

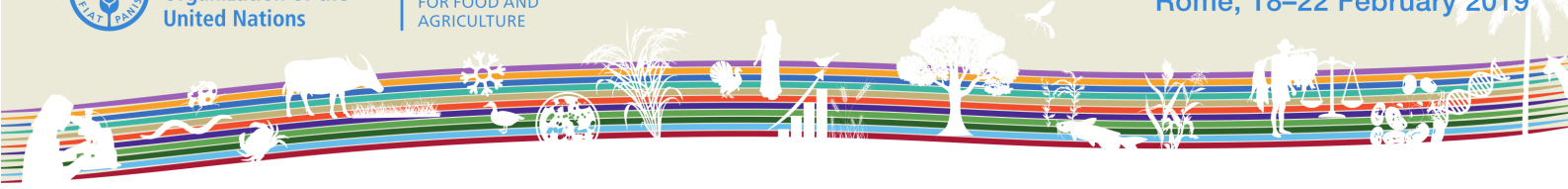


SIDE EVENTS

Organized during the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The organization and content of side events is the sole responsibility of the organizers

Day	Title	Venue & time
Monday 18 February	▪ Guardians of Seeds. Photo exhibition and launch event	<i>Flag Hall, B-018 13:15–14:45 (ongoing)</i>
	▪ “Digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture	<i>Iran Room, B-116 13:15–14:45</i>
Tuesday 19 February	▪ Research findings on the status of patenting plants in the Global South	<i>Iran Room, B-116 13:15–14:45</i>
	▪ The role of agricultural biodiversity in the Scaling-up Agroecology Initiative	<i>Austria Room, C-250 bis 13:15–14:45</i>
	▪ Developing a multi-species tool to map genetic diversity in animal gene banks across countries	<i>Red Room 13:15–14:45</i>
Wednesday 20 February	▪ Realizing Farmers’ Rights	<i>Iran Room, B-116 13:15–14:45</i>
	▪ A Nordic approach to the saying “Eat them to save them”: Examples of adding value to traditional breeds	<i>Austria Room, C-250 bis 13:15–14:45</i>
Thursday 21 February	▪ The Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) project: past and present and what next?	<i>Iran Room, B-116 13:15–14:45</i>
	▪ FAO and the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework	<i>Austria Room, C-250 bis 13:15–14:45</i>



Monday, 18 February 2019

Guardians of Seeds. Photo exhibition and launch event

Venue and time: Flag Hall (B-018); 13:15–14:45

Organizer: Oxfam Novib, the Netherlands

Photo exhibition Guardians of Seeds, by world-class photographers Sacha de Boer and Ilvy Njiokiktjien. The portraits and reportage photos show the stories of smallholder women farmers in Peru, Laos and Zimbabwe and their role in the keeping, using and selecting of seeds for food and nutrition security – in the face of climate change. The photo exhibition can be visited every day (18–22 February).

Speakers:

- Hans Hoogeveen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the FAO in Rome
- Alejandro Argumedo, Director, Asociación Andes, Peru, partner of 'Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security'

Chair: Gigi Manicad, Senior Advisor, 'Sowing Diversity=Harvesting Security', Oxfam Novib, the Netherlands

“Digital sequence information” on genetic resources for food and agriculture

Venue and time: Iran Room (B-116); 13:15–14:45

Organizer: Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Commission, at its Sixteenth Regular Session, established a new work stream on “digital sequence information” (DSI) on genetic resources for food and agriculture and requested the Secretariat to prepare, an exploratory fact-finding scoping study on DSI on GRFA.

This side event includes presentations of the study commissioned by the Secretariat to the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, and of a study commissioned by France (Ministry of Agriculture and Food) to the French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (Fondation pour la recherche sur la biodiversité, FRB). The Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Deputy Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will report on the state of play concerning digital sequence information under their respective instruments.

Speakers:

- Irene Hoffmann, Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Jack Heinemann, University of Canterbury, New Zealand
- Charlotte Navarro, French Foundation for Research on Biodiversity, France
- Kent Nnadozie, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Chair: Ndeye Ndack Diop, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO



Tuesday, 19 February 2019

Research findings on the Status of Patenting Plants in the Global South

Venue and time: Iran Room (B-116); 13:15–14:45

Organizer: Oxfam Novib, the Netherlands

Over the last few decades, the number of patents on plants and plant parts has greatly increased in various parts of the world. This has triggered social debate about possible negative consequences for the breeding sector, farmers and society. Despite the urgency of these questions, most research has focused on developed countries while little is known about the extent to which plants are being patented in other parts of the world. The findings from this new research report show that 60% of the 126 countries in the Global South for which data was available allow for the patenting of plants or parts thereof, and many such patents were identified. The side event will present the main patenting trends that can be observed in developing countries and emerging economies, and reflect upon its consequences for the breeding sector, for farmers and for society at large.

Speakers:

- Bram de Jonge, Seed Policy Advisor, Oxfam Novib, the Netherlands
- Carlos María Correa, Executive Director, South Centre
- Fulya Batur, Seed Policy, Arche Noah

Panelists: Representatives from Argentina, Brazil, India and Uganda (tbc)

Chair: Kim van Seeters, Ministry of Agriculture, the Netherlands (tbc)

The role of agricultural biodiversity in the Scaling-up Agroecology Initiative

Venue and time: Austria Room (C-250 bis); 13:15–14:45

Organizers: International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food); Global Alliance for the Future of Food (GAFF); Agroecology Fund

Biodiversity lies at the heart of agroecology, an approach to agriculture rising in importance among UN agencies. Agroecology addresses multiple SDGs and serves to mitigate climate change. This discussion will explore the important link between agricultural biodiversity management on farm and agroecology. Speakers will speak to policy and on-farm successes in agroecology, present progress on a seeds of resilience initiative of the GAFF and show the role that this initiative could play in the FAO's Scaling-up Agroecology Initiative, approved by COAG in October 2018.

Speakers:

- Normita Ignacio, Program Coordinator, Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)
- Devra Jarvis, Research Coordinator, Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research (PAR)
- Sebastien Subsol, IFAD
- François Pythoud, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to FAO, IFAD and WFP

Chair: Emile Frison, International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), former Director General of Bioversity International.



Developing a multi-species tool to map genetic diversity in animal gene banks across countries

Venue and time: Red Room; 13:15–14:45

Organizers: French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA); Animal Production and Health Division, FAO

The H2020 IMAGE project has among its objectives the development of a SNP chip that would allow genotyping of gene bank collections for several species at the same time, in order to map diversity across country in a comparable way, and to take into account this information in the future management of collections. The event will present to the national coordinators of animal genetic resources group the objectives and the current options to be discussed.

Speakers:

- Michèle Tixier-Boichard, Project Coordinator, H2020 IMAGE, French National Institute for Agricultural Research
- Sipke Hiemstra, Director, Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands, Wageningen University & Research
- Alessandra Stella, Scientific Director, PTP Science Park, Italy
- Licia Colli, Researcher, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy
- Paul Boettcher, Animal Production and Health Division, FAO
- Samuel Paiva, National Coordinator, Genetic Resources Program, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA)

Chair: Harvey Blackburn, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture



Wednesday, 20 February 2019

Realizing Farmers' Rights

Venue and time: Iran Room (B-116); 13:15–14:45

Organizer: Governments of Norway, Italy and India; Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Contracting Parties of the ITPGRFA recognized the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world.

At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA, through Resolution 7/2017, decided to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Farmers' Rights to:

- i. Produce an inventory of national measures that may be adopted, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty; and
- ii. Based on the inventory, develop options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.

The objective of the event is to highlight the importance to realise the Farmers' Rights at national level, the work done so far in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights and to share experiences made in realising Farmers' Rights to crop genetic resources.

Speakers:

- Kent Nnadozie, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim (Co-Chair of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights), Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway
- Riccardo Bocci, Rete Semi Rurali, Italy
- Bonnie Furman, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
- Normita Ignacio, Program Coordinator, Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)

Chair: Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway



A Nordic approach to the saying “Eat them to save them”: Examples of adding value to traditional breeds

Venue and time: Austria Room (C-250 bis); 13:15–14:45

Organizers: Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen)

The Nordic Genetic Resource Center invites you to participate in a discussion that focuses on the saying “Eat them to save them”. We present three NordGen projects aiming at preserving threatened farm animals in the Nordic region.

- The brown bee is native to the Nordic area. Although endangered, thanks to active bee keepers and an ambitious conservation programme, the bees now have a bright future. We’ll share the success story.
- Does milk and meat from traditional Nordic breeds have certain characters specific to them and how can this lead to incentives for farmers to keep them? We present the projects NordMilk and NordMeat.

The session is wrapped up with a discussion of how economical, ecological and social sustainability can be combined whilst preserving animal genetic diversity.

Speakers:

- Lise Lykke Steffensen, Executive Director, NordGen
- Linn Fenna Groeneveld, Senior Scientist, NordGen
- Mervi Honkatukia, Section Leader, NordGen

Chair: Lise Lykke Steffensen, Executive Director, NordGen



Thursday, 21 February 2019

The Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) project: past and present and what next?

Venue and time: Iran Room (B-116); 13:15–14:45

Organizer: Bioversity International and FAO

Good food is key to good health. A key cornerstone of good food is food biodiversity broadly defined as “*the diversity of plants, animals and other organisms used for food, covering the genetic resources within species, between species and provided by ecosystems*”. Nutritional diversity required for a healthy life is dependent on this diversity. The GEF-funded Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) project is the first global initiative of its kind to develop and test a successful comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to mainstreaming biodiversity for improved nutrition, linking evidence, policies, markets and awareness. These successes including mainstreaming into food-based dietary guidelines, food procurement and school feeding programmes will be showcased in this brightspot event, along with approaches to prioritizing biodiversity, generating evidence of nutritional value and novel policy support and incentives. The BFN project provides a replicable approach to help other countries to implement the *Voluntary Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition* in an efficient and practical manner. The BFN approach is also central to future development of healthy, sustainable food systems.

Speakers:

- Teresa Borelli, Programme Specialist, Bioversity International
- Anna Lartey, Nutrition and Food Systems Division, FAO
- Marieta Sakalian, Senior Programme Management/Liaison Officer (CGIAR/FAO), UNEP
- Ann Tutwiler, Director General, Bioversity International
- Jamie Morrison, Food Systems Programme Management Team, FAO

Chair: Danny Hunter, Global project coordinator, Bioversity International and Florence Tartanac, Nutrition and Food Systems Division, FAO



FAO and the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework

Venue and time: Austria Room (C-250 bis); 13:15–14:45

Organizer: Friends of Biodiversity; Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; Bioversity International

Present the current status of discussion on the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and discuss the role of FAO, CGRFA, ITPGRFA and Bioversity including on the basis of the needs and actions identified by the SOW on biodiversity for food and agriculture and the ongoing work on the development of the FAO strategy on biodiversity.

Expected Outcome: Experts from the capital and Permanent Representatives have an idea about the process, its significance for biodiversity for food and agriculture and could interact with their CBD national counterpart.

Speakers:

- David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, CBD Secretariat
- René Castro, Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department, FAO
- Irene Hoffmann, Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Kent Nnadozie, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Ann Tutwiler, Director General, Bioversity International
- Representative of Mexico

Chair: Francois Pythoud, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to FAO, IFAD and WFP on behalf of the Friends of Biodiversity.