed with botanical gardens.

SECTION 3: SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA

Main gaps in the region

- Insufficient human, financial and infrastructure resources.
- Comprehensive characterization of germplasm collections still lacking or incomplete in many genebanks.
- Lack of capacities in biotechnologies.
- Lack of appropriate equipment and laboratory facilities.
- Limited sharing of results from use of received germplasm.
- Many activities on the ground promoting diversification and broadening diversity are poorly coordinated.
- Lack of institutional linkages for exchange and transfer of technology and best practices.
- Accessing seeds and planting materials of new crops and varieties and information on the production and marketing of alternative crops is in most cases inadequate.
- Lack of enabling laws and policies.
- Lack of market demand and opportunities.
- Lack of support for structuring supply chains efficiently.
- Seed costs prohibitive for some farmers.
- Seed distribution channels limiting.
- Limited quantities of seeds in genebanks for distribution.
- Lack of systems for multiplication.

Main needs in the region

- Human capacities for monitoring and measuring of crop diversity and documentation of efforts at the local level.
- Access to extension services as well as training on the development of viable agroenterprises on new crops.
- Access to sufficient seed quantities remains difficult in the region.
- Strengthened seed policies and seed value chains.

SECTION 4: HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

Main gaps in the region

- Insufficient financial and human capacities.
- Limited coordination and collaboration among different government entities and with farmers and breeders.
- Lack of implementation of PGRFA strategies.
- Low adoption of information management systems for genebanks.
- Limited coordination among relevant stakeholders involved in PGRFA info-management.
- Shortages of skilled professional due to staff turnover and difficulties in recruiting young people to replace retiring staff.
- Lack of updated academic programmes on PGRFA issues; lack of financial resources to access training and capacity-building programmes in the region.
- Crop wild relatives (CWR) and wild food plants (WFP) still neglected, at risk and poorly documented.
- Weak interinstitutional coordination, collaboration and partnerships with respect to communication activities, including collaborations with media organizations.
- Messages often not targeted to audiences.
- Lack of funding and permanent budgets for communication.

Main needs in the region

- Understanding of the importance of PGRFA still insufficient among policymakers and the wider population.
- Increased financial and institutional capacities in all aspects of PGRFA conservation and use.
- Enhanced strategy, policy or national programme for building human capacity.
- Comprehensive and harmonized policy and legal frameworks for PGRFA conservation and use.
- Coordination, collaboration and partnerships with respect to communication activities.

APPENDIX III

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REVISION OF THE SECOND GPA

The following sections summarize and consolidate inputs and comments received from the subregional working groups.

SECTION 1: *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PGRFA

PA 1. Surveying and inventorying plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

- Crop wild relatives and wild food plants could be considered separately.
- Increase involvement of NGOs and CSOs, especially community seedbanks, in surveying and inventorying, and improve coordination to ensure their participation.
- Increase availability of data for all relevant stakeholders and develop necessary capacities.
- Address gaps in taxonomic knowledge through leveraging expertise across different institutions at the national and regional levels through increased collaboration.
- Increase efficiency in surveying through the use of the latest tools.
- Establish a working group for the monitoring of farmers' varieties/landraces across different institutes.
- Increase involvement of farmers in surveying to avoid a top-down approach of prioritizing farmers' varieties/landraces.
- Increase synergies with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for surveying and inventorying, especially with regard to wild plant genetic resources for food and agriculture(PGRFA).
- Develop a global funding mechanism to support *in situ* initiatives (similar that of the Crop Trust for *ex situ*).
- Support National Focal Points to create platforms to identify gaps in expertise and skills at the national and regional levels.
- Develop methodology to identify farmers' varieties/landraces (currently not addressed technically).
- Identify the existing gaps in survey data to undertake targeted surveys.

PA 2. Supporting on-farm management and improvement of PGRFA

- Increase farmer involvement and promote access to quality seed and to markets.
- Promote formal registration of farmers' varieties and incentives for their cultivation.
- Develop capacities of experts who work with farmers, with a focus on biology on crops.

PA 3. Assisting farmers in disaster situations to restore crop systems

- PA should be moved to sustainable use.
- Change title of this PA to "support the restoration of agroecosystems after disasters"
- Link closely with the relevant Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework target.
- Promote national strategies to include the response strategies at national and regional levels.
- Promote the duplication of materials outside countries to assist with repatriation of germplasm post-disasters.
- Link genebanks with national disaster committees.
- Develop mechanisms to assess crops and varieties pre- and post-disasters.

PA 4. Promoting *in situ* conservation and management of crop wild relatives and wild food plants

- Crop wild relatives and wild food plants could be considered separately.

SECTION 2: *EX SITU* CONSERVATION OF PGRFA

PA 5. Supporting targeted collecting of PGRFA

- Address training and capacity building for collecting vegetatively propagated materials.
- Emphasize collecting of minor crops, neglected and underutilized species and local crops and varieties.
- Address inadequate capacity in gap analysis as a need in terms of taxa and ecological areas – including use of georeferencing of specific PGRFA areas.
- Application of modern tools for predictive characterization (example FIGS[3] and CAPFITOGEN[4]).
- Emphasize need for ensuring sufficient equipment used during collecting.
- Ensure that the capacity/infrastructure exists for conserving collected materials.

PA 6. Sustaining and expanding *ex situ* conservation of germplasm

- Consider change of title to: Supporting, sustaining and expanding *ex situ* conservation of germplasm.
- Move characterization from sustainable use PA 6.
- Activities should include whole genebank workflow.
- Stress importance of *in vitro* conservation and cryopreservation and use of molecular tools.
- Include DNA storage.
- Establishment of regional hubs and/or collaboration with centres of excellence.
- Include capacity development on quality management systems.
- Emphasize adherence to Genebank Standards and Practical Guides.
- Address staffing needs.
- Emphasize training and capacity in characterization methods, including molecular, seed science and technology, documentation and information management.
- Improve cooperation on knowledge transfer among scientists as well as among farmers.
- Importance of incorporation of PGRFA matters into curriculum of schools and universities.
- Could be split into two PA's – one for orthodox seeds and one for vegetatively propagated species and species producing recalcitrant seeds (to include field, *in vitro* and cryopreservation).

PA 7. Regenerating and multiplying *ex situ* accessions

- Address need for knowledge on seed science and technology.
- Emphasize relevance to loss of PGRFA during disaster.
- Include need to use of crop specific field sites.
- Enhancement of irrigation facilities.
- Could be incorporated into PA 6 as part of genebank workflow.

SECTION 3: SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA

PA 8. Expanding the characterization, evaluation and further development of specific subsets of collections to facilitate use

- Consider moving characterization to PA 6.
- Could incorporate what is remaining in PA 8 into PA 9.
- Enhance capacities in biotechnology and molecular techniques.
- Improve technical cooperation between genebanks and universities/research centres.
- Maintain linkage between genebanks and breeders.
- Include digital sequence information and DNA data.

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[3] Focused Identification of Germplasm Strategy.
[4] Programme to Strengthen National Plant Genetic Resource Capacities in Latin America.

- Publish characterization and evaluation data.
- Enhance financial capacity.

PA 9. Supporting plant breeding, genetic enhancement and base broadening efforts

- Consider elevating pre-breeding into own PA (including use of modern tools).
- Strengthen human, institutional and financial resources for use of biotechnologies.
- Enhance capacities for carrying out breeding activities.
- Increase use of farmers' varieties/landraces in breeding programmes.
- Improve collaboration – use infrastructure that is available in country, etc. and development of projects for funding.
- Add role of DSI.
- Increase use of genebank materials for breeding programmes.
- Supporting crop improvement using latest tools.

PA 10. Promoting diversification of crop production and broadening crop diversity for sustainable agriculture

- Consider change of title to: Promoting diversification of crop production, crop diversity broadening and commercialization for sustainable agriculture.
- Could merge PA 10 and PA 11.
- Enhance capacities for monitoring diversity at local level – need to document and publish and increase awareness on indigenous crops.
- Establish/increase collaboration and networking.
- Strengthen policies that promote diversification.
- Encourage/incentivize private actors for access to seeds and planting material and marketing
- Establish seed cooperations at national level.
- Need to put in place statistics on local varieties, registries and catalogues.
- Need PGRFA guardians for exchange of material.

PA 11. Promoting development and commercialization of all varieties, primarily farmers' varieties/landraces and underutilized species

- Consider adding "neglected and underutilized species" to title.
- Create enabling policies to protect farmers' varieties/landraces on-farm and neglected and underutilized species.
- Develop value chains on farmers' varieties/landraces and neglected and underutilized species.
- Incorporate farmers' varieties/landraces and neglected and underutilized species.
- into national research and breeding programmes.
- Support quality control – seed standards.

PA 12. Supporting seed production and distribution

- Could merge PA 3 on disaster response with this PA.
- Consider changing title to: Development of the seed sector and emergency seed relief post-disaster
- Increase access to funding for development of farmers' varieties/landraces.
- Reduce costs for development of farmers' varieties/landraces.
- Encourage free seed exchange through community seed banks.
- Link genebanks with research institutions for seed multiplication and distribution.
- Enhance structures for seed systems for farmers' varieties/landraces.
- Develop microenterprises and strengthen public/private partnerships.

SECTION 4: HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

PA 13. Building and strengthening national programmes

- Strengthen national programmes to develop national policies on PGRFA as these are largely missing in many countries in the region.
- Increase involvement of diverse stakeholders, including genebanks, in implementation of national programmes.
- Interventions should be context-specific, taking into account priorities of national programmes.
- Revise national programmes and strategies to develop national plans of action and include restoration post-disaster.
- Work collaboratively thorough the implementation of joint initiatives.

PA 14: Promoting and strengthening networks for PGRFA

- Ensure networks are resilient to organizational restructuring.
- Encourage national and regional funding to avoid overdependence on (foreign) donors (establish regional bodies for supporting regional centres).
- Ensure that networks have capacity to mobilize resources so that they are self-sustaining.
- National governments should include funding of genebanks and their networks in national budgets.
- Strengthen existing networks and ensure that regional networks build upon national ones.
- Develop centres of excellence around which networks can be built.

PA 15: Constructing and strengthening comprehensive information systems for PGRFA

- Amend title of PA to: Adopting and adapting PGRFA information systems.
- Promote access to information systems, which should be supported by infrastructural systems.
- Develop national mechanisms for PGRFA information sharing and develop supportive legal frameworks.
- Develop a regional database on characterization data (agromorphological and molecular).
- Strengthen coordination among relevant stakeholders for efficient sharing of information.
- Promote the interoperability of the existing information systems.

PA 16: Developing and strengthening systems for monitoring and safeguarding genetic diversity and minimizing genetic erosion of PGRFA

- Delete safeguarding in the title of PA.
- Develop comprehensive assessment tools for PGRFA conservation and use.
- Strengthen monitoring systems, as well as capacities in bioinformatics, to establish baseline data.
- Promote the documentation of the status of neglected and underutilized species (NUS) and wild species.
- Strengthen monitoring activities in line with national programmes and develop projects to support these activities.

PA 17: Building and strengthening human resource capacity

- Develop policies for capacity development in PGRFA conservation and use.
- Develop/support postgraduate programmes in the region for PGRFA conservation and use, especially at tertiary levels.
- Develop a crosscutting PGRFA conservation and use capacity-building strategy.
- Promote the harmonization of capacities at regional and national levels.
- Monitor and update/develop human competencies within countries when necessary.

PA18: Promoting and strengthening public awareness of the importance of PGRFA

- Develop specific activities targeted at different audiences/stakeholders.
- Develop a collaboration strategy with media.
- Promote PGRFA through diversity fairs to raise awareness.
- Develop a communication strategy, to be periodically reviewed.

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES

BENIN

Mme. Iliyath Akankè BELLO
Docteur en gènètique et en sèlection vègètale
Responsable Sous-Programme Recherche Rizicole, Centre de Recherches Agricoles Sud de l'Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin (INRAB)
Cotonou
Email: aibs42@yahoo.fr

M. Nestor René AHOYO-ADJOVI
Directeur de Recherche
Chercheur au Programme Analyse de la Politique Agricole (PAPA)
Centre de Recherches Agricoles d'Agonkanmey de l'INRAB
Institut National des Recherches Agricoles du Bénin (INRAB)
Cotonou
Email: ahoyonest@yahoo.com

BOTSWANA

Ms Tiny Mpho MOTLHAODI
Head of National Plant Genetic Resources Centre
Department of Agricultural Research
Gaborone
Email: tiny@nardi.org.bw

Mr Stephen CHITE
Agricultural Consultant
Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Researchand Development for Southern Africa
Ministry of Agriculture
Gaborone
Email: smajarachite@gmail.com

BURKINA FASO

M. Mahamadi OUEDRAOGO
Chef de Dèpartement des Ressources Phytogénétiques Agricoles
Institut National de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles, Commission Nationale de Gestion des Ressources Phytogénétiques (CONAGREP)
Ouagadougou
Email: ouedmadim@yahoo.fr

M. Soungalo SOULAMA
Secrétaire permanent
Commission nationale de gestion des ressources phytogenetiques (SP-CONAGREP)
Ouagadougou
Email: soulsoung@yahoo.fr

BURUNDI

M. Médard NDAYIKENGURUKIYE
Directeur
Promotion des Filières agricoles et produits forestiers non-ligneux
Gitega
Email: mdardn@yahoo.fr

CABO VERDE

Mme. Nora Helena RAMOS SILVA
Chercheur
Institut national de recherche et de développement agricole (INIDA)
Praia
Email: norahesilva@yahoo.com.br

CAMEROON

Mme Gertrude NGO BAHOYA MBOM
Ingénieur d'études
Sous-direction de la réglementation des semences et de la quarantaine végétale
Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural
Yaoundé
Email: gertrudembom@yahoo.fr

CHAD

M. Gapili NAOURA
Chargé de Recherche
Institut Tchadien de Recherche Agronomique pour le Developpement
N'Djamena
Email: gapilinaoura@gmail.com

CONGO

M. Arcadius Léandre ONDZALA MADZOU
Directeur
Centre National des Semences Améliorées
Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche
Brazzaville
Email: ondzala.madzou@gmail.com

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Mme. Aya Modeste Louise KOUAKOU AKANVOU
Spécialiste en amélioration génétique des plantes, Directeur de la Coopération et de l'Appui au Développement
Abidjan
Email: makanvou@gmail.com, modeste.akanvou@cnra.ci

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

M. Damas MAMBA MAMBA
Chef de Service de la Direction de protection des végétaux
Ministère de l'agriculture
Kinshasa
Email: damasmamba@yahoo.fr

M. Godefroid Kabala ILUNGA
Inspecteur Phytosanitaire
Service de la Direction de Protection des Végétaux, Ministère de l'Agriculture
Kinshasa
Email: kabalailunga@gmail.com

DJIBOUTI

M. Mouktar Mahamoud WABERI
Directeur de l'Agriculture et des Forets
Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'eau, la pêche, de l'élevage et des ressources halieutiques
Djibouti
Email: mouktar.m.w@hotmail.fr

ERITREA

Mr Amanuel MAHDERE ZEREZGHI
Director
Genetic Resources Division
National Agricultural Research Institute
Asmara
Email: amanuelmazer@gmail.com

ESWATINI

Mr Thembinkosi GUMEDZE
Senior Research Officer
Department of Agricultural Research and Specialist Services
Malkerns
Email: tg.tgumedze@gmail.com

ETHIOPIA

Mr Melesse Maryo SALAMO
Director General
Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute
Addis Ababa
Email: melessedevid@gmail.com

Mr Tamene YOHANNES
Senior Researcher
Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute
Addis Ababa
Email: tameneyohannes@gmail.com

GAMBIA

Mr Lamin B. SONKO
Director General
National Agricultural Research Institute
Banjul
Email: sonkob2000@yahoo.co.uk

GHANA

Mr Daniel Ashie KOTEY
Acting Director
Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
Accra
Email: dnakotey@gmail.com

Mr Adu DAPAAH
Chief Research Scientist
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
Accra
Email: hadapaah@yahoo.com

GUINEA

M. Mamadou Laho BARRY
Chercheur
Institut de Recherche Agronomique de Guinée (IRAG)
Conakry
Email: lahotontere77@gmail.com

KENYA

Mr Desterio NYAMONGO
Director
Genetic Resources Research Institute, Kenya
Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
(KALRO)
Nairobi
Email: dnyamongo@yahoo.co.uk

Mr Peterson WAMBUGU
Senior Research Scientist
Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization
Nairobi
Email: pwambuguw@gmail.com

LIBERIA

Ms Nataline BAYSAH
Agricultural Engineer, Seed Analyst
Central Agricultural Research Institute
Monrovia
Email: natalinebaysah@yahoo.com

MADAGASCAR

Mme. Herizo Lalaina RAKOTOARISOA
Chercheur sur les ressources phytogénétiques,
Centre National de Recherche Appliquée au Développement Rural (FOFIFA)
Antananarivo
Email: zoherilalaina@yahoo.fr

Mme. Mino Nandrianina RAKOTONANDRASANA
lngénieur agronome
Chargée d'Etudes auprès du service de l'environnement du climat et réponses aux Urgences
Antananarivo
Email: nandrianinamino3@gmail.com

MALAWI

Mr Lawrent PUNGULANI
Curator
Malawi Plant Genetic Resource Centre
Lilongwe
Email: lawrentp@yahoo.co.uk

Mr Nolipher MPONYA
In situ/on farm Conservation and Germplasm
Collection Scientist
Malawi Plant Genetic Resources Centre
Gaborone
Email: noliemponya@yahoo.com

MALI

M. Harouna COULIBALY
Directeur
Centre Régional de Recherche Agronomique de Sotuba
Institut d'Economie Rurale
Bamako
Email: hscoulibaly@yahoo.fr

MAURITANIA

M. Baba Ahmed NAGHRA
Directeur du développement des filières agricoles
Ministère de l'agriculture
Nouakchott
Email: naghra2001@yahoo.fr

MOZAMBIQUE

Mr Paulino MUNISSE
Senior Research Officer
Agriculture Research Institute of Mozambique
Maputo
Email: pmunisse@gmail.com

NAMIBIA

Mr Remmie HILUKWA
Senior Forester and Curator
National Plant Genetic Resources Centre
National Botanical Research Institute
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
Windhoek
Email: remmie.hilukwa@mawf.gov.na

Ms Fransiska KANGOMBE
Researcher
National Plant Genetic Resources Centre
National Botanical Research Institute
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
Windhoek
Email: fkangombe@unam.na

NIGER

Mr Abdou Razakou IBRAHIM BIO YERIMA
Plant breeder and manager
Seed Unit, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN)
Niamey
Email: a.byermina@yahoo.fr

M. Issa Zakari MAHAMAN MOURTALA
Assistant banque de gènes
Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique du Niger (INRAN)
Niamey
Email: issazakarym@yahoo.fr

NIGERIA

Mr Sunday E. ALADELE
Director, CEO and Genebank Curator
National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NCGRAB)
Federal Ministry of Science and Technology
Abuja
Email: saladele6083@gmail.com

Mr Anthony Ugochukwu OKERE
Director
National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology
Ibadan
Email: tonnero@gmail.com

RWANDA

M. Claver NGABOYISONGA
Senior Principal Research Fellow and National Focal Point of ITPGRFA
Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development
Board (RAB)
Rwamagana
Email: c.ngaboyisonga@rab.gov.rw

SENEGAL

M. Cheikh Alassane FALL
Chercheur et Coordonnateur
Bureau de gestion génétique et propriété intellectuelle, Institut sénégalais de recherches agricoles
Dakar
Email: cheikhalassane.fall@gmail.com

M. Oumar SANE
Directeur de l’Agriculture
Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'équipement rural
et de la souveraineté alimentaire
Dakar
Email: oumarsaneda@gmail.com

SEYCHELLES

Mr Nelson CHARLES
Chief Agricultural Scientist
Seychelles Agricultural Agency
Mahe
Email: nelcharless78@yahoo.com

SIERRA LEONE

Mr John Solomon KAMARA
Director of Crops
Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Freetown
Email: jskamara@yahoo.com

SOMALIA

Mr Abdi Mohamed HUSSEIN
Plant Protection and Research Department and Interim Director
Somali Agricultural Regulatory and Inspection Services (SARIS)
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
Federal Government of Somalia
Mogadishu
Email: plant.protection@moa.gov.so

SOUTH AFRICA

Ms Noluthando NETNOU-NKOANA
Director, Genetic Resources
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Directorate Genetic Resources
Pretoria
Email: noluthandon@nda.agric.za

SOUTH AFRICA

Mr Thabo Tlou TJIKANA
Curator
Directorate Genetic Resources
Ministry of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
Pretoria
Email: thabotj@dalrrd.gov.za

TOGO

M. Koffi KOMBATE
Chercheur
Istitut Togolais de Recherche Agronomique (ITRA), Ministere de L'Agriculture de l'Elevage et de la Pêche
Lomé
Email: kombate_koffi@yahoo.fr

UGANDA

Mr John Wasswa MULUMBA
Curator, Head
Plant Genetic Resource Centre
National Agricultural Research Organization
Kampala
Email: jwmulumba@yahoo.com

UGANDA

Ms Catherine KIWUKA
In situ Conservation Specialist
Plant Genetic Resource Centre
National Agricultural Research Organization
Kampala
Email: kiwukakathyrn@gmail.com

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Mr Lourance MAPUNDA
Senior Research Officer
National Plant Genetic Resources Center (NPGRC)
Arusha
Email: lourancemappy@gmail.com

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Mr William Chrispo HAMISY
Senior Research Officer
National Plant Genetic Resources Centre (NPGRC)
Arusha
Email: william.hamisy@tphpa.go.tz

ZAMBIA

Mr Graybill MUNKOMBWE
Senior Agricultural Research Officer
National Plant Genetic Resources Center
Lusaka
Email: munkombwegraybill@gmail.com

ZAMBIA

Mr Disckson N'GUNI
Deputy Director
Research Services
Zambia Agriculture Research Institute
Ministry of Agriculture
Lusaka
Email: dickson.nguni@gmail.com

ZIMBABWE

Mr Onismus CHIPFUNDE
Head of Genetic Resources and
Biotechnology Institute
Department of Research and Specialist
Services
Harare
Email: ochipfunde@gmail.com

ZIMBABWE

Mr Claid MUJAJU
Acting Director
Department of Research and Specialist
Services, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture,
Water and Rural Resettlement
Harare
Email: mujajuclaid@gmail.com

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY RESEARCH AND WORLD AGROFORESTRY

Mr Prasad HENDRE
Genebank Nanager & Genomics Scientist,
Genetic Resource Unit, Trees Theme
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: P.Hendre@cifor-icraf.org

Ms Alice MUCHUGI,
Theme Leader
Biodiversity and Tree Genetic Resources,
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: A.Muchugi@cifor-icraf.org

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr Stefano DIULGHEROFF
Information Management Officer,
Plant Production and Protection Division
Rome, Italy
Email: stefano.diulgheroff@fao.org

Ms Bonnie FURMAN
Agricultural Officer,
Plant Production and Protection Division
Rome, Italy
Email: bonnie.furman@fao.org

Mr Abebe HAILE-GABRIEL
Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Africa (RAF)
Accra, Ghana
Email: abebe.hailegabriel@fao.org

Mr Tobias KIENE
Technical Officer
Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Rome, Italy
Email: tobias.kiene@fao.org

Mr Dan LESKIEN
Senior Liaison Officer
Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Rome, Italy
Email: dan.leskien@fao.org

Mr Chikelu MBA
Deputy Director
Plant Production and Protection Division
Rome, Italy
Email: chikelu.mba@fao.org

Ms Arshiya NOORANI
Agricultural Officer
Plant Production and Protection Division
Rome, Italy
Email: arshiya.noorani@fao.org

Mr Francis OMESA
International technical support consultant
Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Rome, Italy
Email: francis.omesa@fao.org

Mr Hamisi WILIAMS
Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) Kenya
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: hamisi.williams@fao.org