



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



FOURTH MEETING OF THE PLATFORM FOR THE CO-DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES

Vienna, Austria, 22 October 2016

CONCEPT NOTE AND REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

A. BACKGROUND

1. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture calls for technology transfer as a form of non-monetary benefit-sharing in the context of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing. The Treaty provides that transfer of technology to countries shall be carried out through all types of partnership in research and development (Article 13.2.b.iii). At its Fourth Session in 2011, the Governing Body called for facilitating the necessary measures to realize technology transfer. In 2012, the *Rio Six-point Action Plan for the International Treaty* recommended, as a priority action to be undertaken by stakeholders in the Treaty, “to establish a *Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies*, within the context of non-monetary benefit-sharing under the Treaty”.

2. Following the recommendation of the Governing Body and the Action Plan, a number of potential action partners convened a meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, in August 2012, under the co-chairing of the Brazilian Agriculture Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) and the Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD). The stakeholders at the meeting considered establishing a Platform, where institutions active in technology co-development and transfer, including advisory partners and donor institutions could constitute a coordination and initiation mechanism to mobilize resources, including those of the initial proponents themselves, for technology co-development and transfer.

3. At the Platform second meeting in Bandung, Indonesia, in July 2013, institutions further developed the initiative through a review of models of technology transfers that would be useful for smallholder farmers. The Governing Body, at its Fifth Session in September 2013, welcomed those developments and grouped activities under the Platform under “supporting activities” to the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use¹.

4. Following some implementing actions by Partner institutions in the biennium 2014-2015 and Treaty-system wide developments of actual and potential relevance to the Platform, the third meeting of the Platform² in Rome, Italy, in September 2015, took stock of progress made, defined the strategic focus of the initiative in the light of developments with other Treaty processes, expanded the network of active institutions. Furthermore it was agreed that the Platform should remain open to other interested partners who wish to work within it, and technical advisors whose experience and expertise are relevant to the mission statement.

5. The Governing Body, at its Sixth Session³ in October 2015, requests to consider integration of the sustainable use objectives, tools and initiatives into the next round of the

¹ comprehensive summary on the Platforms’ development from the 5th Governing Body, 2013: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-be581e.pdf>.

² Report of the third meeting of the Platform: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bb360e.pdf>.

³ Report of the 6th Governing Body, 2015: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mo938e.pdf>.

funding cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund and also requests to further explore options on how the Benefit- Sharing Fund could support the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use, in particular to address farmers' needs.

6. In preparation of the fourth meeting, IAARD, as the institution holding the presidency of the Platform, has dispatched through the Treaty Secretariat invitations to participate at the fourth Platform meeting, to institutions, part of the initiative and to new technical institutions and advisory partners. This Platform meeting enjoys a balanced representation of technical institutions, of both developing and OECD countries, as well as of civil society and international centers of expertise. This document provides extended annotations and reference documents for the meeting, based on the draft agenda that the Treaty Secretariat has circulated, as well as suggestions for follow up actions by the Platform.

The Platform mission statement

7. Based on a number of input papers and presentations made by institutions and experts, the first and second meetings of the Platform produced a mission statement. The third meeting, in reviewing the content of the presentations and taking stock of developments with Treaty systems and processes, selected new elements to reflect in its mission statement. It was updated as follows:

Vision

Stakeholders in the International Treaty are empowered to utilize technologies for the conservation, characterization, evaluation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Objectives of the Platform

The Platform seeks:

1. To respond to needs identified and problems perceived by target beneficiaries, namely small farmers and their communities;
2. To create a functioning network of institutions with the skills and experience to support and undertake initiatives and projects that aim to co-develop and transfer technologies to beneficiaries in developing countries;
3. To contribute to food security, and the social and economic development of the target beneficiaries, through the establishment of a "one-stop shop" for coherent "technology packets", based on the understanding of technology co-development and transfer pathways and the mapping of actors involved;
4. To promote the co-development and transfer of technologies, recognizing that technology transfer requires a range of supporting activities, in particular information sharing and capacity- and institution- building;
5. To mobilize in-kind contributions from both the public and the private sectors for this purpose;
6. To mobilize financial and in-kind support to deliver relevant technologies, including through the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund;
7. To support the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund project cycle through the provision of relevant expert advice and capacity.

Principles of the Platform

The Platform adheres to the following principles.

1. The Platform considers that technology transfer is a means to deliver benefits to target beneficiaries, rather than an end in itself.
2. The Platform follows a problem solving-based approach (i.e. the identification of existing constraints as the basis for undertaking technology co-development and transfer).
3. The Platform recognizes that there is a wide range of approaches to technology transfer, and a broad range of potential solutions, in responding to needs. Hence, the Platform does not adopt a single model of technology co-development and transfer; it evaluates the usefulness of different models based on parameters such as the capacity to lead to integrated technology packets and to technologies adapted to the needs of small farmers and their communities.
4. The Platform pursues technology co-development and transfer along the entire value chain, from the distribution of germplasm for research and breeding to the release of improved varieties to farmers, including through technologies in support of the Global Information System of Article 17 of the International Treaty.
5. The establishment of and progress with the Platform will be reported to sessions of the Governing Body.
6. The Platform will consult with a wide range of stakeholders in the International Treaty, in developing and implementing its activities.
7. In keeping with the Treaty's multilateral objectives, genetic material developed in the context of initiatives and projects supported by the Platform will be available through the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

8. Based on the mission statement, the Platform considered operating as a functioning network of institutions with the necessary skills and experiences and recognized the need for wide consultations, including with other possible active partners, and with advisory institutions.

Treaty developments in the biennium

9. Several inter-sessional processes and initiatives under the Treaty have referred to the Platform, as a stand-alone initiative and in the wider context of non-monetary benefit-sharing (i.e. in combination with information sharing and capacity building).

10. Technology co-development and transfer is emerging as a relevant theme in the context of plant genetic resource information systems. Following the expert consultation in January 2015, the Global Information System of Article 17 moved into start up implementation, including through an on-line portal to connect germplasm information with other data sets, and new inclusion and sequencing facilities.⁴ The GLIS portal has the potential to host information on technology packets associated with germplasm.⁵

11. The Platform is a supporting initiative to the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use and an Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA (ACSU) has a mandate to advise the Secretary on its implementation. At its meeting in March 2015, the ACSU⁶ reconfirmed the relevance of the Platform mission and concepts to uses of PGRFA for research and breeding and the promotion of in-situ and on-farm conservation, and the connected use of PGRFA-related information and technology. The ACSU provided some guidance to the Platform, as follows:

⁴ The document, IT/GB-6/15/7, *Vision paper on the development of the Global Information System*, is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mo290e.pdf>.

⁵ The report of the expert consultation is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-be664e.pdf>.

⁶ The report of the ACSU meeting is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-be676e.pdf>.

- it recommended involving farmers' organizations in Platform activities, including to respond to farmers' needs and to promote benefit-sharing,
- it called for improved synergies between the Platform and other components of the Programme of Work, such as support to pre-breeding.

B. DISCUSSION ON THE EXPECTED PLATFORM ACTIVITIES (2016-2019)

12. A preparatory and planning session for the fourth Platform meeting, was held 24 and 25 August 2016, in Geneva with the objective to develop the planning for the substantive inputs, expected outcomes, the agenda and related documents and preparation for the Fourth Partners Meeting of the Platform.

13. Outcomes of the preparatory meeting and tasks for the 4th session of the Platform Meeting are as follows:

1. The vision, mission and goals have to be streamlined to define a clear message to draw the attention of potential partners.
2. Partners are encouraged to actively work on one of the foreseen tasks of the Programme of Work (to be finished before the seventh GB in 2017) such as:
 - Development of an **online Platform** to facilitate the documentation and transfer of the packages in connection with the GLIS
 - Development of **pilot technology packages** for developing countries on selected crops⁷:
 - Definition of an **Action Plan for partnerships** between the public and private sector in pre-breeding on selected crops⁸
 - Preparation of a **Study on innovation systems** and technology cycles for the sustainable use of PGRFA⁹
3. Pursue a more strong linkage the Platform to the Benefit-sharing Found mechanism, the Multilateral System of exchange of PGRFA and the Global Information System of the Treaty
4. Assess the needs, develop the packages of Technologies and disseminate them at national level.

14. As foreseen in the draft agenda (Annex 1) of the 4th meeting of the Platform the partners will be invited to focus on the activities requested by the Governing Body (Resolution 4/2016) and the expected results to be presented at the seven session of the Governing Body on the last quarter of 2017. In addition to that the meeting will be an opportunity to report on the work done so far from the partners on technology co-development and transfer projects and activities which they are conducting.

15. With regard to the Secretariat's support, the Secretariat of the International Treaty remains available, subject to the availability of staffing, to facilitate regular communications within the Platform and between the Platform and Treaty's committees.

⁷ Rice: Indonesia, Brazil - Sorghum: AATF - Bean: Austria, Italy - Wheat: Italy - Tomatoes: Italy - Quinoa: France, Brazil

⁸ Potential volunteers: Nordgen, CIRAD, Bioversity, IRRI

⁹ Potential volunteers: FAO Tropical Agricultural Platform, CIRAD

C. LIST OF REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Documents for the first session of the meeting

Appendix 1 - *CGIAR Services to Enhance Capacity Building, Technology Transfer and Information Exchange Related to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

Appendix 2 - *Report of the coordination meeting of Italian institutions*

Appendix 3 - *Increasing Agricultural Productivity through the Use of Plant Genetic Diversity - Concept Note for the Third MACS Meeting*

Documents for the second session of the meeting

Appendix 4 - Excerpts from the *Third Call for Proposals of the Benefit-Sharing Fund*

Appendix 5 - *Non-Monetary Benefit Sharing Mechanisms within the Projects Funded by the Benefit Sharing Fund*

Appendix 6 - *The window 3 project portfolio of the 3rd project cycle of the Benefit-Sharing Fund*

Appendix 7 - *Experience Involving Technology Transfer, Capacity Building, and Information Exchange for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture*

Appendix 8 - *Draft Programme of Work for the Platform*

Documents for the third session of the meeting

Appendix 9 - *Extended concept note and references documents*

Appendix 10 - *Report of the third session of the Platform*

Appendix 11 - *Resolution 4/2015 and the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use*



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PLATFORM FOR THE CO-DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES

FOURTH MEETING

Vienna, Austria, 22 October 2016

Draft AGENDA

(9.00–9.30)

- ***Opening and welcome; introduction of participants***
Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD), Presidency of the Platform
- ***Welcoming remarks (Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety)***
Dr. Alois Leidwein

(9.30–12.30)

Discussion on the expected Platform activities (2016-2019)¹⁰

- ***Objectives of the meeting; summary of Platform meetings and activities***
Secretariat of the ITPGRFA

Participants will be invited to focus on the following activities :

- Preparation of a *study on innovation systems and technology cycles for the sustainable use of PGRFA*
- Development of *pilot technology packages for developing countries on selected crops: i.e. Wheat, Maize, Bean, Rice and Quinoa*

(11.00 – 11.15)

Coffee break

- Development of an *online platform* to facilitate the documentation and transfer of the packages in connection with the Global Information System
- Definition of an *Action Plan for partnerships between the public and private sector in pre-breeding on selected crops*

(12.30 – 14.00)

¹⁰ See Table 1: http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/RES4_Article6.pdf

Lunch

(14.00–16.45)

Plenary Session

- **Wrap up of the discussion (30 min.)**
- **Report by partner institutions on relevant projects and activities (60 min.)**
- **Discussion : (60 min)**
 - *Mapping the stakeholders and potential interested partners according to the objectives of the Platform*
 - *Identifying the contact point/person for each country/organization*
 - *Identifying gaps in technology application and technologies needed by farmers for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA*
- **Other practical actions for the further development of the Platform (15 min.)**

(16.45 – 17.00)

Conclusions

- *IAARD, Austria, Secretariat of the International Treaty*