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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

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

Twelfth Session

Rome, 10–12 December 2024

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

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

The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) shall elect its Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and *Rapporteur* from among the representatives of its Members at the beginning of the session. Relevant information is contained in document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/1**. The Statutes of the Working Group and its composition are given in the document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/1/Inf.1**.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

The provisional agenda is contained in document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/2 Rev.2**. A provisional timetable is provided in the *Appendix* to the present document, which provides annotations to the provisional agenda. The list of documents for this session is contained in document **CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/2/Inf.2**.

ITEM 3: *THE THIRD REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

The Commission, at its Nineteenth Regular Session, took note of the document *Draft Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report). It recommended that the finalized Third Report, taking into account all comments received, be made available in due time for this session of the Working Group.¹ The document *Finalization of The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (**CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/3**) summarizes the steps taken to finalize the Third Report and provides a summary of the report. The proofing version of the finalized Third Report, as revised in the light of comments

¹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 47.

received, is contained in the document *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Proofing Version (CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/3/Inf.1)*.

ITEM 4: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

4.1 Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its Nineteenth Regular Session, considered FAO's activities in support of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA).² It recommended that FAO continue to support countries in *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, including through support for community seedbanks, and to strengthen links and complementarity with *ex situ* conservation, including through the development of national action plans and through *ex situ* backup of endangered plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.³

The document, *Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.1)*, provides a summary of the work undertaken since the last session of the Commission in support of the implementation of the Second GPA. The document also reports country experiences with the use of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants⁴ and the Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Farmers' Varieties/Landraces,⁵ as requested by the Commission.⁶ The Working Group is invited to take note of FAO's activities in support of the implementation of the Second GPA and to guide the Commission with regard to future work.

4.2 Application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its last session, welcomed the finalization and publication of three practical guides⁷ developed to facilitate the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture⁸ (Genebank Standards).⁹

The Commission recommended that FAO convene a virtual expert consultation on two additional practical guides for conservation in genebanks of species producing recalcitrant seeds and for conservation through cryopreservation, and develop them further based on the feedback received, for review by the Working Group at this session.¹⁰ The document *Application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.2)* provides an update on the development of the two practical guides, including on the expert consultation held in October 2024. The draft *Practical Guides* are provided in documents **CGRFA/WG-PGR-**

² FAO. 2011. Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/4/i2624e/i2624e00.htm>

³ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 49.

⁴ FAO. 2017. *Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/i7788en>

⁵ FAO. 2019. *Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Farmers' Varieties/Landraces*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA5601EN>

⁶ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 50.

⁷ FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation of orthodox seeds in seed genebanks*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0021en>; FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation in field genebanks*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0023en>; FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation via in vitro culture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0025en>

⁸ FAO. 2014. *Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/i3704e>

⁹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 51.

¹⁰ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 52.

12/24/4.2/Inf.1 and **CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.2/Inf.2**. The Working Group is invited to review and, as appropriate, revise the two draft practical guides.

4.3 Effects of seed policies, laws and regulations

The Commission, at its last session, reviewed and revised a concept note for a scoping study on further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations on farmers' ability to access seeds and planting materials of diverse, locally adapted farmers' varieties/landrace. It recommended that FAO, in collaboration with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty), carry out further work on the effects of seed policies, laws and regulations, subject to the availability of resources.¹¹ The Commission recommended that FAO and the International Treaty explore the possibility of having the scoping study conducted by appropriate external partners, who would involve stakeholders from different seed systems.¹² The document *Effects of Seed Policies, Laws and Regulations (CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.3)* summarizes the steps undertaken to carry out further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations and follows up on the Commission's request¹³ to report on taking a bottom-up, demand-driven approach to seed security and promoting farmers participation in seed-related FAO activities.

4.4 Review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

At its last session, the Commission recommended that FAO review and revise, as appropriate, the Second GPA, based on the findings of the Third Report and taking into account the gaps, needs and priorities identified through regional consultations. It further recommended to invite the Governing Body of the International Treaty to participate in the updating process.¹⁴

The draft Third Report was presented to the Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty,¹⁵ which invited Contracting Parties to provide additional comments and inputs through the process of the Commission and requested the Secretary of the International Treaty to collaborate with the Secretary of the Commission in the finalization of the Third Report and the updating of the Second GPA.¹⁶

The document *Review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.4)* summarizes key changes to the Second GPA suggested during the regional consultations, for consideration by the Working Group. The reports from the regional consultations on the review of the Second GPA, jointly held by FAO, the Commission and the International Treaty in 2024, are provided in information documents.¹⁷

ITEM 5: CLIMATE CHANGE AND PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Commission, at its Nineteenth Regular Session, reviewed and simplified the voluntary draft questionnaire on genetic resources for food and agriculture and climate change.¹⁸ It requested the Secretariat to finalize the questionnaire and subsequently circulate it to all National Focal Points to the Commission to coordinate national consultations and subsequent submissions, with a view to establishing a baseline of national responses for all sectors. It further requested the Secretariat to prepare a summary of responses to the questionnaire for consideration by all the Working Groups.¹⁹

¹¹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 60, *Appendix C*.

¹² CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 61.

¹³ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 61.

¹⁴ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 58.

¹⁵ IT/GB-10/23/16.1/Inf.2.

¹⁶ IT/GB-10/23/Report, Resoluition 11/2023.

¹⁷ CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.4/Inf.1; CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.4/Inf.2; CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.4/Inf.3; CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.4/Inf.4; CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.4/Inf.5; CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.4/Inf.6.

¹⁸ CGRFA-19/23/Report, *Appendix B*.

¹⁹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 16.

The document *Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/5)* provides an initial baseline report collated from a limited number of responses to the climate change questionnaire (*CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/5/Inf.1*). Furthermore, it follows up on the Commission's suggestions regarding the revision of the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*²⁰ and the organization of a global multistakeholder workshop on climate change and GRFA.

More detailed information on FAO's work on climate change is provided in the document *CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/5/Inf.2*.

The Working Group is invited to take note of the draft baseline report and provide further guidance with regard to the development of the report, provide advice regarding the Voluntary Guidelines and the convening of the global multistakeholder workshop on climate change and GRFA.

ITEM 6: OPTIONS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES

In agreeing on the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2023–2031), the Commission, at its last session, requested the Secretariat to propose options for a procedure for the ad hoc identification of new and emerging issues for inclusion in the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), for review by the intergovernmental technical working groups and the Commission at their next sessions.²¹

The document *Options for the identification of new and emerging issues (CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/6)* provides some background to the Commission's request, explores existing and possible new procedures through which new and emerging issues can or potentially could be identified ad hoc for consideration by the Commission.

The Working Group is invited to consider and advise the Commission on the different options for the identification of new and emerging issues.

ITEM 7: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTRUMENTS

The Working Group, at its last session, reiterated the importance of collaboration and synergies between the Commission and international organizations and instruments on topics of mutual interest. The Working Group recommended that the Commission continue to invite relevant organizations and instruments to report to the Working Group and the Commission on their activities and to attend Commission and Working Group sessions.²²

The document *Cooperation with International Organizations and Instruments* addresses the cooperation of the Working Group with its partners (*CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/7*). The document *Submissions from international organizations and instruments (CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/7/Inf.1)* contains reports from international organizations and instruments.

ITEM 8: ANY OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

²⁰ FAO. 2015. *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/i4940e>

²¹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 126.

²² CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/Report, paragraph 50.

APPENDIX
PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Date and Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working Documents
Tuesday, 10 December 2024, morning			
10:00 – 13:00	1	Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and <i>Rapporteur</i>	CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/1
	2	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/2 CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/2 Add.1
	3	<i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/3
	4	Implementation and review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	
		4.1 Implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.1
Tuesday, 10 December 2024, afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	4	4.2 Application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.2
		4.3 Effects of seed policies, laws and regulations	CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.3
Wednesday, 11 December 2024, morning			
10:00 – 13:00	4	4.4 Review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/4.4
Wednesday, 11 December 2024, afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	5	Climate change and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/5
	6	Options for the identification of new and emerging issues	CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/6
	7	Cooperation with international organizations and instruments	CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/7
	8	Any other matters	
Thursday, 12 December 2024, afternoon			
15:00 – 18:00	9	Adoption of the Report	