



COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 7.1 of the Provisional Agenda

Nineteenth Regular Session

Rome, 17–21 July 2023

REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Note by the Secretariat

The Commission, at its last session, requested its intergovernmental technical working groups to meet prior to its Nineteenth Regular Session. The Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) was held in Rome from 18 to 20 April 2023. The Working Group reviewed the draft *Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report). It also considered progress in the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its possible revision. It also considered further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations and draft outlines of practical guides for the implementation of the Genebank Standards. With regard to cross-sectoral issues, the Working Group explored the role of plant genetic resources in the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, access and benefit-sharing, digital sequence information, and the Draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031. The report of the Eleventh Session of the Working Group is contained in this document, for consideration by the Commission.



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

**COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/REPORT

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

Rome, Italy, 18-20 April 2023

CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/REPORT

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION
OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Rome, Italy, 18-20 April 2023

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2023**

The documents prepared for the Eleventh Session of the Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture are available on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/itwg/11th/en/>

They may also be obtained from
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on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources (Working Group) was held in Rome, Italy, from 18 to 20 April 2023. The Members and alternates of the Working Group, as elected by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) at its Eighteenth Regular Session, are given in *Appendix B*. The list of delegates and observers is available on the FAO website.¹

II. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSONS AND *RAPPORTEUR*

2. Ms Aluana Gonçalves de Abreu (Brazil), Vice Chairperson of the Tenth Session of the Working Group, opened the session and welcomed delegates and observers.
3. Mr Osama El-Lissy, Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention, on behalf of the Director, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division, welcomed delegates and observers. He stressed the critical importance of plant genetic resources for the transformation of agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable and for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind.
4. Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer of the Commission, highlighted the intersessional work of the Commission, which reflected the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA). The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022 had further confirmed the need for effective global collaboration on biodiversity, including plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). He invited all participants to bear in mind the importance of effective and efficient global governance of biodiversity for food and agriculture when considering the different items on the agenda of the meeting.
5. Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, Secretary of the Working Group, thanked the National Focal Points for their crucial contributions to the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report) and for the continued collaboration during the intersessional period.
6. In line with Article III of its Statutes, the Working Group replaced absent Members of the Working Group with other Members of the Commission present at the meeting. Guinea therefore attended the meeting as a Member of the Working Group.
7. The Working Group elected Ms Imke Thormann (Germany) as Chairperson. Mr Abdus Salam (Bangladesh), Ms Julie Émond (Canada), Mr Nevio Aníbal Bonilla Morales (Costa Rica), Mr Desterio Nyamongo (Kenya) and Ms Fadila Ayesh Al-Salameen (Kuwait) as Vice-Chairpersons. Mr Abdus Salam was elected *Rapporteur*.
8. The Working Group adopted the agenda as given in *Appendix A*.

III. THE THIRD REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

9. The Working Group considered the document *Preparation of the Draft Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*² and took note of the *Draft Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture*.³
10. The Working Group reviewed the draft Third Report. It recommended that *in situ* conservation and management of crop wild relatives and wild food plants, as well as farmers' varieties/landraces, be treated in the Third Report as two separate groups. Furthermore, the

¹ <https://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/itwg/11th/en/>

² CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/3 Rev.1.

³ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/3/Inf.1.

Working Group recommended that the Third Report identify for each indicator and related question the number of reporting countries.

11. The Working Group recommended that the Commission share the draft Third Report with the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty) for its comments, and review it. It strongly encouraged Members and observers to provide comments on and inputs to the draft Third Report, as early as possible, and no later than 30 November 2023. It further recommended that a revised version of the draft Third Report be made available by FAO during the first semester of 2024 on the World Information and Early Warning System on PGRFA (WIEWS), reflecting the findings of the thematic background studies and taking into account comments and inputs received from the Governing Body of the Treaty and from Members and observers. Members and observers of the Working Group would then provide comments in writing on the revised draft Third Report and FAO would finalize the Third Report and make it available in due time for the Twelfth Session of the Working Group

12. The Working Group supported the Commission's request⁴ that FAO propose a revision and significant simplifications of the WIEWS Reporting Tool and the indicators on which countries shall report, with a view to increase the participation of national stakeholders, once the Third Report has been completed and the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Second GPA)⁵ has been reviewed, for the consideration of the Working Group and the Commission.

IV. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

13. The Working Group considered the document *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: implementation and review*⁶ and welcomed the support provided by FAO to countries in all areas of the implementation of the Second GPA.

Conservation and on-farm management

14. The Working Group recommended that FAO continue to support countries in *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA, including through the support of community seedbanks, and to strengthen the links and complementarity with *ex situ* conservation, including through the development of national action plans, taking into account the Commission's *Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants*⁷ and the *Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Farmers' Varieties/Landraces*, and through *ex situ* backup of endangered PGRFA, as appropriate.⁸

15. The Working Group welcomed the publication of the *Proceedings of the First Multi-stakeholder Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources*⁹ and the organization of webinars on *in situ* and on farm conservation.

⁴ CGRFA-18/23/Report, paragraph 109.

⁵ FAO. 2011. *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/i2624e/i2624e00.htm>

⁶ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.

⁷ FAO. 2017. *Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/i7788e/i7788e.pdf>

⁸ FAO. 2019. *Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Farmers' Varieties/Landraces*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/ca5601en/ca5601en.pdf>

⁹ FAO. 2022. *Proceedings of the First International Multi-stakeholder Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Technical consultation on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture – 29–30 March 2021, Rome, Italy*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3716en>

Sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

Strengthening seed systems

16. The Working Group recommended that FAO continue assisting countries in strengthening national seed systems to facilitate the delivery of quality seed and planting materials, in particular to smallholder farmers. It recommended that the Commission call upon donors to support countries, in their review, development and implementation of national seed policies.

17. The Working Group recommended that FAO continue supporting countries in the development, revision and implementation of national seed policies and legislation, taking into account the Commission's *Voluntary Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation*¹⁰ and that donors support countries in this regard.

Strengthening plant breeding

18. The Working Group recommended that FAO continue supporting countries, in close coordination with the Treaty, in strengthening their crop breeding systems, including for underutilized crops, as well as their crop improvement capacity, including through the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre.

Building sustainable institutions and human capacities

19. The Working Group recommended that FAO continue to strengthen human and institutional capacities for PGRFA research and development. It recommended that extra-budgetary funds be made available to support countries in the implementation of the Second GPA, including through the development and implementation of national strategies for PGRFA, in close coordination with the Treaty and its Funding Strategy.

20. The Working Group further recommended that FAO continue to report annually on the status of implementation of Sustainable Development Goal Target 2.5. It recommended that FAO develop further the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS) and strengthen cooperation with GLIS and Genesys, with a view to avoid duplication of efforts.

Updating the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

21. The Working Group recommended that FAO revise the Second GPA, based on the findings of the Third Report and taking into account the gaps, needs and priorities identified through regional consultations. It recommended that the Governing Body of the Treaty participate in the updating process. It recommended that the financial resources necessary for updating the rolling global plan of action, including for the regional consultations, be made available by governments and international organizations.

Application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

22. The Working Group considered the document *Application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.¹¹ It welcomed the finalization and publication of the three practical guides presented as drafts to the last session of the Commission.¹² It

¹⁰ FAO. 2015. *Voluntary Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation*. Rome. <http://www.fao.org/3/ai4916e.pdf>

¹¹ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.1.

¹² FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation of orthodox seeds in seed genebanks*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0021en>
FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation in field genebanks*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0023en>

recommended that FAO publish the practical guides in all United Nations (UN) official languages and call upon donors to provide the necessary funds for this. It further recommended that FAO disseminate them widely.

23. The Working Group reviewed the draft outlines of the practical guides for conservation in genebanks of species producing recalcitrant seeds and for conservation through cryopreservation, respectively. It recommended that FAO convene a virtual expert consultation on the draft practical guides and develop them further, based on the feedback received from the Working Group, the Commission and the expert consultation, for review by the Working Group at its next session.

24. The Working Group also recommended that FAO look into options on how and which capacity-building and evaluation mechanisms could be created to support genebanks in reaching the Genebank Standards and explore the possibility for creating an acknowledgement system.

Effects of seed policies, laws and regulations

25. The Working Group considered the document *Further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations*¹³ and took note of the *Draft concept note on further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations affecting farmers' ability to access seeds*.¹⁴ The Working Group recommended that the draft concept note be revised to address specific research questions and identify appropriate research methodologies and data collection approaches, for consideration by the Commission. It further recommended that the revised draft concept note focus on farmers' ability to access seeds and planting materials in particular of diverse, locally adapted farmers' varieties/landraces, taking into account different seed systems at national and local levels, which may be affected differently. It also recommended that FAO continue to collaborate with the Treaty and other relevant partners on further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations.

26. The Working Group recommended that the Commission request FAO take a bottom-up, demand-driven approach to seed security, promote farmers' participation in seed-related FAO activities and raise awareness of the *Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned on the Realization of Farmers' Rights*.¹⁵

V. THE ROLE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN MITIGATION OF AN ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

27. The Working Group considered the document *Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture*¹⁶ and took note of the document *FAO's work on climate change*.¹⁷ The Working Group reviewed the *Draft questionnaire on genetic resources for food and agriculture and climate change*¹⁸ and recommended that the questions be further streamlined and simplified, with a view to avoiding duplication of other reporting processes and based on the comments received from the intergovernmental technical working groups, for review by the Commission.

28. The Working Group further recommended that, once the questionnaire has been finalized and responses have been received, the Secretariat prepare a summary of country responses, with a view to establishing a baseline of national responses, for consideration by the Working Groups and the Commission.

FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation via in vitro culture*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0025en>

¹³ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.2.

¹⁴ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.2/Inf.1.

¹⁵ <https://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/farmers-rights/inventory-on-frs/en/>

¹⁶ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/5.

¹⁷ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/5/Inf.1.

¹⁸ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/5, *Appendix I*.

29. The Working Group took note of the Commission's request "to review and revise, as appropriate, the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*,¹⁹ 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."²⁰ It recommended that the Secretariat also seek information on how the Voluntary Guidelines have been used to date. It further recommended that the Commission, after completion of the questionnaire by national competent authorities, convene a global multi-stakeholder workshop on climate change and GRFA to exchange information and experiences, share views and priorities, taking into account the outcome from the questionnaire, and discuss possible changes to the Voluntary Guidelines, subject to the availability of funding.

30. The Working Group recommended that the Secretariat review and, as appropriate, revise the Voluntary Guidelines, in light of the outcomes of the global workshop and taking into account the responses received to the questionnaire. The draft revised Voluntary Guidelines should then be considered in regional consultations and subsequently by the Working Group and the Commission at their next sessions.

31. The Working Group recommended to continue strengthening capacity-building and training programmes on climate change and GRFA. In addition, the Working Group recommended that the Commission invite Members to make use of the FAO tools and guidance on climate change adaptation and mitigation when developing or updating their National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions.

VI. ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

32. The Working Group considered the document *Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture*²¹ and took note of the information document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture: Typology of country measures*²² and the *Draft 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*.²³

33. The Working Group took note of recent developments under other international agreements and instruments relevant to access and benefit-sharing (ABS) and stressed the need to avoid duplication of work and ensure consistency. It requested the Secretariat to provide updated information on developments in other fora to the Commission at its forthcoming Nineteenth Regular Session, reflecting in particular the outcomes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) and their possible implications for the future work of the Commission. In light of the monitoring framework²⁴ adopted by COP 15, the Working Group recommended that the Secretariats of the Commission, the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as needed, collaborate on means of assembling relevant information for measuring and monitoring monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing, within their respective mandates and existing frameworks.

34. The Working Group recommended that the Secretariat continue following closely the developments in other fora and proactively engage in these fora, for example, by providing facts and figures from the food and agriculture sector.

35. The Working Group provided comments on and inputs to the document *Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture: typology of country measures*,²⁵

¹⁹ 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>

²⁰ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 20.

²¹ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6.

²² CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6/Inf.1.

²³ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6/Inf.2.

²⁴ CBD/COP/DEC/15/5.

²⁵ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6/Inf.1.

and noted that further comments on these measures may be submitted by Members to the Secretariat by 1 May 2023. It recommended to clarify in the introduction that ABS country measures referenced in the typology are examples only and are in no way meant to be exhaustive. It further recommended that the typology of ABS country measures be reviewed and, as appropriate, revised in the light of all comments and inputs received, for consideration by the Commission at its forthcoming session. The Working Group recommended that the Commission explore options to regularly update the typology and make it available to relevant stakeholders.

36. The Working Group provided comments on and inputs to the *Draft 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*.²⁶ It recommended to simplify and shorten the questionnaire and to clarify the addressees of the different questions; the questionnaire should also seek information in the form of open-ended questions on practical experiences of stakeholders with ABS country measures, implications of ABS measures (e.g. on the choice of GRFA used) and the actual effects of refused access to genetic resources. Some of the proposed questions (e.g. questions 8, 12 and 15) should be directed to the competent national authorities on access and benefit-sharing, where such authorities exist. Other questions should be reviewed in light of the fact that certain rules and regulations other than ABS measures, such as quarantine or health regulations, may also delay or hinder access to genetic resources (questions 20, 21, 26 and 27).

37. The Working Group further recommended that the report on the implications of implementation of access and benefit-sharing country measures for the use and exchange of GRFA, associated traditional knowledge and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits be prepared in light of the responses to the questionnaire.

38. The Working Group recommended that FAO, in collaboration with its partners, continue to raise awareness among key stakeholders, including breeders, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, of the distinctive features of GRFA and provide capacity-building and training programmes on ABS for GRFA. It further recommended that the Commission encourage ministries responsible for the different subsectors of GRFA to engage in the development and implementation of ABS measures.

VII. DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

39. The Working Group considered the document *Digital sequence information and genetic resources for food and agriculture*²⁷ and took note of the draft study on *The role of digital sequence information for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture*.²⁸ It noted that there is no agreement on the term digital sequence information (DSI), nor its definition, and that there is a multiplicity of terms that have been used in this area, including “genetic sequence data”.

40. The Working Group recommended that FAO update the draft study and the working document in light of recent developments regarding DSI under the CBD, the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and in the World Health Organization, prior to the next session of the Commission. It further recommended that the study once updated and finalized be submitted to the CBD ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources, established by COP 15.

41. The Working Group recommended that the Commission invite Members to submit information to the Secretariat on domestic ABS measures applying to DSI and their actual or potential implications for the conservation and sustainable use of GRFA, including exchange, access to and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use and to compile this information for consideration by the Commission.

²⁶ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6/Inf.2.

²⁷ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/7.

²⁸ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/7/Inf.1.

42. In addition, the Working Group recommended that the Secretariat continue monitoring and reporting to the Commission and its Working Groups on developments regarding DSI in other fora and participate, as an observer, in the CBD ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources and the Treaty ad hoc open-ended working group to enhance the functioning of the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing, with a view to explore their potential implications, including potential opportunities and challenges for the Commission and its Members. In addition, the Working Group recommended that the Commission and its secretariat play a proactive role in the discussions and negotiations of the multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources, including in the discussions on non-monetary benefits from the use of DSI on GRFA.

43. The Working Group recommended that the Commission invite its National Focal Points to reach out to their counterparts under the CBD to raise awareness of the needs of the agricultural sector in relation to the development of the multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources under the CBD.

44. The Working Group commended the Commission for organizing, in collaboration with the CBD, the Treaty, CABI and the CGIAR Initiative on Genebanks, the *Global Workshop on Digital Sequence Information and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*,²⁹ held virtually on 14 and 15 November 2022. It recommended that the Commission hold further open-ended workshops or webinars to inform Commission Members and observers about issues related to DSI, including technological and policy developments, and to facilitate dialogue at national, regional and global levels and increase capacity development. The Working Group further supported the continuation of the close collaboration between the Commission and other fora dealing with DSI, including the CBD and the Treaty.

VIII. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

45. The Working Group considered the document *Strategic plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: review and update*³⁰ and noted the progress made in the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) since the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission.

46. The Working Group reviewed the draft Strategic Plan 2023–2031 and took note of suggestions to refer to “genetic resources for food and agriculture and other components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture” or “genetic resources for food and agriculture and all other forms of biodiversity for food and agriculture”, instead of “biodiversity for food and agriculture, including genetic resources”, in the mission and goals of the Strategic Plan.³¹ It further stressed that, notwithstanding the Commission’s work on biodiversity for food and agriculture and the *Commission’s Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*,³² the Strategic Plan should continue to stress the Commission’s core competency in GRFA.

47. With regard to the MYPOW,³³ the Working Group recommended that the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture be reviewed at the Commission’s Twentieth Regular Session. The Working Group further recommended to review the WIEWS Reporting Tool at the Commission’s Twenty-first Regular Session instead of reviewing the GPA implementation, as proposed. It noted that the agenda of the Twenty-first Regular Session of the Commission is very heavy and recommended that the Secretariat consider the possibility of moving items to a different session.

²⁹ https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/dsi_workshop_2022/en/

³⁰ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/8.

³¹ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/8, *Appendix I*.

³² 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>

³³ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/8, *Appendix I, Annex 1*.

48. The Working Group took note of, but did not reach consensus on, the proposed phase-out of the workstream on ‘Nutrition and Health’ and the proposal to create a new workstream for ‘New and emerging issues’.

49. The Working Group recommended that the Commission invite donors to contribute to the Commission’s multi-donor trust fund for the implementation of the MYPOW.

IX. REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTRUMENTS

50. The Working Group took note of the document *Cooperation with international organizations and instruments*.³⁴ It thanked the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the International Seed Federation, the Treaty, the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) and the CGIAR for reporting on their recent activities on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.³⁵ The Working Group reiterated the importance of collaboration and synergies between the Commission and international organizations and instruments on topics of mutual interest. The Working Group recommended that the Commission continue to invite relevant organizations and instruments to report to the Working Group and the Commission on their activities and to attend Commission and Working Group sessions.

X. OTHER MATTERS

51. The Working Group recommended that the Commission call upon donors to provide sufficient extra-budgetary funding to support the attendance of delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

XI. CLOSING STATEMENTS

52. Mr Chikelu Mba, Team Leader, Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources, highlighted the unique comparative advantage of FAO in convening a wide array of stakeholders to discuss PGRFA issues. He thanked delegates from Members and Observers for their contribution to the deliberations, as well as all the staff responsible for the smooth delivery of the current session.

53. Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, congratulated the Working Group on its accomplishments during this session and thanked all delegations for their participation and contributions. He noted that the Nineteenth Regular Session of the Commission, which also marks its fortieth anniversary, would take place in Rome, Italy, from 17 to 21 July 2023, and encouraged all delegates to attend the meeting. He stressed the importance of continuing the implementation of the Global Plan of Action while the Third Report is being finalized. Finally, he thanked the Governments of Canada, Germany, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway and Switzerland for supporting the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

54. Ms Imke Thormann, Chairperson, thanked all delegates and the *Rapporteur* for their contributions to the success of the session. She also thanked the Secretariat on behalf of the Working Group, along with the interpreters, translators and other staff.

³⁴ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/9.

³⁵ CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/9/Inf.1.

APPENDIX A**AGENDA OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE**

1. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and *Rapporteur*
2. Adoption of the agenda and timetable
3. *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*
4. Status of implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 - 4.1 *In situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
 - 4.2 Implementation of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
5. The role of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change
6. Access and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
7. Digital sequence information on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
8. Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
9. Reports from international organizations and instruments
10. Any other matters
11. Adoption of the Report

APPENDIX B
LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING AND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/1	Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and <i>Rapporteur</i>
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/1/Inf.1	Statutes of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and Members and Alternates Elected by the Commission at its Eighteenth Regular Session
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/1/Inf.3 Rev.1	Information note for participants
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/2	Provisional agenda
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/2 Add.1	Provisional annotated agenda and timetable
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/2/Inf.1	List of documents
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/3 Rev.1	Preparation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/3/Inf.1	Draft <i>Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4	Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: implementation and review
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.1	Application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.2	Further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/4.2/Inf.1	Draft concept note on further research on the impact of seed policies, laws and regulations affecting farmers' ability to access seeds
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/5	Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/5/Inf.1	FAO's work on climate change
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6	Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6/Inf.1	Access and benefit-sharing and genetic resources for food and agriculture: typology of country measures
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/6/Inf.2	Draft 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/WG-PGR-11/23/7	Digital sequence information and genetic resources for food and agriculture
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/7/Inf.1	The role of digital sequence information for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture: opportunities and challenges
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/8	Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Review and update
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/9	Cooperation with international organizations and instruments
CGRFA/WG-PGR-11/23/9/Inf.1	Submissions from international organizationsinternational organizations and instruments

APPENDIX C

**MEMBERS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING
GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ELECTED AT THE EIGHTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

<i>Composition (no. of countries per region)</i>	<i>Country</i>
Africa (5)	Kenya Morocco South Africa Tunisia Uganda <i>First Alternate:</i> Namibia <i>Second Alternate:</i> Zambia
Asia (5)	Bangladesh Indonesia Japan Malaysia Thailand <i>First Alternate:</i> Philippines <i>Second Alternate:</i> India
Europe (5)	Azerbaijan France Germany Norway Russian Federation <i>First Alternate:</i> Czechia <i>Second Alternate:</i> Switzerland
Latin America and the Caribbean (5)	Brazil Chile Costa Rica Ecuador Peru <i>First Alternate:</i> Cuba <i>Second Alternate:</i> Argentina
Near East (4)	Egypt Jordan Kuwait Saudi Arabia <i>First Alternate:</i> Yemen <i>Second Alternate:</i> Lebanon
North America (2)	Canada United States of America
Southwest Pacific (2)	Cook Islands Samoa <i>First Alternate:</i> Tonga <i>Second Alternate:</i> Fiji
