



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESOLUTION 4/2015

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6, SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recognizing the pivotal role of sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in addressing global challenges, including food security, biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation and the fight against poverty, especially for smallholder farmers;

Recalling Resolution 7/2013 and taking note of the Report of the second meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA (ACSU);

Emphasizing the key role of sustainable use of PGRFA and the link between Farmers' Rights under Article 9 and the provisions on conservation and sustainable use under Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty;

Taking into account that the ACSU recommended to the Secretary to further structure and update the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PoW-SU) with additional areas for supporting initiatives by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders, and to create synergies within the Programme of Work and between the Programme of Work and other areas of work of the Treaty:

1. **Endorses** the revised Programme of Work as contained in *Annex 1* to this Resolution and requests Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue reporting on its implementation and acknowledges the contribution of these initiatives to the sustainable use of PGRFA;
2. **Requests** all Contracting Parties to promote, as appropriate, the access of all farmers including smallholder farmers, farmers organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities to PGRFA in the Multilateral System and the broadening of the genetic base of crops in use;
3. **Requests** the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Seventh Session to consider integration of the sustainable use objectives, tools and initiatives into the next round of the funding cycle of the Benefit-Sharing Fund, in particular for the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, and also requests it 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;
- 4 **Requests** the Secretary, in collaboration with other stakeholders and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:
 - a. Invite further inputs from Contracting Parties, other governments, farmers' organizations, relevant stakeholders and experts to collect additional and prospective tools for the Toolbox and publish it in all the working languages of FAO;

- b. cooperate with all relevant entities within FAO and institutions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), as well as the private sector and NGOs, under the framework of the Treaty, for the effective implementation of activities in support of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA;
- c. facilitate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and International Organizations in support of that Programme of Work;
- d. continue to invite and collect submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments relevant institutions and organizations, and stakeholders on how to promote and improve measures for the sustainable use of PGRFA;
- e. convene regional meetings on advanced characterization and sustainable use of PGRFA, including the assessment of needs of local farmers and other relevant local stakeholders and identification of possible means to address those needs also through participatory approaches in the context of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use;
- f. collaborate with other relevant initiatives, with regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on interaction between genetic resources, community and farmer led system activities and protected area systems;
- g. further develop collaboration with CGIAR Consortium, in particular Bioversity International, and other relevant organizations, on training and capacity building on sustainable use of PGRFA, including through joint resource mobilization;

5. **Decides** to reconvene the *ACSU*, subject to the availability of financial resources, with the Terms of Reference contained in *Appendix 1* to this Resolution.

APPENDIX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE *AD HOC* TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

1. The *Ad hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (hereafter the Committee) will provide advice to the Secretary on:
 - a. implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives;
 - b. cooperation with other international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use of PGRFA;
 - c. identification of additional activities and synergies within the Programme of Work and between the Programme of Work and other areas of work of the Treaty;
 - d. elaboration of the current gaps in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA through the support of Contracting Parties and donors;
2. The Committee will comprise up to two members for each Region and up to ten technical experts designated by the Bureau in consultation with the regions and all relevant stakeholders, in particular Farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairs from Contracting Parties of the Treaty will form part of the Committee, one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The Co-Chairs will be elected by the members of the Committee designated by the Regions.
3. The Secretary will keep a list of experts for further reference. It will be made available to Contracting Parties with a view to possibly develop a pool of experts on sustainable use.
4. The Committee will hold up to two meetings, subject to the availability of financial resources.
5. The Committee will prepare reports at the end of its meetings, which will be made available as soon as possible for written comments by Contracting Parties and relevant Stakeholders to be submitted to the Secretary who will compile them for information for the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.
6. The Secretary will report on the results of the work of the Committee to the Governing Body at its Seventh Session.

ANNEX 1**THE VISION, MISSION AND GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND SUPPORTING INITIATIVES**

(as adopted by the Resolution 7/2013)

VISION

Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are used sustainably in farming systems in accordance with Article 6, to enable more inclusive, sustainable and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels.

MISSION

To enhance the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through effective measures that translate Article 6 of the Treaty into country-level impact.

GOALS**Monitoring, implementing and ensuring technical support**

Goal 1: To provide support to Contracting Parties and stakeholders to implement the provisions of Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty that are relevant to the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, based on national priorities and needs.

Goal 2: To provide policy direction and guidance by monitoring the implementation of the Treaty in relation to sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Goal 3: To continue monitoring the technical support and expertise provided by FAO in the area of sustainable use, as foreseen in Article 6 of the Treaty.

Cooperating and improving partnerships

Goal 4: To strengthen collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders participating in projects and programmes relevant to the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, taking into account the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Goal 5: To implement the objectives of non-monetary benefit-sharing, and the Priority Activities of the *Second Global Plan of Action*, regarding the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Table 1: Components and expected results (2017/2019) of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives

(Subject to the availability of resources)

<i>Programmes</i>	<i>Expected Results GB 7th (2017)</i>	<i>Expected Results GB 8th (2019)</i>	<i>Possible Implementing Partners</i>
<i>Part A: agreed by the Governing Body</i>			
1. Implementing the sustainable use of PGRFA, as per Article 6 of the Treaty	a. Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations implement and report on activities, projects and programmes for the achievement of sustainable use of PGRFA. The Secretariat of the Treaty monitors technical and policy developments. It will report back to the Governing Body.	b. Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations implement and report on activities, projects and programs for the achievement of sustainable use of PGRFA. The Secretariat of the Treaty monitors technical and policy developments, which are referred to the Governing Body for guidance.	Contracting Parties, FAO, CGIAR, CGRFA, GFAR, CBD
2. Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA	a. Information collected on additional elements for the expansion of the Toolbox b. Publication of the Toolbox and a first design of an online portal/webpage	c. An on-line webpage/portal with commenting possibilities will be established to collect and share experiences on the implementation of the Toolbox at national level	Contracting Parties, FAO, CGRFA, CGIAR, GFAR, CBD, NGOs, private sector and farmers' organizations
<i>Part B: Supporting Initiatives undertaken by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders voluntarily</i>			
3. Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies within the context of non-monetary benefit-sharing	a. Convening of annual meetings of the Platform b. Preparation of a study on innovation systems and technology cycles for the sustainable use of PGRFA c. Development of pilot technology packets for developing countries (selected crops)	f. Convening of annual meetings of the Platform g. Further structuring and delivery of technology packets for different innovation systems h. Implementation of pilot partnerships for pre-breeding	Working and advisory partners of the Platform; the Integrated Breeding Platform

	<p>d. Development of an online platform to facilitate the documentation and transfer of the packets in connection with the Global Information System</p> <p>e. Definition of an Action Plan for partnerships between the public and private sector in pre-breeding (selected crops)</p>	<p>i. Strengthening the linkages between the use of varieties and species on-farm and information tools for plant breeding</p>	
<p>4. Training and capacity building on Farmers' Rights¹ and sustainable use</p>	<p>a. Implementation of relevant activities in the Resolution on Article 9 Farmers' Rights as adopted at the 6th session of the Governing Body</p>	<p>b. Implementation of relevant activities in Resolution on Article 9 Farmers' Rights as adopted at the 7th session of the Governing Body</p>	<p>Contracting Parties, FAO, GFAR, CBD, CGIAR, NGOs and farmers' organizations, private sector</p>
<p>5. Raising awareness of the actual and potential value of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development</p>	<p>a. Joint research on Aichi Targets related to sustainability in agriculture and the linkages between in situ conservation /on-farm management and community- based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species</p>	<p>b. Active outreach through workshops, publications and other appropriate means on sustainability in agriculture and the linkages between in situ conservation /on-farm management and community-based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species</p>	<p>Contracting Parties, FAO, GFAR, CBD, CGIAR, NGOs and farmers' organizations, private sector</p>

¹ *In this Table, "Farmers' Rights" refers to Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty.