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منظمة  
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# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

### Nineteenth Regular Session

Rome, 17–21 July 2023

## PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

### ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

The provisional agenda of the Nineteenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) is contained in document **CGRFA-19/23/1**. The present document contains the *Provisional annotated agenda and timetable*. The provisional timetable is contained in *Appendix I*. The Commission's Statutes are contained in document **CGRFA-19/23/1/Inf.1**; its Rules of Procedure are given in document **CGRFA-19/23/1/Inf.2**. The document *Statement of Competence and Voting Rights submitted by the European Union and its Member States* is provided in document **CGRFA-19/23/1/Inf.3**. The list of documents is included in document **CGRFA-19/23/1/Inf.4**.

The Commission's work is guided by the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2027, which includes the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), as last revised by the Commission at its Seventeenth Regular Session<sup>1</sup> and updated at its last session.<sup>2</sup> In working through Agenda Items 2 to 14, the Commission may wish to take into consideration recommendations by its subsidiary bodies<sup>3</sup> as well as submissions by international instruments and organizations.<sup>4</sup>

### CROSS-SECTORAL MATTERS

### ITEM 2: REVIEW OF WORK ON BIODIVERSITY, NUTRITION AND HUMAN HEALTH

The Commission's MYPOW foresees for the Nineteenth Regular Session a review of work on genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) and nutrition and health.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, the Commission, at its Eighteenth Regular Session, requested FAO to monitor relevant developments at the nexus of

<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix F*.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, *Appendix B*.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-19/23/4.1; CGRFA-19/23/7.1; CGRFA-19/23/8.1; CGRFA-19/23/10.1; CGRFA-19/23/11.1.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-19/23/14.1; CGRFA-19/23/14.1/Inf.1; CGRFA-19/23/14.2; CGRFA-19/23/14.2/Inf.1.

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix F*, Annex 1.

*Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*

biodiversity for food and agriculture (BFA), food security, nutrition and human health in other fora and report them to the Commission, as appropriate.<sup>6</sup>

The document *Review of work on biodiversity, nutrition and human health (CGRFA-19/23/2)* provides an overview of FAO activities on BFA and GRFA, food security and nutrition, and human health since the Commission's Eighteenth Regular Session. More detailed information is provided in the document *FAO activities on biodiversity for food and agriculture for food security, nutrition and human health (CGRFA-19/23/2/Inf.1)*.

### **ITEM 3: THE ROLE OF GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN MITIGATION OF AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Commission, at its last session, noted the potential GRFA offer for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including the improvement of related pest and disease resistance, and stressed the need for their conservation and sustainable use to fully explore this potential.<sup>7</sup> It requested FAO to review and revise, as appropriate, a draft questionnaire on climate change and GRFA, with a view to shortening, simplifying and testing it, for consideration by the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups (Working Groups). The Commission further requested the Working Groups to review and revise, as appropriate, the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning (Voluntary Guidelines)*,<sup>8</sup> taking into account the need to address the vulnerabilities of GRFA to climate change, in line with relevant international agreements, for consideration by the Commission at its next session.<sup>9</sup>

The document *Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/3)* provides a revised version of the draft questionnaire, for review by the Commission. Taking into account the recommendations of the Working Groups,<sup>10</sup> the document proposes a process for the review and revision of the Voluntary Guidelines for consideration by the Commission. More detailed information on FAO's work on climate change is provided in the document *FAO's work on climate change (CGRFA-19/23/3/Inf.1)*.

### **ITEM 4: ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING FOR GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

#### **4.1 Report of the Sixth Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing**

The Sixth Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS Expert Team) was held from 2 to 4 May 2023. Its report (*CGRFA-19/23/4.1*) is before the Commission for its consideration.

#### **4.2 Access and benefit-sharing country measures**

The Commission, at its last session, requested the Secretariat to continue monitoring relevant developments under other international agreements and instruments relevant to ABS and report back on them to the Commission.<sup>11</sup> It considered a survey of ABS country measures and requested a compilation of existing ABS measures directly or indirectly accommodating the distinctive features of GRFA and associated traditional knowledge.<sup>12</sup> The Commission also supported further work that

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<sup>6</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 12.

<sup>7</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 16.

<sup>8</sup> FAO. 2015. *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*. Rome. <http://www.fao.org/3/i4940e/i4940e.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 20.

<sup>10</sup> CGRFA-19/23/7.1, paragraphs 27–28; CGRFA-19/23/8.1, paragraph 17-18; CGRFA-19/23/10.1, paragraph 31; CGRFA-19/23/11.1, paragraph 27.

<sup>11</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 31.

<sup>12</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 26.

deepens the empirical evidence needed to understand the effects of ABS measures on the utilization and conservation of GRFA and the sharing of benefits.<sup>13</sup>

The document *Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/4.2)* provides an overview of relevant developments under other international agreements and instruments since the last session of the Commission, introduces a draft typology of ABS country measures accommodating the distinctive features of GRFA and introduces a draft questionnaire developed by the Secretariat for the preparation of a study on the effects of ABS measures.

The draft typology, as reviewed and revised by the ABS Expert Team in the light of comments received from the Working Groups,<sup>14</sup> is given in the document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture: typology of country measures (CGRFA-19/23/4.2/Inf.1)*. The draft questionnaire, as reviewed and revised by the ABS Expert Team in the light of comments received from the Working Groups,<sup>15</sup> is given in the document *Draft online questionnaire on the implications of access and benefit-sharing measures for the use and exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture and for benefit-sharing (CGRFA-19/23/4.2/Inf.2)*.

#### **ITEM 5: DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION AND GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

At its last session, the Commission took note of actual and potential applications of digital sequence information (DSI) to the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA. The Commission requested a document reflecting key practices and experiences on how DSI is generated, stored, accessed and used for research and development related to GRFA, including relevant information on intellectual property protection.<sup>16</sup> It further requested the Secretariat to continue monitoring developments relevant to DSI in other fora in order to contribute to the analysis of options discussed under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with a view to identifying aspects to be taken into consideration in addressing the use of DSI in the context of GRFA.<sup>17</sup>

The document *Digital sequence information and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/5)* provides information on the generation, storage and use of, and access to, DSI for research and development related to GRFA. The document further reports on the intersessional global workshop on DSI and GRFA held at the Commission's request. It also summarizes relevant developments in other fora, including the decision of the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD to establish, as part of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF), a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources, including a global fund.<sup>18</sup> The document seeks the Commission's guidance on further work on DSI. More detailed information is provided in the draft study on *The role of digital sequence information for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture: Opportunities and challenges (CGRFA-19/23/5/Inf.1)*.

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<sup>13</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 27.

<sup>14</sup> CGRFA-19/23/7.1, paragraph 35; CGRFA-19/23/8.1, paragraph 24; CGRFA-19/23/10.1, paragraph 38; CGRFA-19/23/11.1, paragraph 32.

<sup>15</sup> CGRFA-19/23/7.1, paragraph 36; CGRFA-19/23/8.1, paragraph 25–26; ; CGRFA-19/23/10.1, paragraph 39; CGRFA-19/23/11.1, paragraph 33.

<sup>16</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 35.

<sup>17</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraphs 37 and 39.

<sup>18</sup> CBD/COP/DEC/15/9.

## BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### ITEM 6: FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

At its last session, the Commission endorsed the *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (FA BFA).<sup>19</sup> The FA BFA responds to gaps and needs identified in the country-driven report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>20</sup> Subsequently, the FA BFA was endorsed by the Council.<sup>21</sup> The Commission and the Council also stressed the importance of mutual supportiveness of the Commission's Global Plans of Action (GPAs) and the KM GBF (formerly, the "post-2020 global biodiversity framework"), and encouraged FAO to take a leading position in the implementation of the latter.<sup>22</sup> The *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors* (Mainstreaming Strategy)<sup>23</sup> plays a key role in this context. The Mainstreaming Strategy addresses relevant FAO work and aims to mainstream biodiversity across agricultural sectors by reducing the negative impacts of agricultural practices on biodiversity and promoting sustainable agricultural practices and conserving, enhancing, preserving and restoring biodiversity as a whole.

The document *Biodiversity for food and agriculture and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* (CGRFA-19/23/6.1) summarizes key features of the FA BFA, maps the Commission's instruments against the KM GBF and explores the extent to which they are mutually supportive, i.e. may benefit each other's implementation.

The 2021–23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors<sup>24</sup> states that the Commission should be involved in the review and updating of the Action Plan. Accordingly, the document *Progress report on the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021–23 Action Plan* (CGRFA-19/23/6.2) reports on progress in the implementation of the Mainstreaming Strategy and the Action Plan and seeks the Commission's comments on and inputs to the draft Action Plan 2024–27.

## GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### ITEM 7: PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

#### 7.1 Report of the Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Eleventh Session of the Working Group was held from 18 to 20 April 2023. Its report (CGRFA-19/23/7.1) is before the Commission for its consideration.

If the Commission wishes the Working Group to meet prior to its next regular session, it will have to elect the Members of the Working Group.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>19</sup> FAO. 2022. *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8338en>

<sup>20</sup> FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. J. Bélanger & D. Pilling, eds. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessments. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA3129EN>

<sup>21</sup> CL 168/REP, paragraph 38.

<sup>22</sup> Resolution 1/168 – *The Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*, CL 168/REP, pp. 24–25.

<sup>23</sup> FAO. 2020. *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7722en>

<sup>24</sup> FAO. 2021. *2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5515en>.

<sup>25</sup> Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/7.1/Inf.1), Article III.1.

## **7.2 The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The Commission, at its last session, agreed to extend the deadline for country reporting for *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* to the end of December 2021.<sup>26</sup> A total of 105 countries provided reports on the implementation of the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*<sup>27</sup> (Second GPA); a total of 115 countries reported to FAO on the relevant indicator of Sustainable Development Goal 2.

The document *Preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/7.2)* briefly recapitulates the preparation of FAO's global assessments of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), summarizes the process of data collection and the main sources of information for *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SoW PGR-3) and outlines the preliminary key findings. The draft SoW PGR-3 is contained in the document *Draft Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/7.2/Inf.1)*.

## **7.3 Implementation and review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The Second GPA was adopted by the FAO Council at its 143rd Session in November 2011.<sup>28</sup> It provides an internationally agreed framework for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. The Second GPA is a supporting component of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty), as per the Treaty's Article 14. Its implementation is an essential contribution to efforts to meet the objectives of the Treaty<sup>29</sup> and will also facilitate the implementation of the CBD, including key targets of the KM GBF.<sup>30</sup>

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to, *inter alia*, support countries in the conservation and sustainable use of farmers' varieties/landraces, crop wild relatives and wild food plants. It also requested FAO to continue providing support to countries in their efforts to conserve PGRFA and in strengthening national seed systems, including plant breeding, for the delivery of diverse and high-quality seeds and planting materials, in particular to meet the needs and priorities of smallholder farmers.<sup>31</sup>

The document *Implementation and review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/7.3)* provides information on action taken by FAO, in close collaboration with its partners, since the last session of the Commission to support countries in the implementation of the Second GPA. It further seeks the Commission's guidance regarding the review of the Second GPA in response to the findings of the SoW PGR-3.

## **7.4 Effects of seed policies, laws and regulations**

The Commission, at its last session, requested FAO to undertake, in collaboration with the Treaty, further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations, taking into account the variety of factors that may affect, and possibly improve, farmers' ability to access sufficient and affordable seeds and planting materials of diverse, locally adapted varieties, including farmers' varieties/landraces.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 107.

<sup>27</sup> FAO. 2021. *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/i2624e/i2624e00.htm>

<sup>28</sup> CL 143/REP, paragraph 43.

<sup>29</sup> Second GPA, paragraph 313.

<sup>30</sup> See CGRFA-19/23/6.1.

<sup>31</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 99.

<sup>32</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 105.

The document *Further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations* (CGRFA-19/23/7.4) proposes further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations. A draft concept note is contained in *Appendix I* to the document, for consideration by the Commission.

## **ITEM 8: FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES**

### **8.1 Report of the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources**

The Seventh Session of the Working Group was held from 7 to 9 March 2023. Its report (CGRFA-19/23/8.1) is before the Commission for its consideration.

If the Commission wishes the Working Group to meet prior to its next regular session, it will have to elect the Members of the Working Group.<sup>33</sup>

### **8.2 *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources***

The Commission, at its last session, invited countries, regional networks and relevant international organizations that had not yet done so to submit their reports for the preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (SoW FGR-2) to FAO by 31 October 2021 or as soon as possible thereafter.<sup>34</sup> It further requested FAO to present the draft SoW FGR-2 for review by the Working Group and then for consideration by the Commission at its Nineteenth Regular Session.<sup>35</sup>

The document *Preparation of The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-19/23/8.2) presents a summary of activities undertaken as part of the preparation of the Second Report and proposes next steps for consideration by the Commission. The draft SoW FGR-2 is contained in the document *Draft Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-19/23/8.2/Inf.1).

### **8.3 Implementation and review of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources**

The Commission, at its last session, invited countries to strengthen their efforts to implement the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (GPA FGR)<sup>36</sup> and to contribute, through their National Focal Points, to the development and testing of the new global information system on forest genetic resources.<sup>37</sup>

The document *Implementation and review of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-19/23/8.3) summarizes the activities FAO has undertaken since the Commission's last session to support, in collaboration with its partners, the implementation of the GPA FGR. The activities are grouped according to the four Priority Areas of the GPA FGR. The document seeks the Commission's guidance with regard to the future implementation of the GPA FGR, including its review in response to the findings of the SoW FGR-2.<sup>38</sup>

The document *Second Report on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (CGRFA-19/23/8.3/Inf.1) provides information on national efforts to implement the GPA FGR, based on country reports received by FAO. The first report of this kind was presented in 2019.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>33</sup> Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (CGRFA-19/23/8.1/Inf.1), Article III.1.

<sup>34</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 65.

<sup>35</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 66.

<sup>36</sup> FAO. 2014. *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources*. Rome. <http://www.fao.org/3/i3849e/i3849e.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 62.

<sup>38</sup> CGRFA-19/23/8.2; CGRFA-19/23/8.2/Inf.1.

<sup>39</sup> CGRFA-17/19/10.2/Inf.1.

## ITEM 9: MICROORGANISM AND INVERTEBRATE GENETIC RESOURCES

The Commission, at its Seventeenth Regular Session, adopted the Work Plan for the Sustainable Use and Conservation of Micro-organism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.<sup>40</sup> For this session, the work plan foresees the addressing of two functional groups: soil microorganisms and invertebrates, with emphasis on bioremediation and nutrient cycling organisms, and microorganisms of relevance to ruminant digestion.<sup>41</sup>

### 9.1 Bioremediation and nutrient cycling soil microorganisms and invertebrates

The document *Bioremediation and nutrient cycling soil microorganisms and invertebrates (CGRFA-19/23/9.1)* draws on the findings of the draft study presented in document *Draft study on the sustainable use and conservation of soil microorganisms and invertebrates that contribute to bioremediation of agricultural pollutants and soil nutrient cycling (CGRFA-19/23/9.1/Inf.1)* to present an overview of the status of soil microorganisms and invertebrates that contribute to nutrient cycling and bioremediation and seeks the Commission's guidance on future work on this group of microorganisms and invertebrates.

The status of implementation of the International Soil Biodiversity Initiative is described in the document *Progress report on the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity (CGRFA-19/23/9.1/Inf.2)*.

### 9.2 Microorganisms relevant to ruminant digestion

The document *Microorganisms relevant to ruminant digestion (CGRFA-19/23/9.2)* draws on the findings of the draft study presented in document *Draft study on the sustainable use and conservation of microorganisms of relevant for ruminant digestion (CGRFA-19/23/9.2/Inf.1)* to give an overview of the status of microorganisms of relevance to ruminant digestion and their management and seeks the Commission's guidance on future work on this group of microorganisms.

### 9.3 Pollinators and biological control agents and biostimulants: follow-up

The Commission, at its last session, welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Work Plan on Micro-organism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources. It requested the Secretariat, in order to maintain momentum in addressing the various functional groups of microorganisms and invertebrates, to collaborate with relevant expert groups in the drafting of recommendations for further consideration by the Commission.<sup>42</sup>

#### *Pollinators*

The Commission, at its last session, welcomed a draft study on invertebrate pollinators and stressed the importance of all bees, and of other invertebrate pollinators, for food security. It noted that follow-up actions are needed in response to the findings and recommendations of the study. It further requested FAO to consider the need for, and modalities of, a global pollinator platform to address pollinators and pollination services at global level, and to report on this matter to the Commission at its next session.<sup>43</sup>

The document *The need for and possible modalities of a global pollinator platform (CGRFA-19/23/9.3.1)* briefly reports on relevant FAO activities, recalls the findings of the study on invertebrate pollinators, which has now been made available as **Background Study Paper No.72**, and seeks the Commission's guidance on future work on this group of invertebrates. It also provides an overview of the global institutional landscape for the management of pollinators and discusses the potential role and possible modalities of a global pollinator platform, for consideration by the Commission. The status of implementation of the International Pollinator Initiative is described in the document

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<sup>40</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 95.

<sup>41</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix E*.

<sup>42</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 93.

<sup>43</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraphs 80–83.

*Progress report on the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators (CGRFA-19/23/9.3.1/Inf.1).*

#### *Biological control agents*

The Commission, at its last session, noted a draft study on microbial and invertebrate biocontrol agents and microbial biostimulants.<sup>44</sup> The document *Conservation and sustainable use of microbial and invertebrate biological control agents and microbial biostimulants (CGRFA-19/23/9.3.2)* recalls the findings of the study, which, has now been made available as **Background Study Paper No. 71**, and seeks the Commission's guidance on possible future work on microbial and invertebrate biological control agents and microbial biostimulants.

### **ITEM 10: ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

#### **10.1 Report of the Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The Twelfth Session of the Working Group was held from 18 to 20 January 2023. Its report (CGRFA-19/23/10.1) is before the Commission for its consideration.

If the Commission wishes the Working Group to meet prior to its next regular session, it will have to elect the Members of the Working Group.<sup>45</sup>

#### **10.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources**

The Commission, at its last session, called upon countries to continue implementing the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (GPA AnGR)<sup>46</sup> and requested FAO to provide complementary technical and policy support.<sup>47</sup>

The document *Review and implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (CGRFA-19/23/10.2)* summarizes the activities FAO has taken since the Commission's Eighteenth Regular Session in support of the implementation of the GPA AnGR. The activities are grouped according to their relevance to the four strategic priority areas of the GPA AnGR. In addition, the document reviews FAO's collaboration with other stakeholders and reports on the funding situation. A more detailed overview of FAO projects, meetings, capacity-building events and publications supporting the implementation of the GPA AnGR is provided in the document *Summary progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (CGRFA-19/23/10.2/Inf.1)*. Up-to-date national breed data and information based on FAO's Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) are provided in the document *Status and trends of animal genetic resources – 2022 (CGRFA-19/23/10.2/Inf.2)*. More detailed information on the status of development of DAD-IS is contained in the document *Detailed report on the development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (CGRFA-19/23/10.2/Inf.3)*. In response to the Commission's request,<sup>48</sup> the document *Methods for estimation of within-population genetic variation (GRFA-19/23/10.2/Inf.4)* explores the availability of, access to and optimal use of genomic and/or breed demographic data to estimate parameters that may be suitable to complement breed population size data as indicators for monitoring the genetic diversity within livestock breeds.

<sup>44</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 84.

<sup>45</sup> Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/10.1/Inf.1), Article III.1.

<sup>46</sup> FAO. 2007. *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration*. FAO Commission on Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/a1404e/a1404e.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 70.

<sup>48</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 77.



### **10.3 Preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture***

The Commission's MYPOW foresees the presentation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SoW AnGR-3) for the Commission's Twentieth Regular Session, in 2025.<sup>49</sup> However, it is proposed that the presentation of the SoW AnGR-3 be postponed to the Commission's Twenty-first Regular Session.<sup>50</sup>

The document *Preparation of The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/10.3)* proposes the timeline, scope, content and process for the preparation of the SoW AnGR-3 and identifies the required resources, taking into account recommendations made by the Working Group at its Twelfth Session.<sup>51</sup>

## **ITEM 11: AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES**

### **11.1 Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

The Fourth Session of the Working Group was held from 21 to 23 February 2023. Its report (CGRFA-19/23/11.1) is before the Commission for its consideration.

If the Commission wishes the Working Group to meet prior to its next regular session, it will have to elect the Members of the Working Group.<sup>52</sup>

### **11.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

At the Commission's invitation,<sup>53</sup> the Council, at its 168th Session in December 2021, adopted the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>54</sup> (GPA AqGR).<sup>55</sup>

The document *Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/11.2.1)* summarizes the activities undertaken by FAO since September 2021, in collaboration with its partners, in support of the implementation of the GPA AqGR and seeks the Commission's guidance as to future activities. The Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, at its Eleventh Session, welcomed the adoption of the Global Plan of Action and highlighted the need for wider adoption of selective breeding for the genetic improvement of species in aquaculture (CGRFA-19/23/11.2.1/Inf.1). The Committee on Fisheries, at its Thirty-fifth Session, appreciated FAO's work on the Global Plan of Action and supported the implementation of the associated global information system to ensure the effective and sustainable use of aquatic species (CGRFA-19/23/11.2.1/Inf.2).

At the Commission's request, the document *Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/11.2.2)* proposes resource and process indicators for monitoring the status of aquatic genetic resources and the implementation of the GPA AqGR.

<sup>49</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix F*.

<sup>50</sup> CGRFA-19/23/12, *Appendix I, Annex 1*.

<sup>51</sup> CGRFA-19/23/10.1, paragraphs 19–25.

<sup>52</sup> Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/11.1/Inf.1), Article III.1.

<sup>53</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 58.

<sup>54</sup> FAO. 2022. *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9905en>

<sup>55</sup> CL 168/REP, paragraph 38a.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

### **ITEM 12: PROGRESS REPORT AND REVIEW**

The document *Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: review and update (CGRFA-19/23/12)* reviews progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019–2027 since the Commission’s Sixteenth Regular Session. It also contains the draft Strategic Plan 2023–2031, which spans the Commission’s next five sessions, including the Nineteenth Regular Session. The draft Strategic Plan reflects comments and inputs received from the Working Groups, as consolidated by the Bureau, for consideration by the Commission.

### **THE COMMISSION’S MODE OF OPERATION**

### **ITEM 13: FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF INTERSESSIONAL WORK**

The Commission, at its last session, discussed the possible reorganization of its intersessional work. It mandated its Bureau to conduct informal open-ended consultations to: (i) develop criteria for the assessment of different options for the reorganization of the Commission’s intersessional work; (ii) review and revise, as appropriate, the options presented to the last session of the Commission and develop new options, if necessary; and (iii) to assess the consolidated options against the criteria identified. The Commission asked for agreed recommendations for its consideration at the present session.<sup>56</sup>

The document *Future organization of the Commission’s intersessional work (CGRFA-19/23/13)* briefly recapitulates the current organization of the Commission’s intersessional work. Based on the Bureau’s report on the informal consultations, which were held in November 2022, the document presents criteria the Commission may wish to use to assess options for the organization of the Commission’s future intersessional work and provides a range of such options, as consolidated by the Bureau following the informal consultations. The document also costs the different options and contains, in line with the Commission’s Statutes, a report from the Director-General on the programme, administrative and financial implications of options involving the establishment of new sectoral working groups or other subsidiary bodies.

### **COOPERATION**

### **ITEM 14: COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

At its last session, the Commission requested its Secretary to continue seeking inputs from international instruments and organizations and to make them available to the Commission for its information.<sup>57</sup>

The document *Cooperation with international instruments and organizations (CGRFA-19/23/14.1)* provides information on the process through which international instruments and organizations provided information to this session.

Comments and inputs received from international instruments and organizations on the prioritized themes of this session are contained in the document *Submissions by international instruments and organizations on biodiversity for food and agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/14.1/Inf.1)*.

The document *Cooperation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/14.2)* provides information on the Commission’s cooperation with the

<sup>56</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 111–112.

<sup>57</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 117.

Treaty and seeks the Commission's guidance regarding future cooperation. Recent developments under the Treaty are reported in the document *Report from the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-19/23/14.2/Inf.1)*.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

**ITEM 15: ANY OTHER MATTERS**

**ITEM 16: DATE AND PLACE OF THE COMMISSION'S TWENTIETH REGULAR SESSION**

**ITEM 17: ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND *RAPPORTEUR***

**ITEM 18: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

**APPENDIX I**  
**PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE**

Time	Agenda Item	Title	Working documents
<b>Monday, 17 July 2023 morning</b>			
<b>10:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>Opening of the Session</b>		
	<b>1</b>	<b>Adoption of the agenda and timetable</b>	CGRFA-19/23/1 CGRFA-19/23/1 Add.1 Rev.1
	<b>CROSS-SECTORAL MATTERS</b>		
	<b>2</b>	<b>Review of work on biodiversity, nutrition and human health</b>	CGRFA-19/23/2
	<b>3</b>	<b>The role of genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change</b>	CGRFA-19/23/3
	<b>4</b>	<b>Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture</b>	
		4.1 Report of the Sixth Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing	CGRFA-19/23/4.1
		4.2 Access and benefit-sharing country measures	CGRFA-19/23/4.2
<b>5</b>	<b>Digital sequence information and genetic resources for food and agriculture</b>	CGRFA-19/23/5	
<b>Monday, 17 July 2023 afternoon</b>			
<b>15:00 – 18:00</b>	<b>BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</b>		
	<b>6</b>	<b>Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</b>	CGRFA-19/23/6.1 CGRFA-19/23/6.2
	<b>GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</b>		
	<b>7</b>	<b>Plant genetic resources</b>	
		7.1 Report of the Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-19/23/7.1
		7.2 <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-19/23/7.2
		7.3 Implementation and review of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-19/23/7.3
		7.4 Effects of seed policies, laws and regulations	CGRFA-19/23/7.4

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Working Documents</b>
<b>Tuesday, 18 July 2023 morning</b>			
<b>10:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Forest genetic resources</b>	
		8.1 Report of the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources	CGRFA-19/23/8.1
		8.2 <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i>	CGRFA-19/23/8.2
		8.3 Implementation and review of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources	CGRFA-19/23/8.3
<b>Tuesday, 18 July 2023 afternoon</b>			
<b>15:00 – 18:00</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Microorganism and invertebrate genetic resources</b>	
		9.1 Bioremediation and nutrient cycling soil microorganisms and invertebrates	CGRFA-19/23/9.1
		9.2 Microorganisms relevant to ruminant digestion	CGRFA-19/23/9.2
		9.3 Pollinators and biological control agents and bio-stimulants: Follow-up	CGRFA-19/23/9.3.1 CGRFA-19/23/9.3.2
<b>Wednesday, 19 July 2023 morning</b>			
<b>10:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Animal genetic resources</b>	
		10.1 Report of the Twelfth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-19/23/10.1
		10.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources	CGRFA-19/23/10.2
		10.3 Preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA-19/23/10.3
<b>Wednesday, 19 July 2023 afternoon</b>			
<b>15:00 – 18:00</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Aquatic genetic resources</b>	
		11.1 Report of the Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA-19/23/11.1
		11.2 Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and	CGRFA-19/23/11.2.1 CGRFA-19/23/11.2.2

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Working Documents</b>
		Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Working documents</b>
<b>Thursday, 20 July 2023 morning</b>			
<b>10:00 – 13:00</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</b>		
	<b>12</b>	<b>Progress report and review</b>	<b>CGRFA-19/23/12</b>
<b>Thursday, 20 July 2023 afternoon</b>			
<b>15:00 – 18:00</b>	<b>THE COMMISSION'S MODE OF OPERATION</b>		
	<b>13</b>	<b>Future organization of intersessional work</b>	<b>CGRFA-19/23/13</b>
	<b>COOPERATION</b>		
	<b>14</b>	<b>Cooperation with international instruments and organizations</b>	<b>CGRFA-19/23/14.1 CGRFA-19/23/14.2</b>
	<b>OTHER MATTERS</b>		
	<b>15</b>	<b>Any other matters</b>	
	<b>16</b>	<b>Date and place of the Commission's Twentieth Regular Session</b>	
<b>17</b>	<b>Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and <i>Rapporteur</i></b>		
<b>Friday, 21 July 2023 afternoon</b>			
<b>15:00 – 18:00</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Adoption of the Report</b>	