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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
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Organización de las  
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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## Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda

### THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON POPLARS AND OTHER FAST-GROWING TREES SUSTAINING PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT (IPC)

#### Twenty-sixth Session

5- 8 October 2021

### SYNTHESIS OF WORKING PARTY REPORTS

#### Guidance sought from the IPC

The Commission may wish to:

- take note of the summary of the Working Party reports;
- invite the Working Parties to continue this work, subject to the availability of necessary funds;
- request the Working Parties to take into consideration the IPC Strategy in their programmes of work;
- request the Working Parties to update the Commission at the next Session.

*Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:*  
the IPC Secretariat [IPC-Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:IPC-Secretariat@fao.org)

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## Summary of the Working Party Reports<sup>1</sup>

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC carries out its mandate by supporting research and management activities through six international, cross-disciplinary Working Parties dealing with: Taxonomy, Nomenclature and Registration; Domestication and Conservation of Genetic Resources; Plant Health, Resilience to Threats and Climate Change; Sustainable Livelihoods, Land-use, Products and Bioenergy, Environmental and Ecosystem Services, and Policy, Communication and Outreach. Since the last IPC Session in 2016, the Working Parties have carried out a number of key activities and outputs, many of which reflect the expansion of the IPC scope in 2019 to include all species of fast-growing trees. All Working Parties contributed to the production of a *Green Book on innovations in the management of fast-growing trees in 2020-2021*, which will be published by FAO in 2022.

### II. MAIN ACTIVITIES

2. In 2018, the Working Party on Taxonomy, Nomenclature and Registration (WP1) submitted five new cultivars to the International Register of Populus Cultivars and these were registered in 2020. The Working Party also conducted two extensive 6-year reports (2013-2019) regarding the data on Populus and Salix Cultivars, respectively. These reports were submitted to the Special Commission for Cultivar Registration of the International Society for Horticultural Sciences in March 2020. Furthermore, the *International Register of Salix Cultivars* was initiated in July 2020 and twenty-six new cultivar names have been registered and included into the Register.

3. The Working Party on Domestication and Conservation of Genetic Resources (WP2) has progressed on the updating of the database on poplar and willow breeding programmes around the world. WP2 also created a database of researchers and experts involved in the domestication and conservation of poplar, willow, and other fast-growing trees and genetic resources. In collaboration with WP1, a new edition of the *Checklist for Cultivars of Salix* was completed. WP2 also collaborated with the Seventh International Poplar Symposium of International Union of Forest Research Organizations IUFRO for the organization of a willow study trip from 28 October to 4 November, 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

4. The Working Party on Plant Health, Resilience to Threats and Climate Change (WP3) continues to update the list of active researchers in Plant Health and reports on poplar and willow selection and breeding programmes, for sustainable and resistant plants, in different parts of the world.

5. The Working Party on Sustainable Livelihoods, Land-Use, Products, and Bioenergy (WP4) is planning to prepare a database of publications related to the harvesting, utilization and forest products properties as well as on production systems, and to update the Global Directory of Poplar and Willow Experts. The Working Party also plans to develop an outreach programme to all Members of IPC, and to interested developing countries, in order to expand the active membership of WP4.

6. In collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, the Working Party on Environmental and Ecosystem Services (WP5) created science briefs to provide research results in a non-technical format for landowners, regulators, industrial representatives, researchers, and other interested in producing fast-growing trees, ten of which, have now been finalized. Furthermore, the Working Party held WP5 meetings as satellite meetings to other relevant conferences. These included the Woody Crops International Conference held in July 2018 in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, USA, the 15th International Phytotechnologies Conference held in October 2018 in Novi Sad, Serbia, and the Seventh International Poplar Symposium held between October and November 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

7. Finally, the Working Party on Policy, Communication, and Outreach (WP6) worked with the IPC Secretariat on the new infographic: "Poplars and Willows: Trees for people and the environment" as well as on the early review of new IPC implementation strategy. They also developed

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<sup>1</sup> Full Working Party reports available as document FO:IPC/2021/Inf.2

a template for 'Highlight Sheets', which are two-page fact sheets with take-home messages from science outcomes, to be used by the other Working Parties.