



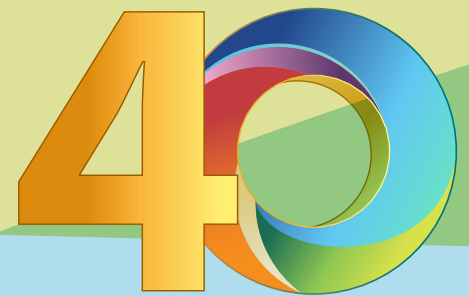
Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

COMMISSION ON  
GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE

# Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Nineteenth Regular Session

17-21 July 2023

## SIDE EVENTS



1983-2023



## SIDE EVENTS AGENDA

Monday 17 July 2023, 13:15–14:45

**Biological control: a nature-based solution for the sustainable management of invasive non-native-plants**

Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI)

Iran room, B-116

**Access and Rights to Genetic Resources-A Nordic Approach (II)**

The Nordic Genetic Resource Center – NordGen

Austria room, C250bis

Tuesday 18 July 2023, 13:15–14:45

**From almost extinct to virtually saved in 30 years- the story of local Norwegian cattle breed**

Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)

Iran room, B-116

**Enhancing *ex situ* conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture**

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Austria room, C250bis

Wednesday 19 July 2023, 13:15–14:45

**Subzero biodiversity? The FAO Guidelines on cryonconservation of animal genetic resources and how they are put into practice in the Nordics**

The Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen)

Iran room, B-116

**Strengthening seed systems through realizing Farmers'Rights**

Governments of Norway and India, and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Austria room, C250bis

Thursday 20 July 2023, 13:15–14:45

**Svalbard Global Seed Vault- An Arctic backup facility for the Plant Genetic Resources of the world**

The Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen), the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Crop Trust

Iran room, B-116

**New tools for conservation and sustainable use of GRFA – a CGIAR side event**

CGIAR

Austria room, C250bis

# BIOLOGICAL CONTROL: A NATURE-BASED SOLUTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE NON-NATIVE PLANTS

Monday 17 July 2023, Iran Room (B-116), 13:15–14:45

Organizers: Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI)

The overall objective of this side event is to inform participants about the principals of biological control of invasive non-native plants (INNPs), including its safety record and effectiveness. For some INNPs that are widespread, herbicide resistant, or occur in sensitive and/or difficult to access areas, biological control is the only feasible and economically viable option. We will be giving examples from CABI, the Centre for Biological Control, and other organisations of successful projects, highlighting the socio-economic and ecological benefits of biological control. The Nagoya Protocol on ABS sharing has had a major impact on the implementation of the discipline, and overall benefits and challenges will be shared. The three presentations will be approximately 15 minutes each, leaving time for questions and a discussion on the topic. We are looking forward to the event and hearing your views.

## Speakers

**Martin Hill**, Director, Centre for Biological Control (CBC), President of IOBC, South Africa

**Harriet L. Hinz**, Global Director Invasives, CABI Switzerland

**Matthew Ryan**, Project Portfolio Manager, UK Microbial and Molecular Services, CABI United Kingdom

*Chair:* **Harriet L. Hinz**, CABI

## ACCESS AND RIGHTS TO GENETIC RESOURCES – A NORDIC APPROACH (II)

Monday 17 July 2023, Austria Room (C-250 bis), 13:15–14:45

Organizers: The Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen)

The Nordic Council of Ministers has just published a new and updated report on “Access and Rights to Genetic Resources – A Nordic Approach (II)”. The report is an update of a related report from 2003, and includes international, Nordic and national developments within genetic resources for plants, farm animals, forest trees, fishes, wild genetic resources, invertebrates and cross cutting issues like DSI, indigenous peoples and new technologies.

The updated report “Access and Rights to Genetic Resources – A Nordic Approach (II)” will be discussed in the side event.

### Speakers

**Lise Lykke Steffensen**, Executive Director, NordGen

**Jens Weibull**, Senior Officer, Swedish Board of Agriculture, Sweden

**Álvaro Toledo**, Technical Officer, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Italy

**Birgitte Lund**, Senior Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries, Denmark

**Mari Rusanen**, Senior Specialist, Natural Resources Institute, Finland

*Chair:* **Michael Lyngkjær**, Teamleader Plant Senior Scientists, NordGen

## FROM ALMOST EXTINCT TO VIRTUALLY SAVED IN 30 YEARS – THE STORY OF LOCAL NORWEGIAN CATTLE BREEDS

Tuesday 18 July 2023, Iran Room (B-116), 13:15–14:45

Organizers: Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy (NIBIO)

In the late 1980s' the six Norwegian cattle breeds were close to extinction. A field registration was organized in 1990 revealing that one breed had only eleven breeding cows left whereas another had only 25. This was the starting point of a long-term effort to save these breeds from extinction. Now, in 2023 the situation is far better as all these breeds now have population sizes higher than 300 breeding females and close to genetically sustainable effective population sizes. The side event will present the key factors for this success story, from the establishment of a pedigree database to the involvement of breed societies and public support.

### Speaker

**Nina Svartedal**, Head of Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre in NIBIO

*Chair:* **Sipke Joost Hiemstra**, Head of Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN), Wageningen University & Research

## ENHANCING *EX SITU* CONSERVATION OF PGRFA

Tuesday 18 July 2023, Austria Room (C-250 bis), 13:15–14:45

Organizers: Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Team, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO

Three companion guides to the *Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* have been developed that detail the action steps of genebank workflow in a sequential manner:

*Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture:*

- *Conservation of orthodox seeds in seed genebanks;*
- *Conservation in field genebanks;* and
- *Conservation via in vitro culture.*

The objective of the event is to showcase the practical guides and promote their value in guiding adherence to best practices for the *ex situ* conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in seed, field and *in vitro* genebanks.

### Speakers

Opening remarks: **Dan Leskien**, Senior Liaison Officer, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Secretariat

**Bonnie Furman**, Agricultural Officer, Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Team, FAO

**Charlotte Lusty**, Senior Director Genebanks, One CGIAR

**Janny van Beem**, Global Genebank Partnership Coordinator, Crop Trust

**Sunday Aladele**, Executive Director, National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, Nigeria

Concluding remarks: **Chikelu Mba**, Deputy Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO

*Chair:* **Álvaro Toledo**, Technical Officer, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Secretariat

# SUBZERO BIODIVERSITY? THE FAO GUIDELINES ON CRYOCONSERVATION OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES AND HOW THEY ARE PUT INTO PRACTICE

Wednesday 19 July 2023, Iran Room (B-116), 13:15–14:45

Organizers: The Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen)

Cryoconservation is an essential method for farm animal gene banks work to ensure breeds' long term survival and preservation of rare genotypes. The technology has developed quickly the past years, and there was a need to update the FAO guidelines. NordGen has assisted FAO in this work which resulted in the FAO guidelines "Innovations in cryoconservation of animal genetic resources - Practical guide". This global collaboration included a broad expert panel. In this side event some of these experts will share their view on the importance of cryoconservation and the recent progress in this field.

## Speakers

**Mervi Honkatukia**, Section Leader, NordGen Farm Animals, Finland

**Paul Boettcher**, Animal Production Officer, FAO, Italy

**Samuel Paiva**, National Supervisor, Animal Genetic Resources Program, Brazil

*Chair:* **Lise Lykke Steffensen**, Executive Director, NordGen

## STRENGTHENING SEED SYSTEMS THROUGH REALIZING FARMERS' RIGHTS

Wednesday 19 July 2023, Austria Room (C-250 bis), 13:15–14:45

Organizers: Governments of Norway and India, and the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Farmers' Rights are essential for maintaining crop genetic diversity, which is the basis of all food and agricultural production in the world.

This event will:

- Provide updates on recent development on Farmers' Rights in the Treaty, including the production of *the Inventory* of national measures that may be adopted, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights and *the Options* for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights.
- Provide updates the upcoming symposium on Farmers' Rights in India.
- Link the work on Farmers' Right in the Treaty with the work on seed systems and access to seed in the Commission.

### Speakers

**Kent Nnadozie**, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

**Mario Marino**, Secretariat, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

**Trilochan Mohapatra**, Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, India

**Shawn McGuire**, Agricultural Officer (Seed Security), Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP), FAO

**Nori Ignacio**, The Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE) (*tbc*)

*Chair:* **Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim**, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway



## SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT – AN ARCTIC BACKUP FACILITY FOR THE PGR'S OF THE WORLD

Thursday 20 July 2023, Iran Room (B-116), 13:15–14:45

Organizers: The Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen), the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Crop Trust.

Svalbard Global Seed Vault is the largest backup facility for the world's crop diversity. In February 2023, the Seed Vault celebrated its 15th anniversary. Over the last 15 years the Svalbard Global Seed Vault has secured more than 1,2 million seed samples of more than 6000 plant species from 99 depositors from all over the world. This side event will focus on practical information for depositors, the mission of the Seed Vault and why safety back-ups of seeds are crucial for the global food security.

### Speakers

**Lise Lykke Steffensen**, Executive Director, NordGen, Denmark

**Kent Nnadozie**, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Italy

**Yasmina El Bahloul**, Research Director, Plant Genetic Resources breeding and conservation at National Institute of Agronomy Research, Morocco

**Janny van Beem**, Global Genebank Partnership Coordinator, Crop Trust, Germany

*Chair:* **Svanhild-I. B. Torheim**, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway

# NEW TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF GRFA – A CGIAR SIDE EVENT

Thursday 20 July 2023, Austria Room (C-250 bis), 13:15–14:45

Organizers: CGIAR

The presentation will focus on recently developed tools to enhance conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture from genebank to landscape levels.

## Speakers

**Jean Balie**, Director General / Venuprasad Ramaiah, Genebank Manager, International Rice Research Institute, Philippines. *New tools for identifying rice populations*

**Francesca Grazioli**, Associate Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Italy. *The Agrobiodiversity Index*

**Julian Ramírez-Villegas**, Principal Scientist and Leader of Data Science for Climate Action. *New tool for identifying tailored subsets from large genebank collections*

**Peter Giovannini**, Coordinator - Global Crop Conservation Strategies, Global Crop Diversity Trust, Germany. *Global crop conservation strategies*

**Barbara Vinceti**, Senior Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Italy. *Diversity for Restoration: use of appropriate tree species and seed sources for tree-based restoration*

*Chair: Isabel López Noriega*, Policy and Legal Specialist, Plant Genetic Resources and Seed Policies, Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT (CGIAR Genebank Initiative)