



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**The International Treaty**  
**ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES**  
**FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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Our Ref.: NCP GB7-025 – Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA

## NOTIFICATION

### **Exploring possibilities of establishing a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA**

Dear Madam/Sir,

You may recall that at its Sixth Session, the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, with Resolution 4/2015, adopted the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PoW-SU) and its Supporting Initiatives,<sup>1</sup> and reconvened the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use (ACSU).

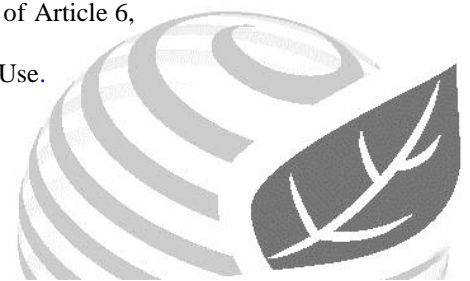
At its Third Meeting (Vienna, October 2016),<sup>2</sup> the ACSU invited the Secretariat of the Treaty to explore possibilities of establishing a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA involving organizations such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO, the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and other stakeholders, **and for such an initiative to be put forward for consideration by the Governing Body of the Treaty at its Seventh Session.**

The specific elements of such a joint programme would need to be discussed, agreed and elaborated by the partners, as well as the financial and governance mechanisms required for its operation. Taking note of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Targets 2.5 and 15.6 related to the conservation, access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources, the components of the agreed PoW-SU (as contained in Table 1, Annex 1 of Resolution 4/2015), could provide the framework for the initial activities, with a view to enlarging the mission and goals of the existing PoW-SU beyond 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 04/2015 of the Sixth Session of the Governing Body, Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of PGRFA.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Third Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use.



In particular, the joint efforts of all the relevant organizations **through the establishment of a long-term programme 2020/2030 for consideration by the Governing Body at its Eighth Session (2019)** could:

- Ensure the longevity of the Toolbox on Sustainable Use of PGRFA (a prototype of which is currently being developed and hosted by FAO on behalf of the Treaty Secretariat);
- Advance options for and actions in the provision of training and capacity building on sustainable use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights; and
- Enhance measures for 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.

In the long term, a Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA would provide the framework and impetus for greater cross-organizational efforts with a view to: a) increasing impact through combined knowledge and capacities; b) streamlining actions and resource use; and c) providing countries with more opportunities to meet their obligations under the relevant global, regional and national instruments dealing with biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as sustainable agricultural development and food and nutrition security.

Institutions or organizations interested in joining or contributing to the possible Joint Programme on Biodiversity in Agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA should please send their expression of interest to:

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Any queries or requests for further information may also be addressed to the same contact.

Yours Sincerely



**Kent Nnadozie**  
Secretary *a.i.*  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture