



# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON MICROORGANISM AND INVERTEBRATE GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### First Session

Rome, 25–27 September 2024

### REVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF MICROORGANISM AND INVERTEBRATE 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, established the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Microorganism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group)<sup>1</sup> and tasked it, *inter alia*, to review, at its first session, the Work Plan for the Sustainable Use and Conservation of Microorganism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Work Plan), including previously identified regional needs and priorities, and review the programme of work, including *inter alia*, to identify current needs and priorities and gaps in knowledge and policies, taking into account other relevant initiatives and issues and avoiding duplication with the work of the sectoral Working Groups.<sup>2</sup>

2. The Work Plan states that it will be reviewed by the Commission as part of the review of the Commission's work on microorganism and invertebrate genetic resources (MIGR), as scheduled in the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW).<sup>3</sup> The review of the MYPOW is currently scheduled for the Commission's Twenty-first Regular Session.<sup>4</sup>

3. This document briefly reviews the progress made in the implementation of the Work Plan to allow the Working Group to reflect upon the Commission's future work on MIGR in preparation for the review of the MYPOW. It further seeks the Working Group's recommendations regarding the Commission's work on MIGR in the period following its Twentieth Regular Session and suggests applying the model terms of reference that exist for the Commission's other National Focal Points (NFPs) to the newly nominated NFPs for MIGR.

## II. BACKGROUND

4. The Commission, at its Seventeenth Regular Session, adopted the Work Plan, as contained in *Appendix I* to this document.<sup>5</sup>

5. The Work Plan aims to:

- i) consolidate the Commission's activities and processes relevant to the sustainable use and conservation of microorganisms and invertebrates, and to plan, in a coherent and consistent manner, future activities in this area;
- ii) raise awareness and strengthen the knowledge and understanding on the importance of microorganisms and invertebrates to ecosystem functions, resilient food production systems, food security and nutrition;
- iii) promote the uptake of microorganisms and invertebrates in local, national, regional and international policies and policy development processes for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and their sustainable management; and
- iv) strengthen the collaboration between FAO and other relevant international organizations and initiatives to mobilize expertise of relevance to the sustainable use and conservation of microorganisms and invertebrates and identify areas of mutual interest.<sup>6</sup>

6. The approach taken by the Work Plan is to address MIGR as functional groups. Specifically, it sets out the following timetable for the consideration of six functional groups over the period spanning the Commission's Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Regular Sessions.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-19/23Report, paragraph 95, paragraph 128.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 129.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix E*, paragraph 18.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-19/23/Report, *Appendix E*, Annex 1.

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 95.

<sup>6</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix E*, paragraph 7.

<sup>7</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix E*, paragraph 14.

CGRFA-18	Pollinators, including honey bees <sup>a</sup> Biological control agents and biostimulants
CGRFA-19	Soil microorganisms and invertebrates, with emphasis on bioremediation and nutrient cycling organisms <sup>b</sup> Microorganisms of relevance to ruminant digestion <sup>c</sup>
CGRFA-20	Edible fungi and invertebrates used as dietary components of food/feed <sup>d</sup> Microorganisms used in food processing and agro-industrial processes <sup>e</sup>
<p>Notes:</p> <p><sup>a</sup> With respect to honey bees, this work will address their roles in pollination as opposed to their roles in the production of honey and wax. The latter is covered under animal genetic resources.</p> <p><sup>b</sup> Symbionts, including endophytes, should be included in the scope of this work.</p> <p><sup>c</sup> This work should build on Background Study Paper No. 61.</p> <p><sup>d</sup> Aquatic organisms used for food, such as algae, will not be included in this study, as these are covered under aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture.</p> <p><sup>e</sup> This work should build on Background Study Papers Nos. 64 and 65.</p>	

7. The Work Plan notes that each functional group will be addressed on the basis of:
- a summary of the status and trends of conservation, use and access and benefit-sharing (ABS), based on previous work of the Commission, existing literature and, as appropriate, an open survey that may also compile best practices with respect to their sustainable use and conservation;
  - a mapping of regional and international organizations and other institutions most relevant for the functional group and the identification of strategic areas of possible collaboration; and
  - an analysis of the gaps and needs, and possibilities for the Commission and its Members to address them.<sup>8</sup>
8. The Work Plan does not include any statement concerning the commencement by the Commission of work on functional groups other than those mentioned above.

### III. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN

9. To date, the timetable set out in the Work Plan and reproduced above has been followed for the first four functional groups, and the Commission is due to consider the remaining two, in line with the timetable, at its forthcoming Twentieth Regular Session. The Working Group will consider each of the six functional groups under separate agenda items at the current session.<sup>9</sup>

10. For each functional group, FAO has overseen the preparation of a study that provides an overview of the state of conservation and sustainable use of the respective group and identifies gaps and needs in this regard, along with possible options for action by the Commission and its Members. For the first four functional groups, the studies have been published as Background Study Papers

<sup>8</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix E*, paragraph 16.

<sup>9</sup> See CGRFA/WG-MIGR-1/24/3; CGRFA/WG-MIGR-1/24/4; CGRFA/WG-MIGR-1/24/5; CGRFA/WG-MIGR-1/24/6; CGRFA/WG-MIGR-1/24/7; CGRFA/WG-MIGR-1/24/8.

Nos71,<sup>10</sup> 72,<sup>11</sup> 74<sup>12</sup> and 75,<sup>13</sup> respectively. In the case of edible fungi and invertebrates used as dietary components of food/feed and microorganisms used in food processing and agro-industrial processes, draft studies will be reviewed by the Working Group at its current session.

11. For each of the functional groups considered so far, the Commission welcomed the draft versions of the above-mentioned studies and recommended that they should be finalized and published.<sup>14</sup> In each case the Commission recommended that FAO take the findings of the studies into account in its work related to the respective functional group.<sup>15</sup> It also highlighted the need for Members and other stakeholders to strengthen their efforts to promote the conservation and sustainable use of these components of biodiversity.<sup>16</sup>

12. In the case of pollinators, the Commission, at its Eighteenth Regular Session, requested FAO to consider the need for, and modalities of, a global pollinator platform to address pollinators and pollination services at global level, and to report on this matter to the Commission at its next session.<sup>17</sup> At its Nineteenth Regular Session, the Commission recommended that the FAO Council request FAO to explore the possible modalities of a global pollinator platform.<sup>18</sup>

13. In the case of biological control agents (BCAs) and biostimulants, the Commission, at its Nineteenth Regular Session, recommended that the FAO Council request FAO to hold, subject to the availability of the necessary funds, an open-ended workshop with the aim of: (i) raising awareness of the potential of BCAs and biostimulants; (ii) reviewing the global regulatory situation regarding the import and export of BCAs and biostimulants, and ABS arrangements for relevant genetic resources; (iii) identifying possible regulatory gaps and unnecessary restrictions affecting the use of BCAs and biostimulants; and (iv) addressing environmental risk assessment for BCAs.<sup>19</sup> It also recommended that the FAO Council request FAO to explore, in collaboration with relevant partners, the need for the development of information systems related to the conservation and sustainable use of microbial and invertebrate BCAs and microbial biostimulants, for example inventories of organisms, impact metrics or relevant policies, and report on this to the Commission and other relevant bodies of FAO.<sup>20</sup>

14. In short, for the functional groups it has considered so far, the Commission has restricted itself to broad calls for management efforts to be strengthened and recommendations that FAO undertake or oversee various exploratory or fact-finding activities. As noted above, the Working Group, under other agenda items at the current session, has the opportunity to review the Commission's work on these functional groups and to make recommendations concerning future work on them and concerning work on the final two functional groups listed for consideration under the Work Plan.

15. For none of the above functional groups of MIGR, with the exception of pollinators and, to a certain extent, biological control agents/biostimulants, have specific Commission follow-up activities

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<sup>10</sup> Buitenhuis, R., Cock, M.J.W., Colmenarez, Y.C., De Clercq, P., Edgington, S., Gadaleta, P., Gwynn, R. *et al.* 2023. *Sustainable use and conservation of microbial and invertebrate biological control agents and microbial biostimulants*. Background Study Paper No. 71. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb3571en>

<sup>11</sup> Aizen, M.A., Basu, P., Bienefeld, K., Biesmeijer, J.C., Garibaldi, L.A., Gemmill-Herren, B, Imperatriz-Fonseca, V.L. *et al.* 2023. *Sustainable use and conservation of invertebrate pollinators*. Background Study Paper No. 72. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6499en>

<sup>12</sup> Csorba, C., Hackl, E., Reichenauer, T., van der Putten, W. & Sessitsch, A., 2024. *Sustainable use and conservation of soil microorganisms and invertebrates contributing to bioremediation and nutrient cycling*. Background Study Paper No. 74. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0147en>

<sup>13</sup> Huws, S.A., Oyama, L.B. & Creevey, C.J. 2024. *Sustainable use and conservation of microorganisms of relevance to ruminant digestion*. Background Study Paper No. 75. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0155en>

<sup>14</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraphs 80 and 86; CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraphs 72 and 79.

<sup>15</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraphs 81 and 87; CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraphs 73 and 80.

<sup>16</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraphs 81, 82 and 89; CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraphs 73–76 and 81–83.

<sup>17</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 83.

<sup>18</sup> CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 86.

<sup>19</sup> CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 91.

<sup>20</sup> CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 93.

been undertaken or identified, be they the initiation of country-driven reporting processes, the development of action plans or the preparation of guidance documents for the conservation and sustainable use of specific MIGR. In reviewing the Commission's previous work on MIGR, the Working Group may therefore wish to reflect upon possible future work in terms of concrete deliverables that support Commission Members and, directly or indirectly, relevant stakeholders, in the conservation and sustainable use of MIGR.

16. In this context, the Working Group may wish to consider the important role NFPs for MIGR may play in contributing to the Commission's work on MIGR. Through CSL C/X/OCB-12<sup>21</sup>, Members have been invited to nominate NFPs for MIGR. As of 1 July 2024, 18 Members have nominated NFPs for MIGR.<sup>22</sup>

17. The Commission adopted, at its Eighteenth Regular Session, model terms of reference for NFPs for plant, aquatic, and forest genetic resources and for biodiversity for food and agriculture and for the National Coordinators (NCs) for animal genetic resources.<sup>23</sup> NFPs and NCs serve as national contacts for communication with FAO and the Commission with regard to work on the respective genetic resources or components of biodiversity. They also play a coordinating role at national level, including with regard to the preparation of inputs to the Commission's global assessments and, as appropriate, the implementation and monitoring of Global Plans of Action and other relevant instruments. The Working Group may wish to recommend to the Commission an amendment to the existing terms of reference, as indicated in *Appendix 2* to this document, such that they include the NFPs for MIGR.

#### IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

18. The Working Group may wish to:

- (i) review the progress made in the implementation of the Work Plan;
- (ii) reflect upon the Commission's future work on MIGR, including in terms of concrete deliverables, in view of the upcoming review of the MYPOW;
- (iii) provide recommendations concerning its work following the Commission's Twentieth Regular Session; and
- (iv) recommend that the Commission amend the model terms of reference for NFPs/NCs, as indicated in *Appendix 2*.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/news/news-detail/circular-state-letter--c-x-ocb-12/en>

<sup>22</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/aeaca00b-66f9-47c2-a315-89f147e5fac3/content>

<sup>23</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, *Appendix E*.

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*APPENDIX I*

**WORK PLAN FOR THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF  
MICRO-ORGANISM AND INVERTEBRATE GENETIC RESOURCES FOR  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE<sup>1</sup>**

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1. Micro-organisms and invertebrates are the most numerous and diverse groups of organisms on Earth. They play important roles at all stages of the food value chain. Since 2007, the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work recognizes the important contribution of micro-organisms and invertebrates to the provision of ecosystem services, sustainable agriculture and food security.
2. Under the Commission's guidance, targeted assessments of various micro-organisms and invertebrates and of their contributions to food and agriculture have been prepared.

**I. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORK PLAN**

3. Micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources form part of a number of ongoing international initiatives, programmes and activities that relate to biodiversity for food and agriculture. Through the Global Soil Partnership and the Global Action on Pollination Services for Sustainable Agriculture, FAO provides guidance and technical advice to countries and facilitates decision-making processes on soil issues and pollination. The Organization facilitates the implementation of international initiatives on pollinators<sup>2</sup> and soil biodiversity<sup>3</sup> that were established by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Furthermore, FAO has a long tradition of working in the field of biological control through its integrated pest management programme.
4. The Fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed the initiative of the Commission to develop a work plan on micro-organisms and invertebrates, including those relevant for soil biodiversity and the sustained provision of soil-mediated ecosystem functions and services essential for sustainable agriculture.<sup>4</sup> It further invited FAO, in collaboration with other organizations and subject to the availability of resources, to consider the preparation of a report on the state of knowledge on soil biodiversity covering current status, challenges and potentialities by 2020.<sup>5</sup>
5. Other organizations, such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), also significantly contribute to strengthen the knowledge foundations for better policy development for the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates and of the ecosystem services they provide. IPBES' assessment report on *Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production*<sup>6</sup> has generated a wide range of follow-up products, actions and policy initiatives, including an ever-expanding list of national strategies and action plans on pollination, premised on the outcomes of the assessment.<sup>7</sup> FAO is one of the four UN collaborative partners of IPBES.
6. Since 2007, the Commission has also steadily been strengthening its work in the field of micro-organisms and invertebrates. Macroinvertebrates, which make up a significant component of aquaculture and fisheries (23 and 15 percent of global production, respectively) are covered in detail in the report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and will be incorporated into the follow-up priority actions. This process also covers some aquatic micro-organisms such as microalgae. In addition, the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, prepared under the Commission's guidance, addresses, *inter alia*, the use and

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix E*.

<sup>2</sup> COP 6 Decision VI/5, *Annex II*.

<sup>3</sup> COP 8 Decision VIII/23.

<sup>4</sup> CBD/COP/DEC/14/30, paragraph 22.

<sup>5</sup> CBD/COP/DEC/14/30, paragraph 23.

<sup>6</sup> IPBES. 2016. *The assessment report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on pollinators, pollination and food production*. S.G. Potts, V.L. Imperatriz-Fonseca & H.T. Ngo, eds. Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Bonn, Germany.

<sup>7</sup> More information available at: [www.ipbes.net/deliverables/3a-pollination](http://www.ipbes.net/deliverables/3a-pollination)

conservation of soil micro-organisms, pollinators and biological control agents, as well as management practices believed to be favourable to the delivery of ecosystem services by micro-organisms and invertebrates.

7. This work plan therefore aims to:

- i) consolidate the Commission's activities and processes relevant to the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates, and to plan, in a coherent and consistent manner, future activities in this area;
- ii) raise awareness and strengthen the knowledge and understanding on the importance of micro-organisms and invertebrates to ecosystem functions, resilient food production systems, food security and nutrition;
- iii) promote the uptake of micro-organisms and invertebrates in local, national, regional and international policies and policy development processes for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and their sustainable management; and
- iv) strengthen the collaboration between FAO and other relevant international organizations and initiatives to mobilize expertise of relevance to the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates and identify areas of mutual interest.

## II. FOCUSING ON FUNCTIONAL GROUPS OF MICRO-ORGANISMS AND INVERTEBRATES

8. Although their important role in the provision of ecosystem services and their importance to food and agriculture are widely recognized, information on the diversity, function and distribution of micro-organisms and invertebrates is uneven and in many cases, very limited and fragmentary. Moreover, as confirmed by the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, the importance of micro-organisms and invertebrates to food and agriculture is neither adequately reflected in the funds that are committed to related research, nor in relevant policies and decision-making processes.

9. The taxonomic and functional diversity of micro-organism and invertebrate species significantly contrasts with species in the plant, animal, forestry and fisheries sectors. The latter encompass relatively few species for which the taxonomy tends to be well understood. As a result of this, "sectoral" species, breeds and varieties can be managed differently and conservation strategies can, for example, be single-species based. This species-by-species approach faces serious practical difficulties in the case of micro-organisms and invertebrates given the sheer number of species, the enormous taxonomic and ecological variety of these organisms and, consequently, the human and financial resources such an approach would require.

10. Management strategies for micro-organisms and invertebrates relying on a holistic framework that focuses on ecosystem functions and services these organisms contribute to, and on management practices favouring their conservation and sustainable use, might therefore be more feasible, efficient and effective, in particular for micro-organisms and invertebrates managed within production systems, than strategies focussing on the organisms themselves.

11. This work plan therefore addresses micro-organisms and invertebrates as functional groups: pollinators, in particular honey bees; soil micro-organisms and invertebrates; biological control agents; microorganisms of relevance to ruminant digestion; and micro-organisms of relevance to food processing and agro-industrial processes.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> CGRFA/16/17/Report, paragraph 79.

12. In light of the recent activities and developments at the global level with respect to pollinators<sup>9</sup> and soil biodiversity,<sup>10</sup> the work plan addresses these groups first.

13. Moreover, the draft work plan addresses one functional group per Commission session. Aiming to address all micro-organisms and invertebrates at once might be overambitious in view of the limited human and financial resources available. It is also important to note that different functional groups require very different expertise.

14. The Commission will therefore address the following functional groups of micro-organisms and invertebrates at its forthcoming sessions, as follows:

CGRFA-18	Pollinators, in particular honey bees
CGRFA-19	Soil micro-organisms and invertebrates
CGRFA-20	Organisms used as dietary components of food/feed
CGRFA-21	Biological control agents
CGRFA-22	Food processing and agro-industrial processes
CGRFA-23	Micro-organisms of relevance to ruminant digestion

### III. MAIN ACTIVITIES

15. As confirmed by the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, there is an urgent need to:

- establish national baselines, in particular for soil micro-organisms, invertebrates and pollinators;
- improve the knowledge of the services and functions of micro-organism and invertebrate species within and around production systems;
- assess the impact of management practices on the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates and on the ecosystem services they deliver, and identify and validate those practices that are found to be most conducive;
- integrate and promote the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates into existing policies and planning processes at local and national levels and incorporate these processes into national accounting and reporting systems; and
- strengthen and formalize partnerships and improve the exchange and sharing of knowledge and best practices related to the conservation and sustainable use of micro-organisms and invertebrates.

16. Under this work plan, the Commission will therefore address each of the functional groups on the basis of:

- a summary of the status and trends of their conservation and use, based on previous work of the Commission, existing literature and, as appropriate, an open survey that may also compile best practices with respect to their sustainable use and conservation;
- a mapping of regional and international organizations and other institutions most relevant for the functional group and the identification of strategic areas of possible collaboration; and

<sup>9</sup> E.g. IPBES. 2016. *The assessment report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on pollinators, pollination and food production*. S.G. Potts, V.L. Imperatriz-Fonseca & H.T. Ngo, eds. Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Bonn, Germany.

<sup>10</sup> For example the preparation of the Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas prepared by the European Commission Joint Research Centre and the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative; commitments of the Global Soil Partnership and its Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) to promoting soil biodiversity; strategic alliance between FAO and the Global Soil Biodiversity Initiative, including a planned international symposium in 2020.



- an analysis of the gaps and needs, and possibilities for the Commission and its Members to address them.

#### **IV. PARTNERSHIPS**

17. The draft work plan will be implemented in partnership with organizations involved in the sustainable use and conservation of micro-organisms and invertebrates. The Commission's partners as well as stakeholders should be involved in the implementation of specific activities of the work plan whenever relevant.

#### **V. REVIEW**

18. This work plan will be reviewed by the Commission as part of the review of the Commission's work on MIGR, as scheduled in the Multi-Year Programme of Work.

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*APPENDIX II*

[PROPOSED REVISED](<sup>1</sup>)

MODEL TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR PLANT, AQUATIC, [**MICROORGANISM AND INVERTEBRATE,**] AND FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES AND FOR BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE NATIONAL COORDINATORS FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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The National Focal Points for plant, aquatic, [**microorganism and invertebrate,**] and forest genetic resources and for biodiversity for food and agriculture and the National Coordinators for animal genetic resources serve as national contact persons for communication with FAO and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) with regard to work on the respective genetic resources or components of biodiversity. They play a coordinating role at national level, including with regard to the preparation of inputs to the Commission's global assessments and, as appropriate, the implementation and monitoring of Global Plans of Action and other relevant instruments. In the execution/deployment of their function, National Focal Points/Coordinators may delegate to their alternates or other stakeholders.

The tasks of National Focal Points/Coordinators may include:

- responding to requests from the Commission and suggestions by the Commission's subsidiary bodies and FAO, including, as appropriate, by coordinating joint responses from relevant stakeholders at national level;
- coordinating the preparation of national inputs to the Commission's global assessments (country reports);
- supporting and facilitating national implementation of Global Plans of Action and other relevant instruments, as appropriate, at technical and policy level, including, as appropriate, the development or review of national strategy and action plans and other relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programmes and the establishment or strengthening of national stakeholder networks;
- coordinating the preparation of national inputs to the monitoring of the implementation of Global Plans of Action and other relevant instruments, as appropriate;
- coordinating, as appropriate, the collection and management of national data on relevant genetic resources and components of biodiversity (including data relevant to the monitoring of relevant Sustainable Development Goal targets) and the reporting and management of these data at global level via appropriate information systems;
- coordinating national preparation for meetings of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission, as appropriate, including by ensuring that relevant stakeholders (ministry officials, technical experts, producers' organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, etc.) are informed in good time of the dates and agendas of these meetings, that relevant inputs are obtained from these stakeholders and that any necessary stakeholder consultations are organized;
- coordinating, as appropriate, the identification of experts and stakeholders to participate in meetings, consultations and assessment processes initiated by the Commission, its subsidiary bodies or FAO;
- providing support to the Bureaus of relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission to ensure effective two-way communication between national and the regional levels;
- strengthening links with the country's National Focal Point for the Commission and other National Focal Points/Coordinators to promote interagency and cross-sectoral communication and collaboration;

- collaborating, as appropriate, with National Focal Points/Coordinators in other countries, and regional focal points and networks where established, to facilitate sectoral and cross-sectoral work, including particularly the work of the Commission and the implementation of instruments developed by the Commission; and
- supporting and facilitating, as appropriate, the preparation of communication materials on relevant genetic resources and components of biodiversity and their contributions to food security and rural development, for relevant stakeholders, including government officials, producers, the media and the general public.

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(i) Proposed amendments are shown in bold and square bracketed.