



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



EXPERT MEETING ON THE TOOLBOX FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Volterra, Italy, 19–21 July 2016

Context and Concept of the Toolbox

Introduction

1. The Governing Body of the Treaty recognizes the pivotal role of sustainable use of PGRFA in addressing global challenges, including biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation, poverty alleviation, and food security, especially for smallholder and subsistence farmers. The implementation of Article 6 of the Treaty, ‘Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources’ (Annex 1) is a standing priority item on the agenda of the Governing Body with the aim of promoting an integrated approach to the sustainable use of PGRFA among Contracting Parties.
2. In 2009 the Governing Body proposed the development of a toolbox to assist countries in designing measures to promote the sustainable use of PGRFA, recognizing that in many regions the implementation of Article 6 is lagging behind in comparison with other elements of the Treaty, and in 2011 it established the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA (ACSU).
3. At its Sixth Session (2015), the Governing Body adopted Resolution 4/2015¹ on the implementation of Article 6 along with the revised Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PW-SU) and its Supporting Initiatives for 2016–2019 (Annex 2). The development of the Toolbox is one of two programmes of the PW-SU and will contribute to its five goals, particularly regarding the provision of technical support to implement the provisions of the Treaty relevant to sustainable use (Goal 1), but also to help strengthen collaboration and partnerships between stakeholders participating in projects and programmes relevant to sustainable use (Goal 4).

The concept and development of the Toolbox

4. The concept of the Toolbox as a “one-stop shop” from which users can draw selectively from a comprehensive set of resources tailored to provide solutions to specific needs was discussed and supported by the ACSU at its first meeting in 2012². The Toolbox will provide Contracting Parties and stakeholders with technical information, policy options, regulatory guidelines, training opportunities, decision tools and others materials to guide activities promoting the sustainable use of PGRFA³ and will address constraints identified as negatively affecting the capacity of national and regional programmes⁴.
5. At its second meeting⁵ (2015), the ACSU recommended that the Toolbox should initially focus on uses of PGRFA that may expand the genetic base of crops, while remaining adaptable and open-ended to future needs of users. In particular, it recommended that the Toolbox contain tools for:

¹ [Resolution 04/2015 – Sixth Session of the Governing Body – Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of PGRFA](#)

² [Report of the First Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA](#)

³ [Item 6 of the Draft Provisional Agenda – First Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA – Development of a toolbox on sustainable use of PGRFA](#)

⁴ [Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda – Fifth Session of the Governing Body – Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of PGRFA](#)

⁵ [Report of the Second Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA](#)

- a) Promotion and availability of landraces/farmers' varieties (recognizing the traditional knowledge and customary rules associated with seeds and other propagation materials)—in particular, to achieve increased and sustainable production and higher resilience while increasing the diversity underpinning traditional production systems and livelihoods, as well as contributing to the goals of breeding programmes for crop improvement;
- b) Pre-breeding and its increased relevance with respect to ongoing crop wild relative and landrace conservation and characterization activities, as well as progress in the application of novel characterization techniques, particularly due to recent advances in the development of 'omics' approaches (e.g., genomics, phenomics and transcriptomics);
- c) Inter-linkages between PGRFA management and nutrition issues.

6. The ACSU also suggested that the Toolbox could generate synergies with the indicators of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GPA⁶), as well as confirming its support for the launch of an electronic consultation to gather information on stakeholder needs. Document IT/GB-6/15/Inf.3⁷ details the design, execution and results of the consultation which was conducted from April to June 2015.

7. Responses were received from 289 stakeholders in 109 countries and the European Union, of which 90 are Contracting Parties to the Treaty. All FAO sub-regions were represented. Results of the consultation highlighted the broad range of stakeholders involved in aspects of PGRFA sustainable use⁸ and enabled a better understanding of their specific roles and interests which need to be catered for in the Toolbox. It also allowed a clearer understanding of the 'bottlenecks' in the sustainable use system and a deeper comprehension of the constraints and needs regarding the implementation of the sustainable use provisions of the Treaty. In particular, there is a critical need to address limitations regarding policy in support of sustainable use activities as well as capacity building needs in all areas of the PGRFA sustainable use spectrum. Further, access to plant genetic material and associated information urgently needs to be addressed in order that countries can move ahead with the development of coordinated and comprehensive sustainable use strategies. The consultation also confirmed that a wide range of types of resources are important to support the activities of stakeholders, and critically, why specific types of resources are useful and practical, as well as which additional resources are needed.

Proposed structure, mode of delivery and contents of the Toolbox

8. Based on the results of the electronic consultation and earlier deliberations about the development of the Toolbox, a proposed outline of its structure, mode of delivery and contents was presented in document IT/GB-6/15/Inf.3⁷ as summarized below.

9. The Toolbox must contain appropriate tools and resources which have a defined purpose and which can be easily accessed by its users. It is relatively straightforward to identify these tools and resources, but more challenging to find the most logical and practical means of organizing them and providing a smooth mode of access. The Toolbox therefore requires careful design and planning to ensure that all the tools required for the job can be accommodated, identified quickly for the task in hand, and easily accessed by whichever stakeholders require them.

⁶ [Second Global Plan of Action for PGRFA](#)

⁷ [Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda – Sixth Session of the Governing Body – Development of a toolbox for sustainable use of PGRFA](#)

⁸ Stakeholder groups: public research; government; public genebank; NGO; private plant breeding company/independent plant breeder; farmer/seed producer; farmers' association; commercial seed/plant production industry; seed network; local/indigenous community; other. 'Other' includes universities/research/educational establishments, international bodies such as FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, the EC and the GEF, and international organizations, networks or services such as the CGIAR, ECPGR, Red Mesoamericana de Recursos Fitogenéticos, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC).

10. The electronic consultation highlighted the Internet as a vital means for stakeholders to access and share information and the majority of respondents consider that a single online portal for access to information to aid the implementation of Article 6 is either vital or important. It was therefore proposed that the Toolbox is a web-enabled portal which will be available via hyperlinks from many different websites and web pages and through this single portal stakeholders will be able to search for the tools they need in order to address the provisions of Article 6. They will need explicit guidance on which tool or tools to select, how to find them, what they can do with them, and how to use them, implying the need for a highly structured but simple and user-friendly online platform which caters for the full range of stakeholders and their roles and/or interests in PGRFA sustainable use—ideally providing a different ‘view’ of the Toolbox depending on the stakeholder community to which the user belongs.

11. Figure 1 is a proposed schema for the Toolbox structure and mode of delivery. The portal providing access points to the tools and resources is enclosed in the dotted line. Core elements of the portal are:

- a) A user guide outlining the purpose and scope of the Toolbox and how to use it (Fig. 1 in purple).
- b) Multiple cross-linked access points providing internal and external links to tools and resources (Fig. 1 in blue). Access points may be organized according to: a) specific aspects of the PGRFA sustainable use system; b) stakeholder groups and interests; c) access to PGRFA material and associated information; and d) capacity building.
- c) Areas for special topics and resources, such as PGRFA-related policy guidelines, an information exchange platform, a directory of potential collaborators, stakeholders’ discussion forum, and publications and news feeds (Fig. 1 in green).

The design of the portal should allow for additional elements to be added over time—for example, access points for information specifically related to ‘bottleneck’ areas of the system or critical topics such as addressing the impacts of climate change.

12. The stakeholder consultation highlighted a critical need for facilitated access to a wide range of resource types—in particular, websites, web portals and online databases, but also research journals, training manuals, policy, legal and regulatory documents, case studies, technical reports, books and newsletters. Other types of resources important for stakeholders are notifications about conferences, field demonstration events, courses and training workshops, as well as access to knowledge networks and social media. These resources can be broadly classified (Table 1) into those relating to:

- a) Sustainable use policy;
- b) Characterization and evaluation;
- c) PGRFA conservation techniques;
- d) Adding value to and sustaining the use of landraces/farmers’ varieties;
- e) Crop improvement;
- f) Access to PGRFA material and associated information;
- g) Seed systems;
- h) Collaboration/partnerships;
- i) Communication and awareness.

13. Importantly, the Toolbox will as far as possible and practical be designed to cater for the needs of the different stakeholder groups. While most stakeholders are likely to be interested in multiple elements of the sustainable use system and will therefore require tools relating to those elements, some topics are of more direct importance to specific stakeholder groups than others. For example, an individual from a private plant breeding company is likely to be more interested in obtaining information relating to access to PGRFA material or in establishing a participatory plant breeding programme than they are in PGRFA conservation techniques or in communication and

awareness. Similarly, a government representative is more likely to be interested in obtaining information about the development and implementation of national policy or seed laws than they are in characterization and evaluation or in crop improvement. A more tailored view for different stakeholder groups is more likely to meet their demands, although of course users will not be restricted to a single view if they wish to explore the Toolbox further.

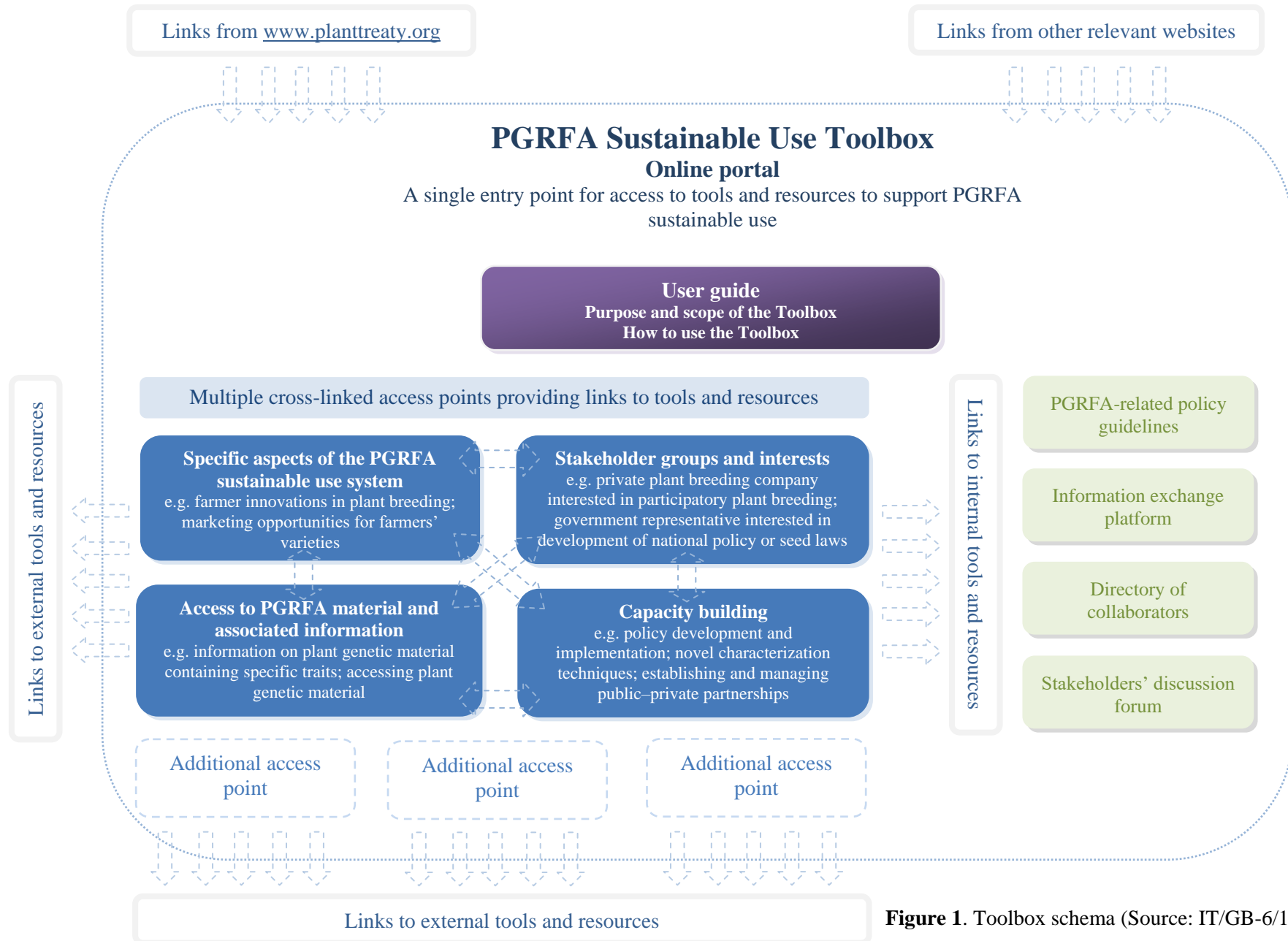


Figure 1. Toolbox schema (Source: IT/GB-6/15/Inf.6⁷, Fig. 14)

Table 1. Examples of specific resources required by stakeholders to support their work in sustainable use of PGRFA (Source: IT/GB-6/15/Inf.3⁷, Table 5)

Themes and specific topics	Types of resources required	Why the resources are needed
<i>Sustainable use policy</i>		
- Development of national policies for PGRFA sustainable use	- Policy guidelines - Websites	- Lack of skills in policy development
- Implementation of national PGRFA-related policy	- Guidelines	- There is currently a lack of clear guidelines available
- Strengthening national legislation for PGRFA sustainable use	- Case studies - Training materials	- There is currently insufficient information available online
- Implementation of Farmers' Rights in the context of sustainable use of PGRFA	- Background studies - Case studies - Implementation manuals	- Inputs for the design of suitable sustainable use policies/laws/programmes
- Intellectual property implications of the CBD, Nagoya Protocol and UNCTAD ⁹	- A handbook for policy-makers - Website	- To provide a basis for training courses (face-to-face and online) - As background material to clarify legal issues - Existing information is highly academic and difficult for practitioners to understand
- Repatriation of PGRFA	- Policy guidelines	- To clarify transfer regulations regarding the provision of material to users in its country of origin
- Impacts of current agricultural policies on PGRFA diversity	- Freely available publications in the same vein as the PROTA series ¹⁰	- To create awareness at the higher education level - To provide a resource for agricultural advisory services
- General information on sustainable use of PGRFA	- Web portal on PGRFA sustainable use	- To have an overview of all elements of PGRFA sustainable use and guidance to develop policies and practices

⁹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

¹⁰ <http://publications.cta.int/en/publications/series/prota-en/>

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Themes and specific topics	Types of resources required	Why the resources are needed
<i>Characterization and evaluation</i>		
- Application of novel characterization techniques (e.g., FIGS ¹¹)	- Training materials - Guidelines - Websites - Newsletters	- To increase the value of accessions - Inadequate information available online - Lack of capacity - Specific technology and knowledge transfer is required
- Characterization of genetic resources for key traits	- Database of sources of research funding	- It is currently difficult to access funds for germplasm characterization
- Evaluation technology using molecular techniques	- Training - Cooperative research	- To provide the basis for effective utilization of PGRFA
- Biotic and abiotic stresses evaluation	- Websites - Newsletters - Training materials - Case studies	- To provide information and to exchange experiences
- Characterization and commercialization of indigenous rice varieties	- Research publications	- To benefit from the niche market for indigenous rice varieties
- Crop descriptor lists	- Publications	- Access to standardized crop descriptors
<i>PGRFA conservation techniques</i>		
- Identification of collection sites for target species	- Training materials - Websites	- To improve the representativeness of <i>ex situ</i> germplasm collections
- Techniques for effective <i>in situ</i> conservation planning	- Websites	- Knowledge is needed on how to select the minimum number of populations which would represent the maximum genetic diversity of species <i>in situ</i>

¹¹ Focused Identification of Germplasm Strategy

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Themes and specific topics	Types of resources required	Why the resources are needed
<i>PGRFA conservation techniques cont'd</i>		
- Conservation of PGRFA	- Contacts for in-country training	- Staff training for capacity building in conservation techniques
- Molecular studies and field procedures for <i>in situ</i> conservation of PGRFA	- Facilitated access to scientific journals	- Resources are limited for subscription to scientific journals
- Participatory/field procedures for <i>in situ</i> PGRFA conservation	- Technical documents - Case studies	- Although these can be accessed through the Bioversity website, the latest FAO technical reports are not always easily available - To keep up with the latest methodologies
- Tools and standards for practical PGRFA conservation and documentation	- Technical guidance	- As IPGRI no longer exists, there is no dedicated institute providing support and coordinating PGR conservation activities
- Long term seed storage for a diverse range of species	- Newsletters - Books - Journals - Reports etc. - Case studies	- To help overcome difficulties in establishing optimal <i>ex situ</i> conservation regimes for under-utilized crops and CWR
<i>Adding value to and sustaining the use of landraces/farmers' varieties</i>		
- Promoting conservation and sustainable utilization of landraces/farmers' varieties	- Examples of incentive mechanisms developed and applied in other countries and communities - Inventories of landraces maintained <i>in situ</i> - Websites - Newsletters - Training materials - Policy guidelines - Case studies	- To increase interest in the utilization of farmers' varieties - To provide evidence for advocacy - To increase awareness - To illustrate to decision-makers how policies can be implemented

Table 1. Examples of specific resources required by stakeholders to support their work in sustainable use of PGRFA (Source: IT/GB-6/15/Inf.3⁷, Table 5)

Themes and specific topics	Types of resources required	Why the resources are needed
<i>Adding value to and sustaining the use of landraces/farmers' varieties cont'd</i>		
- Marketing of farmers' seeds	- Case studies	- To understand and implement marketing of farmers' seeds: organization, production, business plan, profitability, benefits for food security etc.
- Multiplication of farmers' varieties for wider distribution	- Contacts for in-country training	- To encourage farmers to be involved in conserving local diversity - To provide economic incentives
- Methods to for introduction of PGRFA on-farm	- Training materials	- Specific knowledge of genetic resources and agro- ecosystems is required
- Collection of traditional knowledge of PGRFA	- Case studies	- To understand how to collect traditional knowledge in the field
<i>Crop improvement</i>		
- Participatory plant breeding	- Training materials in different languages for scientists, farmers and facilitators - Contacts for in-country training - Guidelines - Case studies - Research reports - Technical documents - Videos	- To enhancing PPB knowledge and skills - To assist all stakeholders in understanding and implementing PPB - For agricultural extension practitioners (agronomists) to understand techniques for conservation, use and improvement of crops for adaptation to climate change
- Innovative approaches for pre-breeding (e.g., using nested-association mapping – NAM, 'speed breeding' and double haploid technology)	- Guidelines - Training materials - Technical documents - Case studies	- To speed up the identification and deployment of novel alleles into new varieties - To address the bottleneck caused by insufficient genetic diversity available in elite germplasm

Table 1. Examples of specific resources required by stakeholders to support their work in sustainable use of PGRFA (Source: IT/GB-6/15/Inf.3⁷, Table 5)

Themes and specific topics	Types of resources required	Why the resources are needed
<i>Access to PGRFA material and associated information</i>		
- Facilitated access to PGRFA	- Website - Database	- To access information on country-specific legislation and rules regarding access to and use of PGRFA (i.e., whether PIC and MTAs are required and what the process is for obtaining them)
- Information on national PGRFA diversity	- National inventories of PGRFA <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i>	- To provide information about PGRFA available for use
- National PGRFA registered in the MLS	- Publicly available national register	- To know which germplasm can be exchanged without legal restrictions
- Documentation and national information system development	- Training materials - Contacts for in-country training	- Expertise is currently lacking
<i>Seed systems</i>		
- Community seed banks and community-based seed production	- Guidelines - Training manual - Case studies - Newsletters - Websites	- To support seed entrepreneurship by farmer groups for economic empowerment - For farmers and their organizations to learn from other experiences in regional, global or national conservation actions, regulations, and use and renewal of local germplasm
- Local seed systems and seed legislation	- Case studies	- To provide successful examples to inform their establishment in other areas
- Seed distribution/exchange	- Seed exchange website	- There is limited access for the private sector to new crop varieties

Table 1. Examples of specific resources required by stakeholders to support their work in sustainable use of PGRFA (Source: IT/GB-6/15/Inf.3⁷, Table 5)

Themes and specific topics	Types of resources required	Why the resources are needed
<i>Collaboration/partnerships</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing partnerships with research institutes - Network of collaborators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Network of potential collaborators (e.g., the European Agrobiodiversity Network¹²) - Websites - Online databases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To promote and undertake research to develop agrobiodiversity knowledge - To establish collaborative initiatives such as research consortia to avoid duplication of efforts
<i>Communication and awareness</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting the nutrition value of PGRFA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training - Technology transfer - Network cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a lack of trained personnel and knowledge of relevant technologies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promoting the importance of landrace and CWR conservation and utilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Case studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The best way to convince people of the importance of PGRFA is through the use of concrete examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The importance of NUS for sustainable agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species-specific information on effective cultivation, production, processing and potential markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is currently little information available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taxonomic information on crop gene pools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To aid communication and awareness of the importance of diversity in crop gene pools

¹² www.agrobiodiversity.net/

Annex 1**ITPGRFA ARTICLE 6 – SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES**

- 6.1 The Contracting Parties shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- 6.2 The sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture may include such measures as:
- a) pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote, as appropriate, the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources;
 - b) strengthening research which enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers, especially those who generate and use their own varieties and apply ecological principles in maintaining soil fertility and in combating diseases, weeds and pests;
 - c) promoting, as appropriate, plant breeding efforts which, with the participation of farmers, particularly in developing countries, strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;
 - d) broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers;
 - e) promoting, as appropriate, the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilized species;
 - f) supporting, as appropriate, the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to plant breeding and agricultural development in order to reduce crop vulnerability and genetic erosion, and promote increased world food production compatible with sustainable development; and
 - g) reviewing, and, as appropriate, adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution.

Annex 2**RESOLUTION 4/2015****IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6, SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recognizing the pivotal role of sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in addressing global challenges, including food security, biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation and the fight against poverty, especially for smallholder farmers;

Recalling Resolution 7/2013 and taking note of the Report of the second meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA (ACSU);

Emphasizing the key role of sustainable use of PGRFA and the link between Farmers' Rights under Article 9 and the provisions on conservation and sustainable use under Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty;

Taking into account that the ACSU recommended to the Secretary to further structure and update the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PoW-SU) with additional areas for supporting initiatives by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders, and to create synergies within the Programme of Work and between the Programme of Work and other areas of work of the Treaty:

1. **Endorses** the revised Programme of Work as contained in *Annex 1* to this Resolution and requests Contracting Parties and stakeholders to continue reporting on its implementation and acknowledges the contribution of these initiatives to the sustainable use of PGRFA;

2. **Requests** all Contracting Parties to promote, as appropriate, the access of all farmers including small-holder farmers, farmers organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities to PGRFA in the Multilateral System and the broadening of the genetic base of crops in use;

3. **Requests** the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Seventh Session to consider integration of the sustainable use objectives, tools and initiatives into the next round of the funding cycle of the Benefit-Sharing Fund, in particular for the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, and also requests it to further explore options on how the Benefit-Sharing Fund could support the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use, in particular to address farmers' needs;

4 **Requests** the Secretary, in collaboration with other stakeholders and subject to the availability of financial resources, to:

- a. Invite further inputs from Contracting Parties, other governments, farmers' organizations, relevant stakeholders and experts to collect additional and prospective tools for the Toolbox and publish it in all the working languages of FAO;
- b. cooperate with all relevant entities within FAO and institutions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), as well as the private sector and NGOs, under the framework of the Treaty, for the effective implementation of activities in support of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA;
- c. facilitate and monitor the activities carried out by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and International Organizations in support of that Programme of Work;
- d. continue to invite and collect submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments relevant institutions and organizations, and stakeholders on how to promote and improve measures for the sustainable use of PGRFA;

- e. convene regional meetings on advanced characterization and sustainable use of PGRFA, including the assessment of needs of local farmers and other relevant local stakeholders and identification of possible means to address those needs also through participatory approaches in the context of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use;
- f. collaborate with other relevant initiatives, with regard to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on interaction between genetic resources, community and farmer led system activities and protected area systems;
- g. further develop collaboration with CGIAR Consortium, in particular Bioversity International, and other relevant organizations, on training and capacity building on sustainable use of PGRFA, including through joint resource mobilization;

5. *Decides* to reconvene the ACSU, subject to the availability of financial resources, with the Terms of Reference contained in *Appendix 1* to this Resolution.

APPENDIX 1 (of Resolution 4/2015)

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE *AD HOC* TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

1. The *Ad hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (hereafter the Committee) will provide advice to the Secretary on:
 - a. implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives;
 - b. cooperation with other international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use of PGRFA;
 - c. identification of additional activities and synergies within the Programme of Work and between the Programme of Work and other areas of work of the Treaty;
 - d. elaboration of the current gaps in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA through the support of Contracting Parties and donors;
2. The Committee will comprise up to two members for each Region and up to ten technical experts designated by the Bureau in consultation with the regions and all relevant stakeholders, in particular Farmers' organizations, taking into account the required range of technical expertise, regional and gender balance. Two Co-Chairs from Contracting Parties of the Treaty will form part of the Committee, one from a developing country and one from a developed country. The Co-Chairs will be elected by the members of the Committee designated by the Regions.
3. The Secretary will keep a list of experts for further reference. It will be made available to Contracting Parties with a view to possibly develop a pool of experts on sustainable use.
4. The Committee will hold up to two meetings, subject to the availability of financial resources.
5. The Committee will prepare reports at the end of its meetings, which will be made available as soon as possible for written comments by Contracting Parties and relevant Stakeholders to be submitted to the Secretary who will compile them for information for the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.
6. The Secretary will report on the results of the work of the Committee to the Governing Body at its Seventh Session.

ANNEX 1 (of Resolution 4/2015)

**THE VISION, MISSION AND GOALS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON SUSTAINABLE
USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND
SUPPORTING INITIATIVES**

(as adopted by the Resolution 7/2013)

VISION

Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are used sustainably in farming systems in accordance with Article 6, to enable more inclusive, sustainable and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels.

MISSION

To enhance the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture through effective measures that translate Article 6 of the Treaty into country-level impact.

GOALS

Monitoring, implementing and ensuring technical support

Goal 1: To provide support to Contracting Parties and stakeholders to implement the provisions of Articles 5, 6 and 9 of the Treaty that are relevant to the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, based on national priorities and needs.

Goal 2: To provide policy direction and guidance by monitoring the implementation of the Treaty in relation to sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Goal 3: To continue monitoring the technical support and expertise provided by FAO in the area of sustainable use, as foreseen in Article 6 of the Treaty.

Cooperating and improving partnerships

Goal 4: To strengthen collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders participating in projects and programmes relevant to the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, taking into account the Convention on Biological Diversity's Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Goal 5: To implement the objectives of non-monetary benefit-sharing, and the Priority Activities of the *Second Global Plan of Action*, regarding the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Table 1 (of Resolution 4/2015): Components and expected results (2017/2019) of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Supporting Initiatives

(Subject to the availability of resources)

<i>Programmes</i>	<i>Expected Results GB 7th (2017)</i>	<i>Expected Results GB 8th (2019)</i>	<i>Possible Implementing Partners</i>
<i>Part A: agreed by the Governing Body</i>			
1. Implementing the sustainable use of PGRFA, as per Article 6 of the Treaty	a. Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations implement and report on activities, projects and programmes for the achievement of sustainable use of PGRFA. The Secretariat of the Treaty monitors technical and policy developments. It will report back to the Governing Body.	b. Contracting Parties, stakeholders and international organizations implement and report on activities, projects and programs for the achievement of sustainable use of PGRFA. The Secretariat of the Treaty monitors technical and policy developments, which are referred to the Governing Body for guidance.	Contracting Parties, FAO, CGIAR, CGRFA, GFAR, CBD
2. Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA	a. Information collected on additional elements for the expansion of the Toolbox b. Publication of the Toolbox and a first design of an online portal/webpage	c. An on-line webpage/portal with commenting possibilities will be established to collect and share experiences on the implementation of the Toolbox at national level	Contracting Parties, FAO, CGRFA, CGIAR, GFAR, CBD, NGOs, private sector and farmers' organizations
<i>Part B: Supporting Initiatives undertaken by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders voluntarily</i>			
3. Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies within the context of non-monetary benefit-sharing	a. Convening of annual meetings of the Platform b. Preparation of a study on innovation systems and technology cycles for the sustainable use of PGRFA c. Development of pilot technology packets for developing countries (selected crops) d. Development of an online platform to facilitate the documentation and transfer of the packets in connection with the Global Information System	e. Definition of an Action Plan for partnerships between the public and private sector in pre-breeding (selected crops) f. Convening of annual meetings of the Platform g. Further structuring and delivery of technology packets for different innovation systems h. Implementation of pilot partnerships for pre-breeding i. Strengthening the linkages between the use of varieties and species on-farm and information tools for plant breeding	Working and advisory partners of the Platform; the Integrated Breeding Platform

<i>Programmes</i>	<i>Expected Results GB 7th (2017)</i>	<i>Expected Results GB 8th (2019)</i>	<i>Possible Implementing Partners</i>
4. Training and capacity building on Farmers' Rights ¹³ and sustainable use	a. Implementation of relevant activities in the Resolution on Article 9 Farmers' Rights as adopted at the 6 th session of the Governing Body	b. Implementation of relevant activities in Resolution on Article 9 Farmers' Rights as adopted at the 7 th session of the Governing Body	Contracting Parties, FAO, GFAR, CBD, CGIAR, NGOs and farmers' organizations, private sector
5. Raising awareness of the actual and potential value of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species of local and regional importance for food security and sustainable development	a. Joint research on Aichi Targets related to sustainability in agriculture and the linkages between in situ conservation /on-farm management and community-based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species	b. Active outreach through workshops, publications and other appropriate means on sustainability in agriculture and the linkages between in situ conservation /on-farm management and community-based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species	Contracting Parties, FAO, GFAR, CBD, CGIAR, NGOs and farmers' organizations, private sector

¹³ *In this Table, "Farmers' Rights" refers to Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty.