



COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Fourth Session

Rome, 21–23 February 2023

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

ITEM 1: ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON(S) AND *RAPPORTEUR*

In accordance with its Statutes, the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) “shall elect its Chairperson and one or more Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of Members of the Working Group at the beginning of each session. These officers shall remain in office until the next session of the Working Group and shall be eligible for re-election”.¹ The Working Group shall also elect a *Rapporteur*.

Relevant information is contained in the document *Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and Rapporteur* (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/1). The Statutes of the Working Group and its composition are provided in the document *CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/1/Inf.1*.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

The provisional agenda is contained in document *CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/2*. A provisional timetable is provided in *Annex 1* to the present document, which provides annotations to the provisional agenda. The list of documents for this session is contained in document *CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/2/Inf.1*.

¹ CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/1/Inf.1.

ITEM 3: FOLLOW UP TO THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES

The FAO Council, at its 168th Session held in December 2021, adopted the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Global Plan of Action),² as approved by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) at its Eighteenth Regular Session.³

The Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI:AQ), at its Eleventh Session, welcomed the adoption of the Global Plan of Action and highlighted the need for wider adoption of selective breeding for the genetic improvement of species in aquaculture (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/3/Inf.6**). The Committee on Fisheries, at its Thirty-fifth Session appreciated FAO's work on the Global Plan of Action and supported the implementation of the associated global information system to ensure the effective and sustainable use of aquatic species (**CGRFA-WG-AqGR-4/23/3/Inf.5**).

The document *Status of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/3**) summarizes the activities undertaken by FAO, in collaboration with its partners, since September 2021. As part of these activities, FAO continued with the development of AquaGRIS, FAO's global information system for aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture (AqGR). Following the launch of a prototype in May 2022, the development of a fully functional version of AquaGRIS is underway and will also include the capacity to incorporate data on wild stocks in addition to farmed types of cultured species. The data collection system for wild relative genetic resources has been developed in response to and in line with recommendations provided by an expert workshop held by FAO in July 2022 (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/3/Inf.4**).

FAO developed an outline of guidelines for the genetic management of stocking programmes (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/3/Inf.1**), an outline for guidelines for *ex situ in vitro* gene banking of aquatic species (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/3/Inf.2**) and a provisional list of terms considered essential for the description of AqGR (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/3/Inf.3**), which will be the basis of an AqGR glossary.

The Working Group is invited to take note of FAO's activities in support of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and to provide guidance on further activities, including the finalization of the proposed draft guidelines.

ITEM 4: MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Commission, at its Eighteenth Regular Session, highlighted the need for the development of quantifiable indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action⁴ and requested that these be incorporated into the global information system for aquatic genetic resources (AquaGRIS).⁵

The document *Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/4 Rev.1**) proposes two sets of indicators: resource indicators that quantify the status of AqGR; and process indicators that relate to national, regional and global processes

² CL 168/REP, paragraph 38a.

³ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 58; *Appendix D*.

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9905en>

⁵ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 59.

concerning the management of AqGR. The list of identified indicators is contained in the document **CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/4/Inf.1**.

The Working Group is invited to review and revise, as appropriate, the indicators, and to provide guidance with regard to their finalization and operationalization.

ITEM 5: THE ROLE OF AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN MITIGATION OF AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The Working Group is invited to consider the role of AqGR in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. More specifically, it is invited to consider, in response to the Commission's request,⁶ next steps to be taken with regard to the review of the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*,⁷ taking into account the need to address the vulnerabilities of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) to climate change and relevant international agreements.⁸ The Working Group is further invited to review and revise, as appropriate, draft questions on climate change and AqGR, as shortened, simplified and pre-tested by the Commission Secretariat, at the request of the Commission.⁹

Next steps for the review and possible revision of the Voluntary Guidelines are discussed in the document *Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/5)*. The updated questionnaire is attached to the same document. An overview of FAO activities on climate change is given in the document *FAO's work on climate change (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/5/Inf.1)*.

ITEM 6: ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING FOR AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Working Group is invited to consider access and benefit-sharing (ABS) for AqGR. More specifically, the Working Group is invited to: review a typology of ABS country measures reflecting the importance of AqGR and associated traditional knowledge, their special role for food security and their distinctive features;¹⁰ and take note and provide comments on a questionnaire prepared in response to the Commission's request for a report on the practical application and effects of ABS country measures to the different subsectors of GRFA and associated traditional knowledge.¹¹

The document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/6)* provides an overview of relevant developments under other international agreements and instruments, and introduces the typology of ABS country measures, for review by the Working Group. The populated typology is provided in the document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture: Typology of country measures (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/6/Inf.1)*. The Working Group may also wish to take note of and provide comments on the draft questionnaire developed for the preparation of the report on the effects of ABS measures. The draft questionnaire is contained in the document *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-AqGR-4/23/6/Inf.2)*.

⁶ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 20.

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/3/a-i4940e.pdf>

⁸ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 20.

⁹ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 19.

¹⁰ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 26.

¹¹ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 27.

ITEM 7: DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION AND AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Working Group is invited to consider the role of digital sequence information (DSI) for the sustainable use and conservation of AqGR and for the sharing of benefits. The Working Group may wish to take into account relevant developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and in other fora and consider their potential implications for AqGR.

The document *Digital sequence information and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/7)* provides information on how DSI is generated, stored, accessed and used for research and development related to GRFA, and summarizes relevant developments that have taken place in other fora, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, prior to 15 November 2022. The document draws on a study commissioned by the Commission Secretariat contained in the document *The role of digital sequence information for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/7/Inf.1)*.

As requested by the Commission, its Secretariat held a global workshop on DSI and GRFA, to raise awareness among relevant stakeholders of the role of DSI for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA and the sharing of benefits derived from them, address the state of the art of DSI on genetic resources, present possible implications that related technologies might have for research and development related to GRFA, and consider the challenges associated with accessing and making full use of DSI. The workshop was held virtually on 14 and 15 November 2022 in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, CAB International and the CGIAR Genebank Initiative. The webcast of the workshop is available online.¹²

ITEM 8: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Since 2007, the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) has guided the work of the Commission in the implementation of its mandate.¹³ The document *Strategic plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: review and update (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/8)* reviews progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, including the MYPOW, since the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session. It also contains the draft updated Strategic Plan spanning the Commission's next five sessions.

The Working Group is invited to review the progress made in the implementation of the MYPOW and to review and revise, as appropriate, the draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031 and the MYPOW, as given in *Appendix I* to the document.

ITEM 9: ANY OTHER MATTERS**ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

¹² https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/dsi_workshop_2022/en/

¹³ CGRFA-11/07/Report, Appendix E.

Annex 1

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Date and time	Agenda item	Title	Working document
Tuesday, 21 February 2023			
Morning			
10.00–13.00	1	Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and <i>Rapporteur</i>	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/1
	2	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/2 CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/2 Add.1
	3	Status of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/3/Rev.2
Tuesday, 21 February 2023			
Afternoon			
14:30–17:30	4	Monitoring the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/4/ Rev.2
	5	The role of aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/5
Wednesday, 22 February 2023			
Morning			
10.00–13.00	6	Access and benefit-sharing for aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/6
	7	Digital sequence information and aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/7
Wednesday, 22 February 2023			
Afternoon			
14:30–17:30	8	Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: review and update	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-4/23/8
	9	Any other matters	
Thursday, 23 February 2023			
Afternoon			
14:30–17:30	10	Adoption of the Report	