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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 7.3 of the Provisional Agenda

Twentieth Regular Session

Rome, 24–28 March 2025

PREPARATION OF *THE THIRD REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Nineteenth Regular Session in July 2023, reviewed and endorsed the proposed outline, process, questionnaire and timeline for the preparation of *The Third Report on The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report). It invited countries to initiate the collection of information and data for the completion of their country report questionnaires. It requested the Secretariat to finalize the questionnaire and invited countries to submit their completed questionnaires for the preparation of the Third Report by 30 June 2024.¹
2. The Commission requested the Secretariat to invite regional networks on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture (AnGR) and relevant international organizations to contribute to the preparation of the Third Report. It recommended that FAO encourage all Members and relevant international organizations to provide in a timely manner the relevant information required for the preparation of the Third Report.² The Commission further recommended that FAO encourage all Members and relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to give immediate and due priority and attention to the effective allocation of predictable and agreed resources for the preparation of the Third Report
3. The Council, at its 174th Session, endorsed the Commission's recommendations.³
4. The present document provides an update on the status of preparation of the Third Report and discusses next steps towards its finalization, including an updated timeline, taking into account recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) at its Thirteenth Session.⁴

II. BACKGROUND

5. Following an agreement by the Commission that FAO should coordinate the development of a country-driven global assessment of the state of animal genetic resources,⁵ FAO, in 2007, launched the first report on *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*⁶ (First Report). The FAO Conference, at its Thirty-fourth Session in November 2007, welcomed the report as the first comprehensive worldwide assessment of the state of AnGR.⁷
6. FAO presented the draft *Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*⁸ (Second Report) to the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission, which welcomed it as a comprehensive, timely and high-quality document.⁹ The finalized Second Report was published in 2015.¹⁰

III. PREPARATORY PROCESS

(i) Reporting by countries

7. In response to the Commission's request, FAO finalized the *Country report questionnaire supporting the preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*¹¹ in September 2023. On 12 October 2023, FAO invited, by Circular State

¹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 107.

² CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 108.

³ CL 174/REP, paragraph 33.

⁴ CGRFA-19/23/10.1, paragraphs 18–23.

⁵ CGRFA-8/99/Rep, paragraph 13.

⁶ FAO. 2007. *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. B. Rischkowsky & D. Pilling, eds. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/a1250e/a1250e.pdf>

⁷ C 2007/REP, paragraph 147 (Resolution 12/2007).

⁸ CGRFA-15/15/Inf.17.1, CGRFA-15/15/Inf.17.2, CGRFA-15/15/Inf.17.3.

⁹ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 38.

¹⁰ FAO. 2015. *The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. B.D. Scherf & D. Pilling, eds. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessments. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/i4787e/i4787e.pdf>

¹¹ CGRFA-19/23/10.3/Inf.1.

Letter, Member and Non-Member Nations to submit their country reports by 30 June 2024, using an electronic version of the questionnaire.

8. In line with the recommendations of the Working Group at its Twelfth Session,¹² additional data fields were added to the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) to enhance its complementarity with the questionnaire. A data collection process was implemented to populate these new fields and, by September 2023, 59 countries had used the Microsoft Excel® file for this purpose, compiled the data, and provided consent for uploading the information into DAD-IS. Specific data extractions were made available to National Coordinators to assist in completing relevant figures in the questionnaire.

9. In November 2023, FAO held two virtual training events to support countries in the completion of the questionnaire. In addition, two virtual workshops were held during the first semester of 2024 in Africa and a global virtual workshop in June 2024. Thanks to financial support made available by the Government of Germany, regional in-person training workshops took place between April and June 2024, in Cyprus, Kenya, Malaysia and Panama.

10. The official deadline for the submission of completed questionnaires was 30 June 2024. As of 2 August 2024, 104 countries had completed and submitted their questionnaires. These countries are listed in Table 1. The information provided was used to prepare the document *Synthesis progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources – 2024*.¹³

TABLE 1
Countries that submitted questionnaires, according to region

Region	Countries
Africa (33)	Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Asia (13)	Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand
Europe and the Caucasus (30)	Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Latin America and the Caribbean (16)	Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Uruguay
Near East (8)	Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Yemen
North America (2)	Canada, United States of America
Southwest Pacific (2)	Cook Islands, Tonga

Note: The assignment of countries to regions follows the assignment used in the First and the Second Report. The assignment is based on various considerations, including production environments, cultural factors, and the distribution of shared AnGR. Because of these various considerations, the regional groupings do not correspond exactly to the standard FAO regions used in FAO statistics and for FAO election purposes (although for most countries the assignment does not differ from the standard classification).

¹² CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/Report, paragraph 22.

¹³ CGRFA-20/25/7.3/Inf.1.

(ii) Other sources of information

11. In March 2024, 188 international organizations were invited to report on their activities contributing to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (Global Plan of Action).¹⁴ As of 15 August 2024, eleven international organizations reported on their activities (Table 2).

12. In June 2024, regional focal points and networks for animal genetic resources were invited to report on regional-level activities and priorities related to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. As of 20 August 2024, the regional focal points for Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean completed their submissions.

TABLE 2

International organizations that reported on the work on animal genetic resources

Acronym	Full name
ACSAD*	Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
ADB	Asian Development Bank
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
DNI	DesertNET International
EAAP*	European Federation of Animal Science
Heifer*	Heifer International
IAEA*	International Atomic Energy Agency
ILRI*	International Livestock Research Institute
NordGen*	Nordic Genetic Resource Centre
RBI*	Rare Breeds International
SAVE Foundation*	Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe

*This organization also provided information for the Second Report.

13. Key findings from the information provided by international organizations and regional focal points and networks are summarized in the document *Synthesis progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources – 2024*.¹⁵

IV. SPECIAL TOPICS

14. In endorsing the outline of the Third Report, the Commission approved, subject to the availability of the necessary resources, the coverage of “special topics”, including: (i) vulnerability of animal genetic resources in the face of climate change and the role of genetic diversity in adaptation and resilience; (ii) establishment and scaling-up of breeding programmes in challenging environments; and (iii) genomic measures of genetic variation and the future use of the breed concept in the formation of new breeds.¹⁶ The Working Group, at its Twelfth Session, also suggested addressing the topics of gene editing and other emerging technologies, if possible.

15. In response to these recommendations, FAO commissioned the preparation of thematic studies covering the three topics and a study on genome editing and emerging technologies in animal phenotyping. These studies are at various stages of development and will be made available online for commenting by countries along with sections of the draft Third Report. The Working Group took of

¹⁴ FAO. 2007. *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/a1404e>

¹⁵ CGRFA-20/25/7.3/Inf.1.

¹⁶ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-11/21/Report, paragraph 21.

the status of the preparation of thematic studies and their relevant issues and questions.¹⁷ The Working Group also recommended that the Third Report consider regional specificities and highlight important issues and data, including those related to cryoconservation.¹⁸

V. TIMELINE FOR THE FINALIZATION OF THE THIRD REPORT

16. The endorsed timeline¹⁹ for preparation of the Third Report foresees, in line with the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work,²⁰ presentation of the Third Report at the Fourteenth Session of the Working Group in November 2026 and at the Twenty-first Regular Session of the Commission in March 2027. Following the presentation of the report to the Working Group and the Commission, the finalized publication would be launched in late 2027. Table 3 shows the updated timeline for finalization of the Third Report.

17. As recommended by the Working Group and endorsed by the Commission, the timeline includes an opportunity for countries to update their country reports before the finalization of the Third Report. The Working Group recommended that the Commission encourage countries to continue the collection of information and data for updating their country report questionnaires.²¹ The deadline for such updates, as recommended by the Working Group, would be 30 April 2025.²² The same deadline would apply to the submission of information by countries that have not yet submitted any information. International organizations and regional focal points and networks would also be given the opportunity to update the information they provided by this deadline.

VI. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

18. The Commission, at its Nineteenth Regular Session, recommended that FAO encourage all Members and relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to give immediate and due priority and attention to the effective allocation of predictable and agreed resources for the preparation of the Third Report. The costs associated with preparation of the Third Report have been estimated to be USD 700 000.²³

19. The Government of Germany has provided an extra-budgetary contribution of approximately USD 400 000 to support FAO in the implementation of activities related to the management of animal genetic resources, of which approximately USD 200 000 have been directly allocated to the preparation of the Third Report. No other extra-budgetary support has been pledged to date.

20. In addition to financial contributions, the preparation of previous reports has relied on substantial in-kind contributions from countries and international organizations to provide technical inputs to the preparation and review of the content. Such contributions are invaluable and essential to ensure the scientific accuracy and a global perspective of the report, ensuring its relevance for diverse animal genetic resources across all production systems. Successful and timely preparation of the Third Report will again demand such in-kind contributions.

VII. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

21. The Commission may wish to:

- (i) encourage countries to continue the collection of information and data for the updating of their country report questionnaires, as appropriate;
- (ii) endorse the updated timeline and invite countries to update their country report questionnaires (and countries that have not yet done so to complete the questionnaire) by 30 April 2025;

¹⁷ CGRFA-20/25/7.1, paragraph 20.

¹⁸ CGRFA-20/25/7.1, paragraph 19.

¹⁹ CGRFA-19/23/10.3, Figure 1.

²⁰ CGRFA-19/23/Report, *Appendix E*, Annex 1.

²¹ CGRFA-20/25/7.1, paragraph 22.

²² CGRFA-20/25/7.1, paragraph 21.

²³ CGRFA-19/23/10.3, paragraphs 21 and 22, Table 2.

- (iii) recommend that FAO publish online for review by Members draft elements of the Third Report, as they become available, and engage with Members actively in the finalization of the Third Report by organizing a dedicated webinar for each element;
- (iv) invite FAO Members to provide support and expertise for the preparation and review of the Third Report; and
- (v) appeal to FAO Members and relevant international mechanisms, funds and bodies to consider timely allocation of resources for the finalization of the Third Report.

TABLE 3

Updated timeline for finalization of the *Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Third Report)*

Activity	2025												2026												2027					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	5	5	6
Mobilize funding																														
Review of draft special topic studies																														
Submit/update questionnaires																														
Update data in DAD-IS																														
Export DAD-IS data for Third Report																														
Provide comments on draft Third Report																														
Provide comments on revised draft Third Report																														
Presentation to ITWG-AnGR-14																														
Presentation to CGRFA-21																														

Note: DAD-IS = Domestic Animal Diversity Information System; ITWG-AnGR = Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; CGRFA = Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.