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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 9.3 of the Provisional Agenda

Twentieth Regular Session

Rome, 24–28 March 2025

**REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR EUROPE: REVIEW OF THE
SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE



International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture

**REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR EUROPE:
REVIEW OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION
FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

MEETING REPORT

**VIRTUAL MEETING
10–12 SEPTEMBER 2024**

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE CONSULTATION

1. The Regional Consultation for Europe: Review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was held virtually from 10 to 12 September 2024. The workshop was co-organized by the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty). The list of participants is given in *Appendix IV* to this report.

2. The consultation was divided into six sessions. Session 1 included welcoming remarks to open the regional consultation as well as presentations to set the scene for the consultation. Session 2 addressed the state of *in situ* conservation and management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), including key regional findings from the SOW3. Session 3 addressed the state of *ex situ* conservation of PGRFA. Session 4 addressed the state of sustainable use of PGRFA. Session 5 addressed the state of human and institutional capacities. Session 6 addressed the structure of the revised Second GPA. The full agenda of the regional consultation is provided in *Appendix I* to this report.

II. WELCOMING REMARKS AND OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

3. Welcoming remarks were provided by representatives from the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, and the Secretariats of the Commission and Treaty.

4. Mr Viorel Gutu, Assistant Director-General, FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, welcomed the participants to the event. He mentioned the challenges of genetic erosion and biodiversity loss posing significant threats to human well-being and environmental health. Mr Gutu highlighted the need to address these issues as they are crucial for food security and nutrition and that these resources continue to be threatened by drivers, such as unsustainable agricultural practices and land degradation, and exacerbated by climate change. He further stressed the need for a broader use of crop diversity to reduce external inputs, improve soil health and diversify diets, leaving no one behind. He ended by wishing the participants a successful consultation.

5. Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission, welcomed participants and thanked FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the Treaty for co-organizing the consultation. He stressed that the outcomes of the regional workshops would be brought to the attention of the Twelfth session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources that will be held in December 2024 and the Twentieth Regular Session of the Commission in March 2025.

6. Mr Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the Treaty, reiterated the importance of collaborating with the Commission. He expressed his hope that the support provided will enable Contracting Parties to actively participate in the process of updating the Second GPA noting that it is particularly relevant for the Treaty's work on conservation and sustainable use under Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty.

III. SETTING THE SCENE: INTRODUCTION TO THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION

7. Ms Bonnie Furman, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO, provided an introduction to the objectives of the consultation. Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, Information Management Officer, FAO, gave a presentation on the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA)*,¹ and provided the context of the rolling GPA and the periodic assessments of its implementation. Mr Diulgheroff also introduced the draft *Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOW3)*.² Mr Leskien presented possible options for revising the Second GPA.

¹ FAO. 2012. *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/i2624e>

² CGRFA/WG-PGR-12/24/3/Inf.1.

IV. *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PGRFA

8. Ms Arshiya Noorani, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO, presented the key findings of the SOW3 for *in situ* conservation and management of PGRFA at both the global and regional levels, including gaps and needs. The gaps and needs identified are presented in *Appendix II* to this report.

9. Participants broke into subregional working groups to discuss the relevance and fitness for purpose of Priority Activities (PAs) 1–4 of the Second GPA in light of the gaps and needs and to provide suggestions for any revisions. The working groups reported back to the plenary. Summary recommendations are provided in Section 1 of *Appendix III* to this report.

V. *EX SITU* CONSERVATION OF PGRFA

10. Ms Bonnie Furman, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO, presented the key findings of the SOW3 for *ex situ* conservation of PGRFA at both the global and regional levels, including gaps and needs. The gaps and needs identified are presented in Section 2 of *Appendix II* to this report.

11. Participants then broke into subregional working groups to discuss the relevance and fit for purpose of PAs 3–7 of the Second GPA in light of the gaps and needs and to provide suggestions for any revisions. The working groups reported back to the plenary. Summary recommendations are provided in Section 1 of *Appendix III* to this report.

VI. SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA

12. Ms Furman presented the key findings of the SOW3 for sustainable use of PGRFA at both the global and regional level, including gaps and needs. The gaps and needs identified are presented in Section 3 of *Appendix II* to this report.

13. Participants then broke into subregional working groups to discuss the relevance and fitness for purpose of PAs 8–12 of the Second GPA in light of the gaps and needs and to provide suggestions for any revisions. The working groups reported back to the plenary. Summary recommendations are provided in Section 3 of *Appendix III* to this report.

VII. BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN CAPACITIES

14. Mr Diulgheroff presented the key findings of the SOW3 for building institutional and human capacities at both the global and regional levels, including gaps and needs. The gaps and needs identified are presented in Section 4 of *Appendix II* to this report.

15. Participants then broke into subregional working groups to discuss the relevance and fitness for purpose of PAs 13–18 of the Second GPA in light of the gaps and needs and to provide suggestions for any revisions. The working groups reported back to the plenary. Summary recommendations are provided in Section 4 of *Appendix III* to this report.

VIII. STRUCTURE OF THE REVISED SECOND GPA

16. Mr Leskien led a discussion on the format and structure of a revised Second GPA, providing three potential options. These included: (1) a lightly revised version to reflect new policy developments/guidelines and technical developments since the publication of the Second GPA; (2) a condensed version in which PAs would be shortened to approximately one to two pages per PAs and would include technical and policy updates and minor rearrangements of PAs; and (3) a focused action plan for action by governments. Options 2 and 3 would be complemented by standalone guidelines for their implementation. Discussions were held in plenary. Participants mentioned that monitoring on the implementation of the revised GPA should be more frequent for ease of reporting, at least for a smaller number of indicators and in a more targeted manner. It was noted that simplification of the monitoring framework should be balanced with the need for clarity.

IX. CLOSING

17. Mr Leskien reiterated the importance of convening such a workshop. He mentioned the relevance of the work and the interest in the continued improvement of the conservation and sustainable use of the Second GPA in the region and beyond. He congratulated the Plant Production and Protection Division for having provided excellent support for the organization and operation of the consultation. He thanked all the speakers and participants for their enthusiasm and active engagement and expressed his gratitude to the Treaty Secretariats for having co-organized the event. He also thanked meeting and audiovisual services for their excellent work.

APPENDIX I

**AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR EUROPE: REVIEW OF THE
SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD
AND AGRICULTURE**

10 September – Day 1	
SESSION 1	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
	Welcome and opening remarks
09:30 – 09:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Viorel Gutu, Assistant Director-General, FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia • Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture • Mr Kent Nnadozie, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
09:45 – 09:55	<p>The Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the preparation of the draft <i>Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i></p> <p>Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, Information Management Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO</p>
09:55 – 10:05	<p>Revising the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Possible options</p> <p>Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</p>
SESSION 2	<i>IN SITU</i> CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PGRFA
10:05 – 10:20	<p>Priority Activities of the Second GPA (1–4) and key findings of the Third Report:</p> <p>Ms Arshiya Noorani, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO</p>
10:20 – 10:35	Break
10:35 – 11:45	WORKING GROUPS
11:45 – 12:30	PLENARY: Working Group Reports and Discussion
11 September – Day 2	
09:00 – 09:15	<p>PLENARY: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In Situ</i> Conservation and Management of PGRFA

SESSION 3	EX SITU CONSERVATION OF PGRFA
09:15 – 09:30	Priority Activities of the Second GPA (5–7) and key findings of the Third Report Ms Bonnie Furman, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
09:30 – 10:30	WORKING GROUPS
10:30 – 11:15	PLENARY: Working Group Reports and Discussion
11:15 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
SESSION 4	SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA
11:30 – 11:45	Priority Activities of the Second GPA (8–12) and key findings of the Third Report Ms Bonnie Furman, Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
11:45- 12:45	WORKING GROUPS
12:45 – 13:30	PLENARY: Working Group Reports and Discussion

12 September - Day 3	
09:00 – 09:30	PLENARY: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ex Situ</i> Conservation of PGRFA • Sustainable Use of PGRFA
SESSION 5	BUILDING INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN CAPACITIES
09:30 – 09:45	Priority Activities of the Second GPA (13–18) and key findings of the Third Report Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, Information Management Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO
09:45 – 10:45	WORKING GROUPS
11:00 – 11:45	PLENARY: Working Group Reports and Discussion
11:45 - 14:00	Break
14:00 – 14:15	PLENARY: Draft Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional and Human Capacities

SESSION 6	The Revised Second GPA
14:15 – 15:15	Format, structure, purpose, target group(s) of the revised Second GPA – Final discussion
15:15 – 15:20	Closing remarks Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

APPENDIX II

MAIN REGIONAL GAPS AND NEEDS IDENTIFIED

The following sections summarize the regional gaps and needs identified from the draft *Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

SECTION 1: *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PGRFA

Main gaps in the region

- Insufficient coordination among PGRFA institutions and stakeholders.
- Insufficient baseline assessments: difficult to assess trends.
- Inadequate or lack of information systems to document national inventories of PGRFA.
- Lack of a clear procedure for designating *in situ* conservation areas.
- Insufficient funding for collection missions.
- Lack of mechanisms for monitoring changes in crop diversity post-disasters.
- Conservation activities are often fragmented.
- Baseline assessment of status (numbers of species/varieties and distribution range often unknown).

Main needs in the region

- A national system of coordination needed to enhance efficiency in resource utilization.
- Financial resources to carry out research and financial incentives to promote crop diversity on-farm.
- On-farm and *ex situ* complementarity.
- Documentation and information systems on wild and cultivated PGRFA, especially vulnerable and at-risk areas.
- Multistakeholder engagement for farmer demand-driven varietal development.
- Documented information on the use of crop diversity for improved resilience.
- Adequate policies for restoration of cropping systems.
- Awareness of their importance by the academic community, donors, protected area managers and rural communities.
- National plans, policy support and collaboration across different sectors.

SECTION 2: *EX SITU* CONSERVATION OF PGRFA

Main gaps in the region

- Lack of evaluation data making targeted collection for specific traits difficult.
- Insufficient financial and technical resources to carry out annual collecting missions.
- No clear definition of priority regions or target species.
- Poor cooperation between national genebanks and *in situ* conservation authorities.
- Limited human, material and financial resources for genebank operations.
- Incomplete passport, characterization and evaluation data of accessions.
- Lack of coordination and collaboration at the national level with respect to the collection, acquisition, evaluation and conservation of PGRFA.
- Limited activities on the identification of duplicated accessions.
- Absence of necessary facilities for *in vitro* conservation of genetic material and cryopreservation.
- Lack of expertise in conservation techniques, such as cryopreservation, *in vitro* conservation, and DNA sample storage.
- Lack of sustainable funding results in sporadic regeneration and backlogs.
- Inadequate equipment and facilities, especially for cross-pollinated species.

- Insufficient implementation of viability tests for orthodox seeds.
- Inexperience in the regeneration and multiplication of wild plant accessions.

Main needs in the region

- Long-term sustainable funding for *ex situ* conservation.
- Coordination among genebanks and other stakeholders at the national level with respect to the collection, acquisition and conservation of PGRFA.
- Educational programmes and human-capacity development, especially in taxonomy, *in vitro* and cryopreservation techniques and handling of wild and open-pollinated species.
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures to improve quality and stability.
- Centrally managed and accessible documentation system covering all collections.

SECTION 3: SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA

Main gaps in the region

- Insufficient levels of characterization and evaluation of collections.
- Inadequate coordination between research programmes and genebanks, including data sharing and identification of subsets related to specific characteristics.
- Limited technological expertise and human capacity in plant breeding (not attractive for young researchers).
- Insufficient financial and human capacities and infrastructure for the use of molecular technologies.
- Limited availability of on-line databases and data on germplasm accessions limits use.
- Difficulties acquiring foreign germplasm.
- Insufficient public awareness on the importance of plant genetic resources, mainly local varieties, to be used in plant breeding.
- Lack of studies on assessing/monitoring crop diversity and intraspecific diversity in crops and its documentation.
- Insufficient national policies to promote and incentivize the increase in inter- and intra-specific crop diversity.
- Difficult to find sufficient seed and planting material from landraces and other marginal plants on the market.
- Insufficient seed supply of local materials.
- Relatively little research and improvement of less-utilized crops and species harvested from the wild.
- Lack of awareness of the importance and potential of diversity-rich neglected and underutilized species (NUS) and farmers' varieties/landraces (FV/LR).
- Insufficient financial/ policy support for the development and commercialization NUS and FV/LR.
- Lack of efficient post-harvest processing and marketing of traditional products.
- FV/LR often do not meet the criteria for registration.
- Insufficient number of seed producers resulting in a shortage of seeds.
- Lack of sufficient quantities of basic, commercial and registered seed for several important crops.

Main needs in the region

- Enhanced financial/human capacities and infrastructure for molecular characterization.
- Standardization of characterization activities and data sharing.
- Better linkages between genebank passport data and phenotypic and genotypic data are required.

- Creation of programmes and awareness raising in the farming community about the purpose and importance of diversification and broadening crop diversity.
- Establishment of initiatives to promote local seeds on the domestic market.
- Strengthening of seed producers' associations.
- Standardization of existing regulations regarding seed production and distribution systems.
- Strengthened monitoring and control capacities in the market to prevent the sale of non-quality seeds and planting material.

SECTION 4: HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

Main gaps in the region

- Insufficient competencies within the national programmes.
- Insufficient technical and infrastructural capacity.
- Barriers to sharing information.
- Insufficient inventory data on crop wild relatives (CWR), wild food plants (WFP) and FV/LR
- CWR, WFP and FV/LR neglected, at risk and poorly documented.
- Inventories of CWR, WFP and FV/LR are outdated.
- Insufficient human resources and expertise (staff turnover and few young people to replace retiring staff).
- Lack of strategy, policy to develop human capacity.
- Insufficient formal training programmes.
- Insufficient state funding for staff development and to create attractive career paths and recognition strategies.
- Messages not sufficiently tailored to audiences.

Main needs in the region

- Financial sustainability and incorporation of PGRFA networks into national programmes.
- Enhanced exchange of technology, materials and information.
- Active participation and awareness.
- Cost-benefit analysis and strategic involvement.
- Fostering of inter-institutional collaboration.
- Online access of data (passport, characterization and evaluation) in clear intellectual property rights frameworks.
- Enhance use of DOI to link *ex situ* germplasm with characterization and evaluation data in publications.
- Leveraging of existing platforms to expand national PGRFA information systems.
- Clear indicators and methods to assess genetic diversity and erosion.
- Establishment of national, regional and global baselines to monitor diversity.
- Foster collaboration including with regional and international centres.
- Update inventories of CWR, WFP and FV/LR.
- Establish early warning systems that detect and respond to genetic erosion promptly.
- Interdisciplinary and international collaboration.
- Improved awareness of the importance of PGRFA.
- Improved coordination, collaboration and inter-institutional partnerships with respect to communication activities.
- Production of impactful media and educational materials.
- Integration of PGRFA conservation and use into educational systems.
- Strengthened advocacy efforts to inform and mobilize support from decision-makers and communities.

APPENDIX III

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REVISION OF THE SECOND GPA

The following sections summarize and consolidate inputs and comments received from the subregional working groups.

SECTION 1: *IN SITU* CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PGRFA

General considerations:

- Separate Section/Priority Activities (PAs) on On-farm management: to include surveying
 - *In situ* conservation section or PA should only address crop wild relatives (CWR) and wild food plants (WFP).
 - Sections on *in situ* conservation and on-farm management to address documentation and standardization of data, data collection and sharing of data.
- New suggested outline for section/PA1 (*in situ*) and section/PA 2 (on-farm):
 - Surveying and inventorying
 - Conservation approaches
 - *Ex situ* complementary action
 - Management and coordination.
- New section on Policies and International Collaboration
 - PGRFA considerations to be integrated across other policies at national and global level: integrate information on policies and strategies (National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans [NBSAPs], Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Climate policies).

PA 1. Surveying and inventorying plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

- Needs to be present within the on-farm management and the *in situ* sections (instead of standalone).
- Activity contributes to prioritization of species for resource mobilization: Red Listing of PGRFA proposed.
- Need to raise awareness about the need for surveying and inventorying.

PA 2. Supporting on-farm management and improvement of PGRFA

- Quite generic, depending on which format the updated GPA takes, it could be separated into more specific activities.
- Incorporate promotion of sharing of experiences among countries for success stories.
- Promote *ex situ* – on-farm complementarity.

PA 3. Assisting farmers in disaster situations to restore crop systems

- Should be moved to another section.
- Incorporate sharing of good practices and lessons learned among different regions (especially as climate change emergencies may become more frequent).

PA 4. Promoting *in situ* conservation and management of crop wild relatives and wild food plants

- Amend title: substitute “Promoting” with “Strengthening”.
- List of priority species of wild PGRFA can be a useful first step.
- To be split into subsections for CWR and WFP.
- Need a standardized procedure/methodology for the establishment of *in situ* conservation areas.
- Address raising awareness among policy makers

SECTION 2: *EX SITU* CONSERVATION OF PGRFA

PA 5. Supporting targeted collecting of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

- Emphasis more on the need for targeted collection in the text:
 - use of gap analysis
 - identification of unique accessions to avoid redundancies in collections.
- Emphasize information sharing and prioritization.
- Promote collaboration among countries in collecting, in particular at the regional level.
- Promote collection of endangered species and local varieties.

PA 6. Sustaining and expanding *ex situ* conservation of germplasm

- Emphasize increasing the quality of the collections, rather than expanding:
 - promotion of genebank quality management systems
 - rationalization of collections
 - identification of duplication needs to be made more explicit
 - inclusion of passport data.
- Emphasize the need for improving genebank documentation systems and information flow.
- Encourage other holders of collections (private, universities, etc.) to join multilateral system.
- Improving conservation technologies to include conserving recalcitrant and vegetatively propagated species (cryo-technology).
- Suggested title: “Sustaining and improving *ex situ* conservation and documentation of germplasm.”

PA 7. Regenerating and multiplying *ex situ* accessions

- Stress the importance of the PA for increasing availability of samples for use.
- Cross-pollinating species and CWR are an issue. Need to strengthen technical capacity and infrastructure.
- Promote regeneration of endangered species and local varieties.
- Change of title: “Regenerating, multiplying and safety duplicating *ex situ* accessions.”

SECTION 3: SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA

General considerations:

- Some discussion on whether characterization would be better placed under *ex situ* conservation as is part of genebank workflow.
- PA 10 and 11 are partly overlapping and could merged and more focused: “Promoting diversification through the development and commercialization of farmers varieties, landraces and underutilized species.”
- Also, there is some overlap between PA 11 and 12, and thus could be merged. Seed production is implied in commercialization. Suggested title: “Promoting development, commercialization and distribution of farmers’ varieties/landraces, in particular of NUS”.
- Add Priority Activity 13: “Facilitate the availability (and enhance the access and benefit sharing) of the genetic diversity from *in situ*, *ex situ* conservation and other sources to all stakeholders”.

PA 8. Expanding the characterization, evaluation and further development of specific subsets of collections to facilitate use

- Emphasis should be placed on quality and availability of data.
- Cannot and does not need to be done only by genebanks – different modalities should be explored.
- Suggested title: “Expanding the characterization, evaluation and further development of specific subsets of collections to facilitate use by all stakeholders.”

PA 9. Supporting plant breeding, genetic enhancement and base broadening efforts

- Promote collaboration among genebanks, breeders and farmers/farmer organizations.
- Stress the importance of participatory approaches, including breeding for organic agriculture
- Encourage use of modern biotechnologies.
- Promote breeders' rights in alignment with national legislation.

PA 10. Promoting diversification of crop production and broadening crop diversity for sustainable agriculture

- Foster farmers' awareness and engagement.
- Importance of availability of sufficient seed stocks for involvement of farmers.

PA 11. Promoting development and commercialization of all varieties, primarily farmers' varieties/landraces and underutilized species

- Emphasize in text the heterogenous nature of farmers' varieties/landraces (FV/LR).
- Include the importance of value chains.
- Emphasize need to enhance commercialization through quality systems and labels (for example geographic indication).
- Stress the importance of enabling policies.
- Include the need for appropriate registration procedures for smallholders.
- Suggested title: "Promoting development and commercialization of farmers' varieties/landraces and underutilized species".

PA 12. Supporting seed production and distribution

- Suggestion to keep as separate PA as it is very relevant for some countries though less of a priority for others.
- Emphasize importance of availability of quality seeds of FV/LR.
- Include the appropriateness of quality standards for FV/LR.
- Stress importance of efforts to strengthening linkages between national PGRFA programmes and actors in the seed sector.
- Suggested title: "Supporting seed production and distribution through all seed systems."

SECTION 4: HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

- General considerations: Civil society and NGOs should be called to play a greater role in PA implementation.

PA 13. Building and strengthening national programmes

- Critical issues to be addressed:
 - Sustainable funding mechanisms are needed for implementation.
 - Participation (multistakeholder engagement, especially policymakers, but also other key stakeholders including farmers' organizations, civil society, etc.) for defining national priorities.
 - National strategies for PGRFA are important for guiding the national programme.
- Implementation of national programmes/strategies should be periodically reviewed (including gaps in capacities in different expertise e.g. *in situ*, on-farm, *ex situ*).
- PA should stress the importance of:
 - international collaboration
 - harmonization/ integration with current international frameworks to ensure PGRFA are recognized and taken into account across other policies at national and global level. Commission and Treaty Secretariats should continue to play/even strengthen

their role to raise PGRFA issues under other relevant fora, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) adopted by the UN General Assembly, should be referred to, as national programmes should contribute to its implementation alongside the Farmers' Rights provisions of the Treaty.

PA 14: Promoting and strengthening networks for PGRFA

- Revised GPA should stress the risk that local and international conflicts pose to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA being that the world is interdependent on them for food security.
- Network play a key role in developing regional and international projects on PGRFA.
- Networks facilitate cooperation between genebanks, breeders and researchers (strengthen paragraph 240).

PA 15: Constructing and strengthening comprehensive information systems for PGRFA

- Need to stress importance of strong national technical and infrastructural capacity.
- Inter-institutional collaboration.
- Fill in data gaps on CWP, WFP and farmers' varieties using standardized descriptors to guarantee their inclusion and interoperability in information systems.

PA 16: Developing and strengthening systems for monitoring and safeguarding genetic diversity and minimizing genetic erosion of PGRFA

- Establishing early warning systems to identify threats to genetic diversity is essential for taking timely conservation measures – significant work is still needed.
- Develop, fine tune and apply indicators and methodologies to assess and monitor genetic diversity and erosion.
- The importance of building inventories for CWR, WFP, FV/LR and to periodically update them.

PA 17: Building and strengthening human-resource capacity

- Continuous focus on human capacity is key to ensure expertise for the future.
- Capacity development offer should cover needs for all aspects of *in situ*, on-farm and *ex situ* conservation and use.
- Take advantage of and train in the use of innovative technologies.

PA18: Promoting and strengthening public awareness of the importance of PGRFA

- Important to raise awareness on values of, as well as on threats to, PGRFA.
- Use of social media.
- Improved awareness should be a continuous effort particularly for youth and policy makers.
- Develop communication messages tailored to stakeholders, including ministries and decision-makers, as well as users/potential PGRFA users.
- Take advantage of new movements/trends and initiatives (e.g. citizens science) that can both enhance awareness and bring in important data on diversity of PGRFA at the same time.

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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