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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2.1 of the Provisional Agenda

Sixteenth Regular Session

Rome, 30 January - 3 February 2017

**REPORT OF THE INFORMAL REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE
STATE OF EUROPE'S AND CENTRAL ASIA'S BIODIVERSITY FOR
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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

COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE

Informal Regional Consultation on the State of Europe's and Central Asia's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

Meeting Report

Bonn, Germany
18 – 20 April 2016

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The Informal Regional Consultation on the State of Europe's and Central Asia's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture was held in Bonn, Germany, from 18 to 20 April 2016. The meeting was organized jointly by the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REU) and the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE) of Germany. The list of participants from countries and regional organizations is given in *Annex III* to this report.

2. Mr Hanns-Christoph Eiden, President of BLE, opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Bonn, a city known for international cooperation and sustainability and its long history of hosting UN and other international organizations. Mr Eiden reflected on the importance of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including its less visible components, to sustainable food production in Europe and Central Asia. He also referred to the draft National Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Genetic Resources of Micro-organisms and Invertebrates, currently under debate in Germany, as an example of the increasing awareness of the important role associated biodiversity plays in food and agriculture.

3. Mr Avetik Nersisyan, Agricultural Officer at the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (FAO REU), on behalf of Mr Vladimir Rakhmanin, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for FAO REU, welcomed the participants. Mr Nersisyan gave examples of the region's richness in biodiversity and stressed the importance of conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture by promoting its use.

4. Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, welcomed participants on behalf of Ms Irene Hoffmann, Secretary of the Commission, and thanked BLE and FAO REU for co-organizing the meeting. Mr Leskien stressed the importance of the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (SoW BFA) for the future work of the Commission and encouraged countries that had not yet done so to submit their Country Report as soon as possible.

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

5. The Secretariat of the Commission presented the context for the regional consultation, and noted that in adopting its Multi-Year Programme of Work, the Commission had agreed, at its Eleventh Regular Session in 2007, to the preparation of the SoW BFA¹, and, at its Fourteenth Regular Session, had requested FAO to prepare the SoW BFA for consideration at its Sixteenth Regular Session, following a process agreed upon by the Commission. The Secretariat also noted that the Commission had stressed that the process for preparing the SoW BFA should be based on information from Country Reports and should also draw on thematic studies, reports from international organizations and inputs from other relevant stakeholders, including centres of excellence from developing countries.² The Secretariat further noted that following a request from the Commission at its last session in January 2015,³ a series of informal regional consultations for the SoW BFA were being held in 2016, the objective being to share knowledge and information on the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture and to discuss needs and priorities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the respective regions.

6. Participants agreed to divide their work into three main sessions, addressing the four main areas of management identified in the *Guidelines for the preparation of the Country Reports for The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*⁴:

- i. Assessment and monitoring (Chapters 1 and 2)
- ii. Sustainable use and conservation (Chapters 3 and 4)

¹ CGRFA-11/07/Report

² CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 14.

³ CGRA/15/Report, paragraph 13.

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/biodiversity/guidelines/en/>

iii. Policies, institutions and capacity/Regional and international cooperation (Chapter 5)

7. The agenda of the meeting is contained in *Annex I* to this report.

8. At the beginning of each of the three sessions, the Secretariat presented the main findings relevant to the respective area of management from a preliminary analysis of Country Reports submitted before 5 April 2016. Participants then split into working groups and identified regional needs, priorities and possible actions for each main area. The working groups reported their results back to the plenary for discussion. On day 3, a consolidated list of needs, priorities and possible actions was reviewed in plenary and finalized, as given in *Annex II* to this report.

9. During the meeting, Mr Gonzalo Eiriz Gervás, Spain's National Focal Point for *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, provided information on biological control initiatives undertaken in Spain. Ms Johanna Wider, Agro-biodiversity Officer at the German Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity, presented the proposed National Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Genetic Resources of Micro-organisms and Invertebrates currently being considered by the German Government.

III. STATUS OF PREPARATION OF THE REGION'S COUNTRY REPORTS FOR THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

10. During the introductory session, the Commission Secretariat presented an overview of the status of preparation of the SoW BFA. It also introduced the draft *Synthesis of the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture in Europe and Central Asia* (draft regional report), which provides an analysis of the Country Reports⁵ and the draft Country Reports⁶ received by the Secretariat before 5 April 2016. The draft regional report had been circulated prior to the meeting to all participants.

11. The Commission Secretariat confirmed that Country Reports completed, endorsed by governments and submitted to the Commission Secretariat by 15 July 2016 would be reflected in the draft revised regional report, as well as in the draft SoW BFA. Whereas the draft SoW BFA would be presented to the Commission at its Sixteenth Regular Session, the finalized regional report would be published together with the final SoW BFA. Prior to its publication, the revised regional report would be submitted to the National Focal Points, for their comments and input.

IV. NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

12. In the first session, addressing chapters one and two on monitoring and assessment, topics considered included the status of submission of Country Reports in the region, reporting constraints, coverage of biodiversity hotspots in the region, production systems reported, examples of associated biodiversity and wild food species and their status and trends, the relation between associated biodiversity and ecosystem services, examples of national information systems, and needs and priorities for monitoring and assessment of biodiversity for food and agriculture reported by countries.

13. Participants described problems they faced in collecting the information required for the preparation of Country Reports, including according to the proposed classification of production systems across sectors, and in involving the various stakeholders in their countries. They also

⁵ Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

⁶ Slovakia, Slovenia.

discussed the concept of biodiversity for food and agriculture and how associated biodiversity is usually seen by the environment sector as part of the agriculture's domain, while within the agriculture sector the responsibility for associated biodiversity is not commonly defined. Participants highlighted the need to develop baseline surveys and strengthen monitoring systems for biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, for associated biodiversity. In this respect, financial support through public funds, as well as through private-public partnerships was considered essential. Participants also discussed the importance of raising awareness among policy-makers on the economic value of associated biodiversity and the ecosystem services to which they contribute.

14. During the second session, topics discussed included sustainable use, conservation, access and exchange of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Participants considered examples of practices promoting the maintenance and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, of how biodiversity for food and agriculture is used to cope with climate change, invasive alien species and natural or human-made disasters, and of *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation of associated biodiversity and wild food species. They shared information on the status of adoption and implementation of ecosystem, landscape and seascape approaches across the region and linkages between associated biodiversity species and ecosystem services.

15. During the third session, participants considered the key findings of the draft regional report with regard to policies, institutions, capacity and regional and international cooperation, on the basis of examples of national policies addressing: i) use and conservation of associated biodiversity and wild food species, as well as of their habitats; ii) maintenance of ecosystem services; iii) resilience and sustainability of production systems; and iv) implementation of ecosystem, landscape and seascape approaches.

16. During the discussions in plenary, participants noted, *inter alia*, that evidence-based research to verify the perceived positive impact of certain management practices on biodiversity for food and agriculture is essential. Some participants stressed the need to exchange information on best practices concerning the use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, for example through regional research networks. Others highlighted the need to identify, for specific production systems, (groups of) species with particularly essential functions. Issues raised also included the need to collect data and develop scenarios to assess the (potential) effects of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity for food and agriculture, and further develop markets and value chains for products from production systems that favour the maintenance and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture.

V. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

17. In their closing remarks, participants expressed their appreciation for the draft regional report, which they considered a valuable input to the informal consultation. They thanked the organizers, and BMEL for hosting and BLE for their support to the regional consultation. In evaluating the process, participants recommended adopting, for future assessments, a simpler reporting approach that would allow countries to prepare stand-alone reports and at the same time provide the information needed for the global assessment. Participants requested the Secretariat to make the Country Reports that have been prepared so far publicly available. The Secretariat informed participants that Country Reports would be published on the Commission's website once the final SoW BFA had been published and that countries wishing to publish their report before that date would, naturally, be free to do so.

18. In his closing remarks, Mr Leskien thanked participants for the fruitful discussions and valuable contributions. He expressed his gratitude to BLE and to FAO REU for their assistance in the organization of the meeting and to the BMEL for its generous financial support.

19. In her closing statement, Ms Barabara Kosak, Head of Division, Biological Diversity and Biopatents, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany, thanked participants for their

important contributions and for attending the meeting. She highlighted the importance of cooperation between the environment and agriculture sectors in general, and between FAO, its Commission and the Convention on Biological Diversity in particular. She thanked the Secretariat of the Commission, FAO REU and the staff of BLE for organizing the informal regional consultation and for contributing to its success.

ANNEX I

REGIONAL CONSULTATION *THE STATE OF EUROPE'S AND CENTRAL ASIA'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

AGENDA

Time	Title	
DAY 1		
8:30 – 9:30	Registration	
9:30 – 12:30	Opening address	Mr Hanns-Christoph Eiden, President, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Germany
	Opening address	FAO Regional Office
	Opening address	Secretariat, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO
	Tour de table	
	Status of preparation of <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	Commission Secretariat
	Presentation of the programme and objectives of the informal consultation	Commission Secretariat
	Assessment and monitoring	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports – presentation and short discussion	Commission Secretariat
Lunch		
14:00 – 17:00	Identifying needs and priorities – working groups	
	Priorities for action – reporting and discussion	
	Sustainable use and conservation	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports – presentation and short discussion	Commission Secretariat

DAY 2		
9:00 – 12:30	Sustainable use and conservation	
	Identifying needs and priorities – working groups	
	Priorities for action – reporting and discussion	
Lunch		
14:00 – 17:00	Policies, institutions and capacity Regional and international cooperation	
	Key findings and recommendations of Country Reports – presentation and short discussion	Commission Secretariat
	Identifying needs and priorities – working groups	
	Priorities for action – reporting and discussion	
DAY 3		
9:00 – 12:30	Review and finalize regional recommendations for strategic priorities	
	Evaluation of the workshop	
	Closing remarks	Commission Secretariat

ANNEX II

Table 1. Needs, priorities and possible actions for the assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture, as identified during the informal regional consultation for Europe and Central Asia (Bonn, 18–20 April 2016)

Main area	Needs and priorities	Possible actions to be undertaken	Scale of importance
Development of indicators and monitoring systems	Data collection	Review frameworks for the assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including possible development of revised production system classifications for this purpose	Essential
		Identify key indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, associated biodiversity, including indicators for the contributions of biodiversity to agriculture and agriculture to biodiversity; explore the potential of indicators to serve multiple purposes; and explore potential approaches to the development of indicators at global level	Important
		Promote the implementation of baseline surveys of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, for associated biodiversity	Essential
		Establish or strengthen monitoring systems for biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, for associated biodiversity such as soil micro-organisms and pollinators	Important
		Establish or strengthen systems for monitoring the impacts of management practices on biodiversity for food and agriculture and ecosystem services	Important
		Monitor biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, associated biodiversity, on a regular basis	
		Promote the integrated use of monitoring data that are currently fragmented (e.g. data on different taxonomic groups)	Important
		Strengthen the involvement of informal research systems and citizen scientists in monitoring work in the field of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Essential/important
		Develop scenarios for the effects of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity for food and agriculture, and collect the data needed to develop such scenarios	Essential
		Improve the accessibility of data gathered during assessment and monitoring exercises related to biodiversity for food and agriculture to all relevant stakeholders at both national and international levels, including academia and the general public	Essential
	Research capacity	Investigate the potential for measuring ecosystem functions and the prevalence of management practices that are associated with particular outcomes for biodiversity for food and agriculture and ecosystem services	
		Reverse current downward trends in research capacity related to taxonomy, ecosystem services, associated biodiversity, wild foods and crop wild relatives	Important
		Strengthen capacity in taxonomy, including among citizen scientists, <i>inter alia</i> by improving the teaching of taxonomy in universities and schools and in professional and informal education (e.g. by NGOs)	Essential

Cooperation at national, regional and international levels	Interministerial cooperation	Strengthen cooperation between ministries of agriculture and environment with respect to the assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, associated biodiversity, and ecosystem services	Important
	Cooperation between the different levels of government	Strengthen cooperation between levels of government (national, regional, local) and between regions within countries with respect to the assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Important
	International cooperation	Strengthen international cooperation in the assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture (reference to TEEB for Agriculture and Food)	Important
		Promote the role of international and regional organizations in the assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Important
		Review, and where feasible make use of, existing monitoring systems (Sustainable Development Goals, Convention on Biological Diversity [CBD], European Union Biodiversity Strategy) relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture, and strengthen monitoring systems developed under the auspices of the CGRFA	
Other	Awareness among policy-makers	Raise awareness of the economic value and importance of associated biodiversity and ecosystem services	Important
	Financial support	Invest in research on techniques for the characterization, monitoring, conservation and sustainable use of micro-organisms and other associated biodiversity	
		Increase public support for the assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and promote the roles of public-private partnerships, farmers and other sources of provision such as citizen science	

Table 2. Needs, priorities and possible actions for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and its access and benefit sharing mechanisms, as identified during the informal regional consultation for Europe and Central Asia (Bonn, 18–20 April 2016)

Main area	Needs and priorities	Possible actions to be undertaken	Importance
Sustainable use			
Research and knowledge	Research on the impact of practices that are believed to promote biodiversity for food and agriculture (e.g. organic farming and micro-organism management in aquaculture)	<p>Improve research capacity</p> <p>Increase funding for research (including the development of specific software)</p> <p>Undertake research, including (long-term) case studies, on the effects of different practices on biodiversity for food and agriculture and ecosystem services</p> <p>Calculate the benefits of conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture (e.g. TEEB for Agriculture and Food)</p> <p>Study possible win–win situations with respect to biodiversity for food and agriculture and agricultural production</p>	Essential
	Research on micro-organisms and invertebrates for food and agriculture	Promote research on the roles of micro-organisms and invertebrates, and the ecosystem services they provide, in food and agriculture, including for soil fertility	Essential
	Sustainable use of locally adapted plant varieties and animal breeds in production systems that favour the maintenance and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Study the roles of local plant varieties and animal breeds in production systems that favour the maintenance and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Essential
	Improved sharing of knowledge related to biodiversity for food and agriculture	<p>Exchange information on best practices for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture</p> <p>Share knowledge on biodiversity for food and agriculture and relevant ecosystem services across different sectors (e.g. environment and agriculture) and across the different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture</p>	
Markets and value chain	Market demand for products from production systems that favour the maintenance and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	<p>Promote the sharing of information on the uses of genetic resources with relevant stakeholders, including consumers and policy-makers (e.g. information on the uses of locally adapted breeds or medical herbs or on the roles of pollinators or organic agriculture)</p> <p>Promote the provision of information to consumers on product quality and the environmental impact of production</p> <p>Promote and further develop the concept of High Nature Value Farming Area</p>	Essential

	Further development of markets and value chains to absorb products from production systems that favour the maintenance and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Improve marketing conditions and logistical infrastructure for products, including niche products, from production systems that favour the maintenance and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Important/essential
	Support for farming practices that favour the maintenance and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Provide reliable incentives and technical support to farmers, livestock keepers, foresters, fishers and aquaculture practitioners who use practices that favour the maintenance and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Essential
Coordination	Appropriate balance between short-term economic interests and the long-term benefits of maintaining biodiversity for food and agriculture and ecosystem services	Allocate high value to biodiversity for food and agriculture and ecosystem services Address the need for an appropriate balance between local interests and those of the wider society	Important
Programmes	National programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture	Develop, maintain and strengthen national programmes for the various sectors of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, associated biodiversity, and ecosystem services	
	Breeding programmes that contribute to sustainable agriculture, including, in particular, for associated biodiversity, as appropriate	Establish or strengthen breeding programmes for biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, associated biodiversity, as appropriate	
Conservation			
Programmes	Effective conservation programmes and the development of new conservation techniques	Establish or strengthen national conservation programmes Maintain and strengthen on-farm management efforts and programmes Enhance the coordinating role of the public sector in the use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture Promote the involvement of private companies in the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture Promote research on new techniques for the long-term conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture	
Gene banks	Effective gene banks, including for micro-organisms and invertebrates	Develop and maintain gene banks for the various sectors of biodiversity for food and agriculture; improve their coordination and cooperation; and provide support to the development of new gene-banking techniques Improve overviews of collections within countries Address the fragmentation of information related to conserved micro-organisms and invertebrates Strengthen research networks related to the conservation of micro-organisms (e.g. Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure – MIRRI) and invertebrates	Essential

Coordination	Coordination and linkage with the private sector	Promote the sharing of knowledge relevant to the conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture between users and researchers	Important
	Complementarity of conservation approaches	Establish or strengthen governmental policies related to access to collections Promote complementarity between <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation approaches for biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, associated biodiversity	Important
Cooperation	Effective cooperation between national gene banks and gene banks at subregional or regional level	Establish, re-establish or strengthen linkages and cooperation between national and subregional or regional gene banks	
Access and exchange			
	Effective coordination of access and benefit-sharing schemes	Coordinate national access and benefit-sharing schemes to ensure exchange of biodiversity for food and agriculture among countries and benefit-sharing Identify potential means of facilitating access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture in line with the Nagoya Protocol	Important
	Exchange of information and knowledge on biodiversity for food and agriculture	Publish all the Country Reports on biodiversity for food and agriculture together with the finalized report on <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	Essential
	Access to biodiversity for food and agriculture and fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from it	Consider the adoption of access and benefit-sharing legislation reflecting the specific characteristics of genetic resources for food and agriculture (cf. Article 8c of the Nagoya Protocol)	Essential

Table 3. Possible actions concerning the policies and programs, capacity development, cooperation and institutions relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture, as identified during the informal regional consultation for Europe and Central Asia (Bonn, 18-20 April of 2016)

Dimension	What	Who	How	Scale of importance
Policies/programmes	Strengthening, and raising awareness, of policies addressing biodiversity for food and agriculture	Governments	Secure funding, for example through the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy	Important/ essential
	Development of common policies balancing the interests of the environment and agriculture	FAO, CBD/UNEP	Submit the report on <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i> to the Conference of the Parties to the CBD	Essential
		Countries at (sub)regional level	Collaborate in the development and implementation of policies related to biodiversity for food and agriculture	
		Governments	Develop agrobiodiversity strategies alongside National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (as, for example, in Germany)	

			Develop agro-ecological programmes (as, for example, in France)	
		Relevant ministries or sectors of government	Collaborate in policy development	
	Development of policy frameworks/umbrellas for all sectors of agrobiodiversity (forestry, plants, animal, etc.) at national and (sub)regional levels	National governments and regional organizations such as the European Commission	Develop relevant policies and legislation	Important
	Implementation of existing instruments such as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the Global Plans of Action for Animal, Plant and Forest (and possibly Aquatic) Genetic Resources	Governments and other stakeholders	Develop and implement national programmes of relevance to biodiversity for food and agriculture Coordinate the various programmes	
	Inclusion of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and implementation of the various global plans of action for genetic resources, in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and Global Environment Facility-funding opportunities	Parties to the CBD		
	Involvement of the private sector in activities supporting biodiversity for food and agriculture (e.g. training and activities supporting conservation and sustainable use)	Private sector, governments and other stakeholders		
	Ensuring biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, associated biodiversity, is reflected in global biodiversity processes (e.g. CBD, IPBES)	Governments, FAO, other international organizations	Participate actively in relevant fora Ensure coherence of governments' submissions on biodiversity for food and agriculture across fora	
Institutions	Further development of gene banks		Address shortfalls in funding and skills	Important/essential
	Strengthening of research institutions and universities dealing with biodiversity for food and agriculture			
	Maintenance of facilities conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture			
	Possible establishment of a regional institution addressing biodiversity for food and agriculture	Countries at regional level	Conduct regional policy dialogue to consider the establishment of a regional institution	Important/nice to have
	Strengthening of national institutions including for the maintenance of supplies to national laboratories	Governments, other stakeholders	Create the legal or policy basis, at national and regional levels, for strengthening national institutions, as appropriate	Important

Capacities	Strengthening of human resources Strengthening of education and training	Governments, educational and training institutions	Secure financial support Improve education on biodiversity for food and agriculture, including improvements to teaching curricula (e.g. in the area of organic farming) Develop practical pedagogical methods Balance professional and academic education Secure life-long education for farmers Ensure decision-makers are continuously updated on developments relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture	Important/essential
	Education	Farmer unions and cooperatives	Promote training and dissemination of information	
Cooperation	Increased funding	Governments, other stakeholders	Identify possible sources of funding	Important
	Establishment of programmes for the exchange of scientists in the field of biodiversity for food and agriculture			Important
	Strengthening of collaboration between (sub)regional sectoral networks for genetic resources for food and agriculture (e.g. European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources, European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources, European Forest Genetic Resources Programme)	National coordinators of the respective networks Governments	Develop common views in preparation for meetings of the intergovernmental technical working groups on genetic resources Organize regional expert workshops or seminars on biodiversity for food and agriculture, including, in particular, on associated biodiversity	Important
	Strengthening of cooperation between universities	Universities		
	Strengthening of cooperation of governments and other stakeholders with NGOs	Private initiatives (e.g. Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe [SAVE–Foundation] provides expertise on rare breeds and varieties in Europe)	Secure support from governments and other stakeholders	Important
	Strengthening of regional institutions to increase the effectiveness of research, conservation activities, etc.	Regional institutions	Cooperate at regional level	
Standard setting		Clarify terms and concepts used in biodiversity for food and agriculture-related discussions	Essential	

ANNEX III
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