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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2.1 of the Provisional Agenda

Sixteenth Regular Session

Rome, 30 January - 3 February 2017

**REPORT OF THE INFORMAL REGIONAL CONSULTATION
ON THE STATE OF ASIA'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

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**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE

Informal Regional Consultation on the State of Asia's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

Meeting Report

Bangkok, Thailand
26 - 28 April 2016

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Informal Regional Consultation on the State of Asia's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 26 to 28 April 2016. The meeting was organized jointly by the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

2. The meeting was attended by 18 participants, representing 16 countries¹ and two international organizations². The list of participants is given in *Annex III* to this report.

3. Mr Vili A. Fuavao, Deputy Regional Representative of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Mr Fuavao highlighted Asia's richness in biodiversity for food and agriculture and stressed its importance for food and agricultural production, ecosystem resilience, adaptation to climate change and sustainable livelihoods.

4. Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on behalf of Ms Irene Hoffmann, Secretary of the Commission, thanked participants for attending the meeting. Mr Leskien stressed the importance of the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (SoW BFA) for the future work of the Commission that may become an important milestone for the collaboration between the agriculture and environment sectors.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

6. The Secretariat of the Commission presented the context for the regional consultation. It noted that in adopting the Multi-Year Programme of Work at its Eleventh Regular Session in 2007, the Commission had agreed to the preparation of the SoW BFA.³ At its Fourteenth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to prepare the SoW BFA for consideration at its Sixteenth Regular Session. The Commission had stressed that the process for preparing the SoW BFA should be based on information from Country Reports and should also draw information from thematic studies, reports from international organizations and inputs from other relevant stakeholders, including centers of excellence from developing countries.⁴ Following a request of the Commission at its Fifteenth Regular Session in January 2015,⁵ a series of informal regional consultations were being held in 2016, to facilitate the preparation of the SoW BFA. The objective of these informal consultations is to share knowledge and information on the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the different regions and to discuss regional needs and priorities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture.

7. The informal regional consultation in Asia included three main sessions addressing four main areas as identified in the *Guidelines for the preparation of the Country Reports for The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*⁶:

1. Assessment and monitoring (Chapters 1 and 2)
2. Sustainable use and conservation (Chapters 3 and 4)
3. Policies, institutions and capacity / Regional and international cooperation (Chapter 5)

8. At the beginning of each of the three sessions, the Commission Secretariat introduced the main findings from a preliminary analysis of Country Reports submitted up until 18 April 2016, after which the participants split into three mixed groups to discuss and identify relevant regional needs and

¹ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

² United National Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

³ CGRFA-11/07/Report

⁴ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 14.

⁵ CGRA/15/Report, paragraph 13.

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/biodiversity/guidelines/en/>

priorities and to establish a list of possible actions. The groups subsequently presented the results of their work for discussion in plenary. The compiled series of needs, priorities and actions identified for the region for the four main areas of biodiversity for food and agriculture management were reviewed on the last day of the consultation.

9. During the meeting, presentations were also given by the National Focal Points for *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (NFPs) of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The respective NFPs gave valuable insights on the importance of the traditional floating gardening system to the livelihoods of local communities in Bangladesh; the development and implementation of access and benefit-sharing mechanisms in India; existing national policies and programmes in Sri Lanka to protect and maintain associated biodiversity and ecosystem services; and sustainable microbial biodiversity management practices in Vietnam.

10. The agenda of the meeting is contained in *Annex I* to this report.

III. STATUS OF PREPARATION OF THE REGION'S COUNTRY REPORTS FOR THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

11. The Commission Secretariat presented an overview of the status of preparation of the SoW BFA and introduced the draft document, *Asia Regional Synthesis for The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (draft regional synthesis report). This document, providing an analysis of the Country Reports received by the Secretariat up until 18 April 2016 (including four final Country Reports⁷, one draft Country Report⁸ and one brief report⁹), had been circulated to all participants prior to the meeting.

12. The Commission Secretariat confirmed that finalized Country Reports, if endorsed by governments and submitted by 15 July 2016 to the Commission Secretariat at the latest, would be reflected in the draft regional synthesis report, as well as in the final draft SoW BFA. Whereas the draft SoW BFA would be presented to the Commission at its Sixteenth Regular Session, the finalized regional report would be published together with the final SoW BFA. Prior to its publication, the revised regional report would be submitted to the National Focal Points, for their comments and input.

IV. NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

13. The Commission Secretariat introduced the relevant chapters of the draft regional synthesis report, highlighting the key findings from the preliminary analysis of reports so far received from countries. In the first session, addressing monitoring and assessment in the region, topics presented included: the status of submission of Country Reports in the region; reporting constraints; coverage of biodiversity hotspots in the region; production systems reported; examples of associated biodiversity and wild food species, their status and trends; the relation between associated biodiversity and ecosystem services; and needs and priorities for monitoring and assessment of biodiversity for food and agriculture reported by countries.

14. Participants expressed the challenges they faced or are still facing in the preparation of their Country Reports. These include challenges in the coordination and communication with relevant stakeholders, lack of clarity in responsibilities, heavy workload, lack of time and lack of funding (in particular to ensure all relevant stakeholders are consulted), lack of data (or too much data), usually not available in the required format, and difficulties with the concepts and definitions.

⁷ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam

⁸ Sri Lanka

⁹ Bhutan

15. In the second session, highlights from the draft regional synthesis report on the topics of sustainable use, conservation, access and exchange for biodiversity for food and agriculture were presented. Examples were given of practices promoting the maintenance and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, of how biodiversity for food and agriculture is used to cope with climate change, invasive alien species (IAS) and natural or human-made disasters, and of *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation of associated biodiversity and wild food species. Information was also provided on the status of adoption and implementation of ecosystem, landscape, seascape approaches across the region, and the linkages between associated biodiversity species and ecosystem services were further discussed. The presentation concluded on the needs and priorities reported by countries.

16. In the third session, the key findings on policies, institutions, capacity and regional and international cooperation were presented. Examples were given of national policies for the: i) use and conservation of associated biodiversity and wild food species, as well as of their habitats; ii) maintenance of ecosystem services; iii) resilience and sustainability of production systems; and iv) implementation of ecosystem, landscape and seascape approaches. Examples of regional programs and relevant international conventions and agreements were also provided. The presentation concluded on the needs and priorities highlighted by most of the Country Reports, such as the need to improve research capacity for associated biodiversity, wild foods and ecosystem services, as well as the need for greater inter-institutional coordination.

17. After each of the three sessions described above, the participants were split into three working groups to identify the region's needs and possible actions to be undertaken. They were also asked to give an indication of the relative importance of each proposed action. *Annex II* to this report provides the compiled outcomes of the discussions on: assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture (Table 1); sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture and its access and benefit-sharing mechanisms (Table 2); policies, institutions and capacity and regional and international cooperation (Table 3). The content of the tables, as given in *Annex II*, have not been edited. As a result, certain actions appear in more than one table. This is the case, for example, for the need to strengthen the involvement of different stakeholders and improve the coordination and cooperation between them, which appears in all three tables. In presenting the outcomes of their deliberations to plenary, the respective working groups drew attention both the commonalities and differences between countries and sub-regions.

18. In plenary, participants discussed, among other topics, the importance and challenges of raising awareness of the role of biodiversity for food and agriculture, from farmers to policy-makers, by sharing success stories and good examples, and by adding value to products from sustainable production systems, or even to the use of associated biodiversity for ecosystem services (e.g. beehive renting). The importance of conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture, and associated biodiversity and wild food species in particular, along with the challenges to conserve these resources, was extensively discussed. More information can be found in Annex II.

V. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

20. Participants mentioned the regional consultation had improved their understanding of the reporting process for the SoW BFA and of the concept of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and expressed the view that it would have been useful for the preparation of Country Reports if the consultation had been organized earlier in the SoW BFA process. Participants considered the regional synthesis report a valuable input to the regional consultation.

21. In a short closing address, Mr Leskien thanked the participants for their fruitful discussions and valuable contributions. He also expressed his gratitude to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for its assistance in the preparation and organization of the meeting and to the German Government for its generous financial support.

ANNEX I

INFORMAL REGIONAL CONSULTATION *THE STATE OF ASIA'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
26-28 April 2016**

Venue: Eastin Grand Hotel, Sathorn, Bangkok

Time	Title	
DAY 1		Tuesday, 26 April 2016
8:30 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 – 10:50	Opening address	Deputy Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, FAO
	Opening address	Secretariat, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
	Tour de Table and group photo	All participants
	Status of preparation of <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	Commission Secretariat
	Presentation of the programme and objectives of the consultation	Commission Secretariat
10:50 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 – 12:30	Assessment and monitoring	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports – Presentation and short discussion	Commission Secretariat
Lunch		
14:00 – 15:30	Identifying needs and priorities – working groups	
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 – 17:00	Priorities for action – reporting and discussion	
Reception at the hotel		

DAY 2		Wednesday, 27
April 2016		
9:30 – 10:30	Sustainable use and conservation	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports – Presentation and short discussion	Commission Secretariat
	Identifying needs and priorities – working groups	
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:30	Priorities for action – reporting and discussion	
Lunch		
14:00 – 15:30	Policies, institutions and capacity Regional and international cooperation	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports – Presentation and short discussion	Commission Secretariat
	Identifying needs and priorities – working groups	
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 17:00	Identifying needs and priorities (cont.) – working groups	
	Priorities for action – reporting and discussion	
DAY 3		Thursday, 28
April 2016		
10:00 – 11:00	Review and finalize regional recommendations for priorities for action	
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15 – 12:30	Review and finalize regional recommendations for priorities for action	
Lunch		
14:00 – 15:30	Final discussions	
	Evaluation of the Workshop	
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 17:00	Closing Remarks	Commission Secretariat

ANNEX II

NEEDS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Table 1. Needs and possible actions for the assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture as identified during the informal regional consultation (Bangkok, 26-28 April 2016)

Area	Needs	Possible actions to be undertaken	Scale of importance
Data collection	Standardize data collection, protocols and inventory systems for biodiversity for food and agriculture, particularly for associated biodiversity and wild foods	Undertake surveys, identification and documentation	Essential
		Develop standardized structure for data collection and database development	
		Strengthen policy support	Important
		Strengthen the integration, coordination and cooperation among different stakeholders	Nice to have
		Establish independent autonomous organizations	Nice to have
	Collect baseline information and monitor associated biodiversity and wild food species (in particular wild edible plants)	Develop tools/standards for assessment and monitoring Build up/ strengthen inventories Establish/ strengthen inter-sectoral bodies to monitor associated biodiversity and wild food species Develop/ strengthen capacity of relevant institutions	Essential
	Document traditional knowledge related to biodiversity for food and agriculture, and to associated biodiversity and wild foods in particular	Institutionalize documentation on traditional knowledge Strengthen documentation of traditional knowledge at community level (e.g. by using the “People’s Biodiversity Register”)	Important
Research	Prioritize research on associated biodiversity and wild foods		
	Strengthen knowledge on the roles of associated biodiversity in production ecosystems		Essential
	Strengthen research on the domestication, conservation and utilization of wild food species		Important
	Strengthen research on technologies aiming to add value to biodiversity for food and agriculture (especially wild food species)		Important
	Evaluate the impact of current agricultural practices on associated biodiversity		Important
Information/ knowledge sharing	Improve information/knowledge sharing	Organize joint meetings between diverse relevant stakeholders	Important
		Support cross-sectoral research projects involving diverse stakeholders and providing for joint reporting mechanism	Important

		Align national strategies with those related to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity and mainstream issues of national and regional relevance into their work.	Essential
		Strengthen national, regional and international networks	Nice to have
		Integrate knowledge of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including associated biodiversity and wild foods, in natural resources management	Important
Awareness raising	Raise awareness of the values of associated biodiversity among policy makers	Identify and share examples of successful use of associated biodiversity (e.g. increasing production through pollination)	Important
		Develop a coordinated and systematic awareness raising plan targeted to specific stakeholders	
	Raise awareness among farmers, the broader public and the media of the important role of biodiversity for food and agriculture, its utilization and benefits.	Identify and publish best practices/success stories related to eco-friendly technologies (e.g. Integrated Pest Management (IPM)) to strengthen engagement.	Important
		Develop a coordinated and systematic awareness raising plan targeted to specific stakeholders	
Policy needs	Mainstream associated biodiversity into existing policies, regulations and programmes	Harmonize policies influencing associated biodiversity with a view to avoid negative impact	Essential
	Improve collaboration and coordination among institutions, especially among those with an essentially sectoral focus	Map relevant institutions and their mandates to enable the development of coordination mechanisms	Important
		Consider formalizing collaboration between institutions/ sectors (including the private sector and community organizations) by identifying focal points/experts	Important
		Consider establishing a steering committee to strengthen collaboration between the institutions, seek synergies and harmonize activities. This committee should be composed of representatives from the different relevant institutions/ sectors and have clear Terms of Reference.	Important
		Develop coherent national policy for biodiversity for food and agriculture, addressing the different sector of genetic resources for food and agriculture and associated biodiversity and wild foods	Essential
	Establish genetic resources institutions and strengthen gene banks		
Collaboration	Strengthen interministerial collaboration	Strengthen collaboration in international reporting and policy processes (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA))	
		Establish a high-level interministerial committee that will address issues of relevance to biodiversity for food and agriculture that could meet every 6 to 12 months	

General needs	Allocate resources	Provide support, incl. funds, for: - Projects focusing on different sectors and encompassing different components of biodiversity for food and agriculture - Regional projects on biodiversity for food and agriculture (e.g. together with FAO and other stakeholders).	Essential
	Strengthen research capacity and (human) resources	Increase donor awareness Strengthen networking with universities and other relevant stakeholders	Essential

Table 2. Needs and possible actions for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture and its access and benefit-sharing mechanisms as identified during the informal regional consultation (Bangkok, 26-28 April 2016)

Area	Needs	Possible actions to be undertaken	Scale of importance
Sustainable use	Strengthen networking between user groups and communities, within countries and regions, that maintain biodiversity on-farm and/or <i>in situ</i>	Map stakeholders and their activities and strengthen consultation among them Establish a forum facilitating interaction of stakeholders and users	Important
	Document use and management practices related to biodiversity for food and agriculture contributing to their sustainable use	Establish inventory based on systematic data collection that can be used for publicity; research; policy changes; formal/informal consultations	Essential
	Identify best practices of sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture (e.g. traditional irrigation practices, terrace gardens in urban areas, home gardens, community seed banks, etc.) and share this knowledge to raise awareness	Promote best practices at biodiversity fairs and food festivals; through on-farm demonstrations and trainings, media and creation of value chains Encourage development of specialized markets for value-added products/premium priced products	Important
	Develop tools to facilitate the implementation of best practices for the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Raise awareness at all levels Develop action plans and/or guidelines	Essential
	Promote conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture through combination of traditional management practices and modern technologies (e.g. cryopreservation, etc.)	Identify and adopt traditional approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture Strengthen collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including through public-private partnerships based research Identify useful traits Promote diversification within species	Essential
	Identify market potential for associated biodiversity (e.g. pollinators, like bees and honey bees)	Internalize value of associated biodiversity into market prices/ create demand and develop value chain for associated biodiversity	Essential
	Participatory assessment of value of associated biodiversity	Map and evaluate uses of associated biodiversity	Essential
	Consider role of associated biodiversity as integral part of use of genetic resources for food and agriculture	Promote associated biodiversity providing nutrient cycling, pest and disease regulation, pollination, and other wider ecological services	Important

Conservation	Strengthen <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation of under-utilized genetic resources	<i>In-situ</i> : Through declaration of additional sites/areas for the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, policy support and human and financial resources <i>Ex-situ</i> : Through involvement of researchers and strengthening of research capacity (e.g. on conservation/storage of species, viability, germination, regeneration tests). Such research can also support <i>in-situ</i> conservation	Essential
	Integrated conservation and preservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Raise awareness and build capacity among all stakeholders Develop monitoring framework and tools Restore gene pool (gene bank, etc.)	Important
	Scale-up funding, as well as technical and human resources for the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Institutionalize government funding for conservation efforts/mainstream funding for conservation Seek donor support for financial, as well as capacity building and technical provisions.	Essential
	Strategies and action plans to integrate biodiversity for food and agriculture into overall conservation strategies	Review existing conservation strategies and highlight biodiversity for food and agriculture where applicable	Important
	Policy for the integrated conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Develop and implement a policy for the integrated conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Essential
	Strengthen management practices that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Promote the development and/or expansion of protected forest areas, national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, marine protected areas and zoological gardens	Essential
	Develop national policy guidelines to strengthen <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation networks	Harmonize national policies of relevance to genetic resources for food and agriculture Establish/form a national commission dealing with genetic resources for food and agriculture at the national level	Essential
	Strengthen on-farm conservation	Strengthen involvement of communities through awareness raising activities and by offering trainings Solicit governmental and financial support to ensure long-term conservation	Essential
	Establish/strengthen gene banks at national and regional levels		Essential
	Strengthen linkages between farmers and institutions		Important
Access and Benefit sharing	Regulate the exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA)	Adopt and implement the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) Use the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) for the exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture	
	Regulate the exchange of animal and aquatic genetic resources, micro-organisms and associated biodiversity	Facilitate exchange through optional standardized material transfer agreements (MTAs) Ensure there is a common understanding among national stakeholders involved in the exchange of animal and aquatic genetic	

		resource, ,micro-organisms and associated biodiversity	
	Ensure safe duplication of genetic material of relevance to food and agriculture to ensure the maintenance of this material in the case of human-made and/or natural disasters	Identify duplication points/countries/organisations that can assist with safety duplications to improve resilience of countries to disasters Develop emergency plans	
	Raise awareness of existing mechanisms for the exchange of genetic resources for food and agricultural	Establish databases of genetic resources that are being exchanged	
	Provide information on available resources	Inventory, characterization and documentation of resources	Essential
	Align national access and benefit-sharing laws/legislation with the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	Revise Access and Benefit sharing legislation, as appropriate	Essential
	Strengthen legal framework and policies	Promote access and availability to users through predictable Access and Benefit sharing conditions and legal certainty	Essential
	Strengthen capacity of officers involved in Access and Benefit sharing	Awareness raising, training and capacity building	Important

Table 3. Needs and possible actions for policies, institutions and capacity, as well as regional and international cooperation relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture as identified during the informal regional consultation (Bangkok, 26-28 April 2016)

Area	Needs	Possible actions to be undertaken	Scale of importance
Capacity development	Improve research capacity for associated biodiversity, wild foods and ecosystem services	Support researchers (e.g. provide funding to researchers for research projects) Integrate target-oriented research on biodiversity for food and agriculture, and in particular associated biodiversity, into the mainstream research agenda	Essential
	Increase the number of qualified researchers/scientists, in particular taxonomists, working on biodiversity for food and agriculture	Incentivize through different means (e.g. increase recognition, for example through competitive compensation; provide adequate infrastructure, such as laboratories; logistical support)	Important
	Increase capacity of researchers and national policy makers/heads of implementing agencies to enable the development of national and international policies on biodiversity for food and agriculture. Initiate dialogue between policy makers and researchers	Involve scientists in policy development, training/workshops, regional and international meetings	Important
	Strengthen knowledge about biodiversity for food and agriculture, its values for food security, ecosystem functioning and sustainable livelihoods to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity for food and agriculture among policy makers.	Mainstream the importance of biodiversity for food and agriculture into national programs, and capacity building programs Inclusion of biodiversity for food and agriculture in curricula at all levels (school, college and university)	Essential

		Build partnerships between researchers, governmental institutions and the private sector	
Institutional development	Promote cross-sectoral and inter-ministerial cooperation Coordinate the different biodiversity for food and agriculture activities through a single institution.	Implement biodiversity related conventions in a coherent way to facilitate the coordination and implementation of relevant programs and national reporting. Establish a single institution (e.g. National Focal Point) to coordinate the different programs related to biodiversity for food and agriculture	Essential
Sustainable Use	Review and update existing policy regulations	Define and characterize biodiversity for food and agriculture, including associated biodiversity Consult different stakeholders Improve documentation and protection of geographical indications	Essential
	Strengthen linkages between research and market demand	Involve the private sector to fund relevant research	
	Control of invasive alien species	Strengthen regional and international collaboration to control invasive alien species (e.g. CABI project whereby Europe and India collaborated to combat the invasion of the ornamental plant species <i>Hydrichium</i> by using a fungal species from India as biological control agent)	
Conservation	Reach political consensus on the need for conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Awareness raising and implementation	Essential
	Strengthen participation of user communities in conservation efforts	Organize information campaigns Involve communities in decision-making	Essential
	Strengthen research on climate resilient agriculture to develop targeting breeding programmes	Enhance capacity to screen for different indicators such as salinity, drought, heat and disease resistance	
	Strengthen policies for the conservation of associated biodiversity	Strengthen cooperation between the different stakeholders on ecosystem management, including through the exchange of experiences, best practices on the management of water resources, soil health (e.g. Soil Health Card to maintain India's micro flora) and marine ecosystems	
Access and Benefit sharing (ABS)	Align Access and Benefit sharing policies with International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Establish task-groups to coordinate this task (e.g. by organizing regular meetings)	Essential
	Effective enforcement of policies and regulations	Establish national/regional/local bodies	Essential
	Knowledge sharing and knowledge management	Develop Web based data bank	Important
	International agreement for the free movement of genetic resources for food and agriculture	Establish protocols, such as the development of Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs)	Important
	Strengthen national and international cooperation on Access and Benefit sharing legislation	Raise awareness at national and international levels Strengthen collaboration between patent agencies and countries (e.g. traditional knowledge digital library (TKDL)) Enforce Access and Benefit sharing legislation	

Regional and International cooperation	Strengthen regional and international cooperation with existing regional initiatives (e.g. ASEAN-ABC; SAARC, Regional Cooperation on SE PGR)	Develop and implement regional and international projects; and workshops for exchange of experiences/best practices Establish a working group at the regional level to improve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Important
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**ANNEX III
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

AFGHANISTAN

Mr Mujibur Rahman ARIFI
Gene Bank and Database Specialist
Agriculture Research Institute
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and
Livestock
Kabul
Phone: +93 700267663
Email: nasrati.mujiib@gmail.com

BANGLADESH

Mr Md Aziz Zilani CHOWDHURY
Member-Director (Crops Division)
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
Farmgate
Dhaka 1215
Phone: +88 2 9126663
Fax: +88 2 8142459
Email: zilani71@gmail.com

BUTHAN

Ms Sangay DEMA
Principal Biodiversity Officer
National Biodiversity Centre
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Serbithang
Thimphu
Phone: +975 2 351218
Email: sdema06@gmail;
sangaydema@moaf.gov.bt

CAMBODIA

Mr Vanhan HEAN
Deputy Director General
General Directorate of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
54 b, 656 st., Toul Kok Loak, 3 Tuol Kok
Phnom Penh
Phone: +855 12818216
Email: heanvanhan@gmail.com

INDIA

Ms Pratibha BRAHMI
Scientist
National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Ministry of Agriculture
Pusa Campus
New Delhi 110012
Phone: +91 11 25841619
Email: pratibha.brahmi@yahoo.com

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC (THE)**

Mr Chanh Samone PHONGGODOME
Deputy Director General
National Agriculture and Forestry Research
Institute
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Nongviengkham, Xaythany
Vientiane Capital
Phone: +856 20 55397208
Fax: +856 21 770047/770074
Email: phonggoudome@gmail.com

MALAYSIA

Ms Erny Sabrina BINTI MOHD NOOR
Senior Research Officer
Ibu Pejabat MARDI
Persiaran UPM-MARDI
43400 Serdang
Selangor
Phone: +60 3 89536295
Fax: +60 3 89536969
Email: erny@mardi.gov.my

MALDIVES

Mr Aminath SHAFIA
Director General
Agriculture and Forestry Division
Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
7th floor Velaanaage
Malé

Phone: +960 3339245
Fax: +960 3336558
Email: shafia.aminath@fishagri.gov.mv

MONGOLIA

Mr Bayarsukh NOOV
National Focal Point PGRFA
Institute of Plant and Agricultural Sciences,
IPAS
P.O.Box 908
Darkhan-uul
Phone: +976 99014174
Email: bayar67@yahoo.com

NEPAL

Mr Anil kumar ACHARYA
Senior Horticulture Development Officer
Agriculture Biodiversity Section
Ministry of Agricultural Development
Signha Durbar
Kathmandu
Phone: +977 9841714554
Email: acharyanilku@gmail.com

PAKISTAN

Mr Ghulam Mustafa SAJID
Director
Plant Genetic Resources Institute
National Agricultural Research Centre
Park Road
Islamabad
Phone: +92 51 9255203
Fax: +92 51 9255034
Email: drmustafasajid@gmail.com

PHILIPPINES

Ms Paz J. BENAVIDEZ II
Assistant Secretary for Planning and Project
Development
Concurrent OIC-Director
Bureau of Plant Industry
Department of Agriculture
Elliptical road, Diliman
Quezon City 1100
Phone: +63 2942485
Fax: +63 2942487
Email: asec.regulations2014@gmail.com

SINGAPORE

Mr Cliff THAM

Executive Manager
Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority
52 Jurong Gateway Road, #14-01
Singapore 608550
Phone: +65 68052811
Fax: +65 63341831
Email: cliff_tham@ava.gov.sg

SRI LANKA

Mr Athula Somakumara LIYANAGE
National Project Coordinator
Biodiversity for Adaptation to Climate Change
Project
Project Management Unit
Plant Genetic Resources Centre
Gannoruwa
Peradeniya
Phone: +94 714453714
Email: athula_1@yahoo.com

THAILAND

Ms Duangduen SRIPOTAR
Agricultural Scientist, Professional Level
Department of Agriculture
Bangkok
Phone: +66 2 579 0919
Fax: +66 2 940 5687
Email: duangduen_sripotar@yahoo.com

VIETNAM

Mr La Tuan NGHIA
Director General
Plant Resource Research Centre
Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences
An Khanh, Hoat Due
Hà Nội
Phone: +84 985121190
Fax: +84 8686289608
Email: latuannghia@agi.vaas.vn

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Ms Makiko YASHIRO
Programme Officer

UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the
Pacific (ROAP)
UN Building, 2nd Floor
Rajdamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10200
Phone: +66 2 288 1256
Email: makiko.yashiro@unep.org

**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)**

Ms Vishwa Ranjan SINHA
Programme Officer
Natural Resources Group
International Union for Conservation of
Nature
Asia Regional Office
63 Sukhumvit Soi 39
Warrana Bangkok 10110, Thailand
Phone: +66 2 662 40 29
Email: vishwsaranjan.sinha@iucn.org