



Our Ref.: C/OCB-725

Invitation to the
20th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, Italy, 24 – 28 March 2025

Reply requested by 2 December 2024

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has the honour to extend an invitation to attend the 20th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 24 to 28 March 2025. The meeting will open on Monday, 24 March 2025 at 10:00 (CET). The Session will be preceded by regional consultations on Sunday, 23 March 2025.

The Session is being convened under the provisions of Article VI-1 of the FAO Constitution and is open to all Members of the Commission and to observers. Membership of the Commission, which is open to all Members of the Organization, shall be composed of those Members which notify the Director-General in writing of their desire to become Members. Membership of the Commission does not place any financial burden on the Government. The Statutes of the Commission and a list of its current membership may be downloaded from their respective links: <https://www.fao.org/3/I8636EN/i8636en.pdf> and <https://www.fao.org/3/I8638EN/i8638en.pdf>. Governments or organizations are responsible for expenses incurred in connection with attendance and travel of their representatives and observers. The Organization takes pleasure in inviting FAO Members which are not Members of the Commission to apply for membership by returning the attached form duly completed and to consider this communication an invitation to attend the Session.

The 20th Regular Session of the Commission will be held in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The Provisional Agenda is attached herewith. Other documents may be downloaded, as they become available, from the Commission's website:

<http://www.fao.org/cgrfa>

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Attention is drawn to Rule V.2 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, which states that Members of the Commission should, as far as possible, be represented by delegations consisting of senior officials highly qualified to contribute actively to a multi-disciplinary consideration of the subjects on the agenda of the Commission. In the designation of their delegation, Members may wish to take into consideration that the upcoming Session will focus on: genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture; the role of genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change; access and benefit-sharing; digital sequence information; and options for the future identification of new and emerging issues.

Members are kindly reminded that the Commission will elect the Chairperson and six Vice-Chairpersons at the end of the session. In addition, Members should be prepared to elect the Members of its intergovernmental technical working groups.

Members of the Commission and Members and Associate Members that are not Members of the Commission are kindly invited to inform the Director-General, by Monday, 2 December 2024 of the names, official titles, addresses and email accounts of their representatives, alternates, associates and advisers designated to attend the Commission session. Online registration for countries is available through the password-protected FAO Members gateway at:

<http://www.fao.org/members-gateway/en/>

Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from this site. Online registration for participation requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital photograph.

Representatives of countries that are not Members or Associate Members of the Organization or from international organizations designated to attend the meeting as observers, are requested to forward their names, official titles and addresses, including email, to cgrfa@fao.org, together with a recent passport-size digital photograph.

Before travelling, participants should check visa requirements with the competent Italian Consulate. Kindly note that visas can be requested in the country of origin (country in which the participant holds citizenship) or in the country of residence (country in which the participant resides at the time of visa application). Participants who do not have an Italian Consulate in their country may apply at the correspondent Italian Consulate in a neighbouring country, or at any other Consulate which belongs to a Schengen or European country. Visa applications should be submitted to the Italian Consulate one month before arrival in Italy. It is the responsibility of participants to request their visa applications personally, arrange for an appointment and present all the necessary documentation to the Italian Consulate. Participants who do not need an entry visa to enter Italy should ensure that their passports are valid for at least six months after the intended date of departure from the Schengen area. In these cases, upon entering Italy, border authorities may require participants to show evidence for the reason and the duration of their stay in Italy. Participants with non-direct flights to Rome should check whether a transit visa is necessary to enter the transit area of international airports.