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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 10.1 of the Provisional Agenda

Nineteenth Regular Session

Rome, 17–21 July 2023

REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Note by the Secretariat

The Commission, at its last session, requested its intergovernmental technical working groups to meet prior to its Nineteenth Regular Session.¹ The Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) was held in Rome from 18 to 20 January 2023. The Working Group reviewed the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources² and the monitoring of animal genetic resources, including the status of development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS). It also considered the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the role of micro-organisms relevant to ruminant digestion. With regard to cross-sectoral issues, the Working Group explored the role of animal genetic resources in the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, access and benefit-sharing, digital sequence information, and considered the Draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031. The report of the Twelfth Session of the Working Group is contained in this document, for consideration by the Commission.

¹ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 122.

² FAO 2007. *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/a1404e/a1404e.pdf>



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

**COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/Report

**Twelfth Session of the
Intergovernmental Technical
Working Group on Animal
Genetic Resources for Food and
Agriculture**

18–20 January 2023

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

REPORT OF THE TWELFTH SESSION

OF THE

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON

ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

18–20 January 2023

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 2023

The documents prepared for the Twelfth Session of the Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are available on the Internet at the following address:

www.fao.org/animal-genetics/events/events-detail/en/c/1603813

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) was held in Rome, Italy, from 18 to 20 January 2023. The Members and alternates of the Working Group are given in *Appendix B*. The list of delegates and observers is available on the meeting web page.³

II. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND *RAPPORTEUR*

2. Mr M'naouer Djemali (Tunisia), Vice-Chair of the Eleventh Session of the Working Group, opened the session on behalf of Mr Hongjie Yang (China), the Chair of the Eleventh Session, and welcomed delegates and observers.

3. Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Director, Animal Production and Health Division, welcomed delegates and observers. He reminded participants of the importance of the livestock sector, and noted the challenges it faces. He stressed the need for a sustainable transformation of the livestock sector and pointed out the critically important role of animal genetic diversity in this context. He emphasized that any decisions made on policy at the global level must be translated into action at national and local levels, and pledged the full support of FAO to countries in their efforts to conserve and sustainably use animal genetic resources for food and agriculture (AnGR). He highlighted that the agenda items to be discussed in this meeting were timely and highly relevant, not only to the sustainable development and conservation of AnGR, but also to the livestock sector as a whole.

4. Ms Irene Hoffmann, Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) welcomed delegates and observers. She stressed that the sustainable management of AnGR has had an impact far beyond the livestock sector, and that, to be sustainable, the transformation of the livestock sector must be holistic in scope and take into consideration all ecosystem services associated with livestock production systems. Referring to the Commission's *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (Global Plan of Action), she emphasized the importance of agroecosystem approaches, in particular for the management of AnGR. Referring to the implementation of the recently adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, she urged Members of the Working Group to keep up the momentum and strengthen efforts to conserve and sustainably use AnGR with a view to transform the livestock sector, in light of the seven years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

5. The Working Group, in consultation with the regions, replaced absent Members of the Working Group with other Members of the Commission present at the meeting. France, Panama, Qatar and Saudi Arabia therefore attended the meeting as Members of the Working Group.

6. The Working Group elected Mr Harvey Blackburn (United States of America) as Chair. Mr Samuel Rezende Paiva (Brazil), Mr Bhupendra Nath Tripathi (India), Mr Sami Ayed Awabdeh (Jordan), Mr Tlou Chokoe (South Africa), Ms Montserrat Castellanos (Spain) and Mr Charles Kato (Tonga) as Vice-Chairs. Mr Tripathi was elected *Rapporteur*.

7. The Working Group adopted the agenda as given in *Appendix A*.

³ <https://www.fao.org/animal-genetics/events/events-detail/en/c/1603813>

III. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

8. The Working Group considered the document *Review of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*⁴ and took note of the *Summary progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.⁵

9. The Working Group recommended that the Commission call upon countries to continue to implement the Global Plan of Action and improve management of AnGR with a view to contribute to global food security, sustainable rural development and the achievement of SDGs 2 and 15. It recommended that the Commission request FAO to continue to support countries in implementing the Global Plan of Action, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition. This support should include capacity-building workshops, held both online and in person, in cooperation with regional networks and national stakeholders, to take advantage of the regional and local knowledge and expertise. The Working Group proposed animal identification and recording, genetic improvement, *ex situ* conservation, agroecology, sustainable beekeeping and the development of livestock value chains for smallholders among the topics of key interest.

10. The Working Group recommended that the Commission request FAO to increase efforts in fund-raising and invite donors to contribute to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by providing funds to the FAO Trust Account. It invited technical agencies and donors to develop and implement national AnGR projects with the wide inclusion of stakeholders and National Coordinators for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources (National Coordinators).

11. The Working Group invited FAO and all relevant stakeholders to continue raising awareness on the importance of AnGR and the roles of livestock keepers and of livestock species and breeds and their production systems in the provision of ecosystem services.

IV. MONITORING THE DIVERSITY OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

12. The Working Group considered the document *Monitoring the diversity of animal genetic resources*⁶ and took note of the documents *Status and trends of animal genetic resources – 2022*,⁷ *Detailed report on the development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System*,⁸ and *Methods for estimation of within-population genetic variation*.⁹

13. The Working Group welcomed the updating of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) and highlighted the significance of DAD-IS as the international clearing-house mechanism for AnGR. It recommended that FAO continue providing Regular Programme funding and technical support to further maintain and develop DAD-IS and increase its user-friendliness, including tools that facilitate visualization of geographic distributions of national breed populations, and consider the inclusion of data fields, including for digital object identifier (DOI) or PubMed ID records, to increase the visibility and use of DAD-IS.

⁴ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/3.

⁵ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/3/Inf.1.

⁶ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4.

⁷ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4/Inf.1.

⁸ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4/Inf.2.

⁹ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4/Inf.3.

14. The Working Group further recommended that the Commission stress the need for countries to regularly update their national data in DAD-IS, especially the data pertaining to breed adaptation classifications and to bees managed for food and agriculture, to ensure that decisions on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and achievement of SDG Targets 2.4 and 2.5 are informed by the most up-to-date data and information available.
15. The Working Group recommended that the Commission invite FAO to continue developing and/or refining low-cost and cost-efficient methodologies for the estimation of the sizes of national breed populations, and providing technical support to countries in estimating breed population sizes and other data relevant to monitor the diversity of livestock breeds and managed bee populations.
16. The Working Group recommended that FAO perform an analysis of the rate of reporting for breed performance data in DAD-IS for consideration by the Working Group at its next session and that countries and FAO continue working on the interoperability of DAD-IS with existing regional data information systems to avoid duplication of efforts.
17. It recommended that FAO continue to study, develop and refine genomic, pedigree and/or demographic indicators of within-population genetic diversity, to explore the potential impact on risk classification of combining such indicators with current census data, and to propose related data fields for DAD-IS, for consideration by the Working Group at its next session.
18. The Working Group further recommended that FAO explore new low-cost approaches to address data collection for SDG indicator 2.4.1 and encouraged FAO to explore with the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the SDGs (IAEG-SDG) the potential of broadening the scope of the SDG Indicator 2.5.2 to include also transboundary breeds.

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

19. The Working Group considered the document *Preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*¹⁰ (Third Report) and took note of the information document *Draft 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
20. The Working Group considered the scope, approach and outline proposed for the Third Report. It recommended that the Commission adopt the extended timeline with the presentation of the Third Report at the Twenty-first Regular Session of the Commission. It proposed that the timeline include a new step after the Twentieth Regular Session to allow countries to provide a brief update on their country report before the finalization of the Third Report.
21. The Working Group proposed modifying the outline to highlight the involvement of women, youth, indigenous communities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the management of AnGR. It suggested addressing the “state of science and technology” in Part 2 to complement discussion on national capacities. Among the special topics in Part 3, the Working Group highlighted the importance of “genomic measures of genetic variation and the future use of the breed concept in the formation of new breeds” and “establishing and scaling-up of breeding programmes in challenging environments”. The Working Group recommended

¹⁰ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/5.

¹¹ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/5/Inf.1.

including the vulnerability of AnGR to climate change. The Working Group also suggested addressing the topic of gene editing and other emerging technologies. It invited the Secretariat to involve Working Group Members in the development of Part 4 on the “Needs and challenges in AnGR management” and to reflect the economic impact of the Global Plan of Action, based on information provided by countries.

22. The Working Group reviewed the proposed questionnaire and recommended specific changes that were then agreed upon during the session. The agreements included the transfer of certain questions to the Commission’s cross-sectoral questionnaire on climate change, merging of similar questions, and replacing certain free-text responses with multiple choice options based on previous country reports. In addition, an agreement was reached to improve the complementarity of the questionnaire with DAD-IS, through addition of new data fields and facilitation of the extraction of DAD-IS data relevant for specific questions. The modified version of the questionnaire will be presented for review by the Nineteenth Regular Session of the Commission.

23. The Working Group recommended that the Commission review and adopt the outline, process, questionnaire and timeline for the preparation of the Third Report, as reviewed by the Secretariat in the light of the Working Group’s comments and recommendations. It recommended that the questionnaire be finalized and circulated to Members by 1 September 2023 and that regional networks on AnGR and relevant international organizations be also invited to contribute to the preparation of the Third Report.

24. The Working Group further recommended that the Commission encourage countries to initiate the collection of information and data for the completion of the questionnaires and to submit their completed questionnaires for the preparation of the Third Report by 30 June 2024.

25. The Working Group also recommended that the Commission invite FAO Members and international organizations to support and contribute to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and appeal to FAO 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.

VI. THE ROLE OF MICROORGANISMS RELEVANT TO RUMINANT DIGESTION

26. The Working Group considered the working document *Microorganisms relevant to ruminant digestion*¹² and took note of the *Draft study on the sustainable use and conservation of microorganisms of relevance to ruminant digestion*.¹³ It recognized the relevance of ruminant livestock production to two important challenges facing the world: improving the food security and nutrition of a growing world population and mitigating climate change. It noted the need to manage and conserve the genetic diversity contained in local breeds, feeds and rumen microbes in an integrated manner. It stressed the need for research on rumen microbiome management, in particular in relation to ruminant breeding and husbandry, production efficiency, disease resistance and resilience to changing environmental conditions as well as the potential effects of relevant microorganisms on animal and human health, but also on feed innovations for climate mitigation.

¹² CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/6.

¹³ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/6/Inf.1.

27. The Working Group encouraged relevant stakeholders, including scientific institutions, to collaborate, and stressed the need for capacity development of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.
28. The Working Group invited Members and observers to submit concrete comments on and inputs to the *Draft study on the sustainable use and conservation of microorganisms of relevance to ruminant digestion*¹⁴ by 1 April 2023, on the understanding that the Secretariat will compile and make available all submissions in the languages in which they were received, and consolidate the draft study in the light of these comments, for the information of the Commission. The Working Group suggested to identify and consult national experts in the preparation of the comments on the study.
29. The Working Group recommended that the Commission invite countries to promote the sustainable use and conservation of microorganisms of relevance to ruminant digestion and ensure they are given due consideration in local, national, regional and international policies and policy development processes.

VII. THE ROLE OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN MITIGATION OF AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

30. The Working Group considered the document *Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture*¹⁵ and took note of the document *FAO's work on climate change*.¹⁶
31. The Working Group reviewed the *Draft questionnaire on genetic resources for food and agriculture and climate change*,¹⁷ and noted the need to include livestock industry contributions. The Working Group recommended that the Commission request the Secretariat to finalize and circulate the questionnaire to National Coordinators by 1 September 2023, together with the *Draft country report questionnaire supporting the preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,¹⁸ with a view to establishing a baseline of national responses of all sectors. It recommended that the Secretariat prepare a summary of responses to the questionnaire for consideration by the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions.
32. The Working Group furthermore recommended that the Commission request the Secretariat to convene a global multi-stakeholder workshop on climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) to exchange information and experiences, share views and priorities, in particular on breeding programmes directed towards adaptation traits and mitigation, and to discuss possible changes to the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*.¹⁹ In addition, it recommended that the Commission request the Secretariat to revise the Voluntary Guidelines, in light of the outcome of the workshop and taking into account the responses received to the questionnaire. The draft revised Voluntary Guidelines should be considered in regional consultations and subsequently by the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions.

¹⁴ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/6/Inf.1.

¹⁵ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/7.

¹⁶ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/7/Inf.1.

¹⁷ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/7, *Appendix I*.

¹⁸ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/5/Inf.1.

¹⁹ FAO. 2015. *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/a-i4940e.pdf>

33. It further recommended that the Commission invite FAO to continue to develop capacity and facilitate training in AnGR management in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation in collaboration with existing intergovernmental and international bodies.

34. In addition, the Working Group recommended that the Commission invite Members to make use of the FAO tools and guidance on climate change adaptation and mitigation when developing or updating their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

VIII. ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

35. The Working Group considered the document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture*²⁰ and took note of the document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture: typology of country measures*²¹ and the *Draft questionnaire on the implications of access and benefit-sharing measures for the use and exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture and for benefit-sharing*.²²

36. The Working Group took note of developments under other international agreements and instruments relevant to access and benefit-sharing (ABS), including the outcome of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), held in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada. It welcomed the adoption of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and noted with appreciation that the Framework addresses genetic diversity of domesticated species and requires maintaining and restoring the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable management practices. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to prepare a document for the Commission's next session on the implications of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and other decisions of COP 15 for the work of the Commission.

37. The Working Group noted the potential impact of ABS on the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR and stressed the need for governments and relevant stakeholders to make themselves familiar with the issue. It supported continued close collaboration with relevant international organizations and instruments, in particular the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to raise awareness among key stakeholders and provide capacity development and training programmes addressing ABS for GRFA.

38. The Working Group recommended clarifying in the introduction to the document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture: typology of country measures*²³ that ABS country measures mentioned in the document were examples only and are in no way meant to be exhaustive. It further recommended visualizing some of the elements of specific ABS country measures, for example by adding figures or diagrams to the document. Members of the Working Group provided detailed comments on specific sections of the document for further consideration by the ABS Expert Team.

39. The Working Group supported work that deepens the empirical evidence needed to understand the effects of ABS measures. It noted the Commission's request to prepare a

²⁰ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8.

²¹ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8/Inf.1.

²² CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8/Inf.2.

²³ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8/Inf.1.

report, based on responses to a pre-tested questionnaire, on the effects of ABS country measures on the utilization and conservation of GRFA and the sharing of benefits. The Working Group provided detailed comments on and inputs to the *Draft questionnaire on the implications of access and benefit-sharing measures for the use and exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture and for benefit-sharing*²⁴ and requested its revision. It further recommended clarifying: (i) the key target respondents; (ii) the role of competent national authorities and the Commission's National Coordinators/Focal Points for the survey; (iii) in an introduction to the questionnaire, the purpose of the survey and the need for the different stakeholders to take part in the survey; (iv) the timeline of the survey; and (v) the preparation of the report on the effects of ABS country measures and users' experiences with their application.

40. The Working Group noted that further comments on both, the typology of ABS country measures and the questionnaire, could be submitted in writing for further consideration by the Sixth Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing, to be held from 2 to 4 May 2023.

IX. DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION AND ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

41. The Working Group considered the document *Digital sequence information and genetic resources for food and agriculture*.²⁵ It took note of the draft study on *The role of digital sequence information for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture: opportunities and challenges*.²⁶

42. The Working Group noted that digital sequence information (DSI) is routinely being used and shared globally and that a primary limiting factor to its use is a lack of human and technical capacity. It recommended that FAO support countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in building the technical, institutional and human capacity necessary to utilize DSI for research and development related to GRFA.

43. The Working Group commended the Commission for organizing, in collaboration with the CBD, the Treaty, CABI and the CGIAR Genebank Initiative the *Global Workshop on Digital Sequence Information and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,²⁷ held virtually on 14 and 15 November 2022. It recommended that the Commission hold further webinars or workshops to inform Commission Members and observers about issues related to DSI, including technological and policy developments, and to facilitate dialogue at national, regional and global levels. The Working Group further supported to continue close collaboration between the Commission and the different fora dealing with DSI, including the CBD and the Treaty.

44. The Working Group noted with appreciation the technical content of the draft study on *The role of digital sequence information for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture: opportunities and challenges*.²⁸ It provided detailed technical comments on the draft study, including its structure, for further consideration, and noted a lack of balance between the sections on animal and plant genetic resources; it

²⁴ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8/Inf.2.

²⁵ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/9.

²⁶ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/9/Inf.1.

²⁷ https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/dsi_workshop_2022/en/

²⁸ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/9/Inf.1.

recommended that applications of DSI in the development and use of AnGR be featured more broadly.

45. The Working Group took note of recent developments in other fora, in particular Decision 15/9 on DSI on genetic resources adopted by COP15.²⁹ It noted that Parties to the CBD had decided to establish, as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources, including a global fund. It also took note of the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of DSI to undertake further development of the multilateral mechanism.

46. The Working Group recommended that the Secretariat continue monitoring and, as appropriate, contributing to the work on DSI in other fora, including by participating in the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of DSI, with a view to consider the potential implications for GRFA and report to the Commission. It further recommended that the Secretariat bring to the attention of the Members of the Commission the invitation by the COP of the CBD to submit views on issues for further consideration listed in the Annex to Decision 15/9 and invite Members to include in their submissions information on the role of DSI in the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA.

47. The Working Group recommended that the Commission request the Secretariat to invite Members, if their domestic ABS measures are also applying to DSI, to submit information on these measures and their actual or potential implications for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA.

X. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

48. The Working Group considered the document *Strategic plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: review and update*³⁰ and took note with appreciation of the progress made in the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) since the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission.

49. The Working Group reviewed the draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031 and recommended to replace in the mission, goals and rationale of the Strategic Plan all references to “biodiversity for food and agriculture, including genetic resources” with “genetic resources for food and agriculture and all other forms of biodiversity for food and agriculture.” In line with its conclusions on agenda item 5, it recommended that the launch of *The Third Report on the State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and the review of the Global Plan of Action be postponed to the Commission’s Twenty-first Regular Session (2026/2027).

50. The Working Group recommended that the Commission request the Secretariat to propose a procedure for the identification of new and emerging issues for inclusion into the MYPOW. It further recommended to invite donors to contribute to the cross-sectoral multidonor trust fund for the implementation of the MYPOW.

XI. ANY OTHER MATTERS

51. The Working Group briefly considered the ongoing discussion on the future organization of the Commission’s intersessional work and considered the balance between issues related to AnGR and cross-sectoral matters during past sessions. While considering

²⁹ CBD/COP/DEC/15/9.

³⁰ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/10.

cross-sectoral matters as relevant and important to its mandate, the Working Group recommended to strengthen its work on matters directly related to the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR. The Working Group encouraged countries to propose, in the context of the Commission's Strategic Plan 2023–2031, relevant topics related to AnGR for future work of the Commission and the Working Group. The Working Group recommended to focus during its forthcoming Thirteenth and Fourteenth Sessions on the review of the Third Report and the Global Plan of Action.

XII. CLOSING STATEMENTS

52. Mr Paul Boettcher, Secretary of the Working Group, on behalf of Mr Badi Besbes, Chief, Animal Production and Genetics Branch, congratulated the Working Group on its accomplishments and on a fruitful meeting. He affirmed the commitment of the Animal Production and Health Division, and the Animal Production and Genetics Branch in particular, to work with Members to continue supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. He emphasized the technical support to be provided in gathering data for the Third Report. He recalled the importance of AnGR in the sustainable livestock transformation and informed participants about the Global Conference on Sustainable Livestock Transformation to be held in September 2023. He ended by thanking the Government of Germany for its generous financial support and other countries for their in-kind contributions.

53. Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission, on behalf of Ms Irene Hoffmann, Secretary, Commission, congratulated the Working Group on having addressed the agenda, on both AnGR-related matters and cross-sectoral items, with remarkable efficiency, highlighting that this will serve as guidance for the Commission and inspire FAO's technical work. He encouraged the Working Group to identify through the Commission items related to AnGR for future work. He thanked the Governments of Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland for their financial support to the implementation of the Commission's MYPOW and concluded by expressing his gratitude to the Working Group, the Chairperson and *Rapporteur* for their guidance during the meeting.

54. The Commission expressed its gratitude to the Chairperson for his wisdom and guidance and the manner in which he had conducted the session. It also noted with appreciation, the guidance provided by the Vice-Chairpersons and the dedicated work of the *Rapporteur*. The Commission thanked the Secretariat and all the staff from FAO for their efforts before and during the session, noting the importance of all of the staff that had made the session possible.

55. The Chair thanked all delegates and the *Rapporteur*, as well as the Secretariat and support staff, for their contributions to the success of the session. He reminded everyone to always keep in mind their responsibility to the hard-working livestock keepers that directly manage AnGR. He further invited the Working Group to continue, or even double their efforts in guiding the management of local AnGR. He concluded by expressing his happiness that the Working Group was again meeting in person after the global pandemic and wished everyone a safe trip back home.

APPENDIX A

**AGENDA OF THE TWELFTH SESSION OF
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON
ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

18–20 January 2023

1. Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and *Rapporteur*
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
3. Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
4. Monitoring the diversity of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture
5. Preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*
6. The role of micro-organisms relevant to ruminant digestion
7. The role of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change
8. Access and benefit-sharing for animal genetic resources for food and agriculture
9. “Digital sequence information” and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture
10. Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
11. Any other matters
12. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B

**MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE, ELECTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS EIGHTEENTH REGULAR
SESSION**

<i>Composition (no. of countries per region)</i>	<i>Country</i>
Africa (5)	Kenya Malawi Namibia South Africa Tunisia <i>First Alternate:</i> Uganda <i>Second Alternate:</i> Cameroon
Asia (5)	China India Malaysia Philippines Republic of Korea <i>First Alternate:</i> Bangladesh <i>Second Alternate:</i> Thailand
Europe (5)	Netherlands Norway Poland Spain Switzerland <i>First Alternate:</i> France <i>Second Alternate:</i> Slovenia
Latin America and the Caribbean (5)	Argentina Brazil Costa Rica Peru Uruguay <i>First Alternate:</i> Chile <i>Second Alternate:</i> Colombia
Near East (4)	Iraq Jordan Sudan Yemen <i>First Alternate:</i> Saudi Arabia <i>Second Alternate:</i> Syrian Arab Republic
North America (2)	Canada United States of America
Southwest Pacific (2)	Fiji Tonga <i>First Alternate:</i> Vanuatu <i>Second Alternate:</i> Samoa

APPENDIX C

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/1	Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and Rapporteur
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/1/Inf.1	Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and Members and Alternates elected by the Eighteenth Regular Session of the Commission
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/1/Inf.2	Information note for participants
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/2	Provisional agenda
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/2/Inf.1	List of documents
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/2 Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda and timetable
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/3	Review of implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/3/Inf.1	Summary progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4	Monitoring the diversity of animal genetic resources
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4/Inf.1	Status and trends of animal genetic resources – 2022
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4/Inf.2	Detailed report on the development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/4/Inf.3	Methods for estimation of within-population genetic variation
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/5	Preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/5/Inf.1	Draft country report questionnaire supporting the preparation of the <i>Third Report on The State of The World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/6	Micro-organisms relevant to ruminant digestion
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/6/Inf.1	Draft study on the sustainable use and conservation of microorganisms of relevance to rumen digestion
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/7	Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/7/Inf.1	FAO's work on climate change
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8	Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8/Inf.1	Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture: Typology of country measures

CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/8/Inf.2	Draft questionnaire on the implications of access and benefit-sharing measures for the use and exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture and for benefit-sharing
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/9	Digital sequence information and genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/9/Inf.1	The role of digital sequence information for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture: opportunities and challenges
CGRFA/WG-AnGR-12/23/10	Strategic plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: review and update

Other documents

Innovations in cryoconservation of animal genetic resources – Practical guide

Genomic characterization of animal genetic resources – Practical guide

Collection and estimation of population size data for risk classification in DAD-IS – EN FR ES ZH