



22 April 2014

Invitation to the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group  
on Forest Genetic Resources

Rome, Italy, 7 – 9 July 2014

Reply requested by 30 May 2014

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to announce that the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (Working Group) will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 7 to 9 July 2014. The opening meeting will begin at 10.00 hours on Monday 7 July 2014.

The Session is being convened under the Regular Programme of the Organization. It will be conducted in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The Working Group was established by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its Twelfth Regular Session in October 2009. The Statutes of the Working Group are available on the Commission's website at: <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-about/cgrfa-sector/cgrfa-sfg/en/>.

The members of the Working Group, as elected by the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Commission in April 2013, are as follows:

- Africa: Algeria, Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mali
- Asia: China, Indonesia, People's Democratic Republic of Laos, Republic of Korea, Vietnam
- Europe: Finland, France, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Trinidad and Tobago
- Near East: Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, Sudan
- North America: Canada, United States of America
- Southwest Pacific: Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu

Members of the Commission which are not members of the Working Group may participate, upon request to the Commission Secretariat, in the work of the Working Group in an observer capacity. The Working Group, or the Bureau on behalf of the Working Group, may invite experts, as well as representatives of specialized international organizations, to attend its meetings as observers.

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This invitation is sent to addressees of all FAO Members of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as prescribed in the official channels of communication of FAO, as follows:

**For ACTION/INFORMATION, as appropriate:**

- Main Addressees (Ministers for Foreign Affairs or Agriculture or other addressees selected by the Government);
- Permanent Representatives to FAO/Embassies.

This invitation is also being sent to heads of selected international organizations.

... In line with the Organization's objective to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and to contribute to climate neutrality, the Third Session of the Working Group will be a paper-smart meeting, i.e. the use of paper at all stages of the meeting will be greatly reduced. Participants are requested to bring their own documents to the meetings, as hard copies will not be available. The Provisional Agenda of the meeting is enclosed. All meeting and background documents, including in-session documents, will be available online at:

<http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-meetings/cgrfa-fogr/en/>

The Director-General would appreciate receiving the names, official titles and addresses of the representatives designated to attend the Session by 30 May 2014. Online registration is accessible through the password-protected FAO Permanent Representatives Website (PRWS) at: <http://permreps.fao.org>. Instructions for online registration can be downloaded from the PRWS. Please note that online registration requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital photograph.

Observers from international organizations are advised to register in advance of the meeting by forwarding an email, together with a recent passport-size digital photograph, to the Working Group Secretariat at: [FO-ITWG-FGR@fao.org](mailto:FO-ITWG-FGR@fao.org).

Participants requiring visas must obtain these from the Italian Consulate or competent Diplomatic Mission in their country before leaving for Rome. Visa applications must be submitted well in advance of departure, as three weeks or more may be required for an Italian visa to be issued. Exclusively those participants traveling from a country where there is no Italian Consulate or other competent Diplomatic Mission may obtain a visa on arrival in Rome, provided that they advise the Secretariat of the meeting of their full name, date of birth, nationality, passport number, issue and expiry dates, flight number, date and hour of arrival and their full travel itinerary, which must not include any other Schengen country. This information must reach FAO at least three weeks before the arrival of participants to permit FAO to request that a visa be issued at Rome airport. Participants failing to comply with the above will not be allowed to enter Italy by the Italian authorities.