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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 9.3 of the Provisional Agenda

Twentieth Regular Session

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REVIEW OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Nineteenth Regular Session, recommended that FAO review and revise, as appropriate, the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA),[1] based on the findings of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Third Report), the final version of which will be launched on the occasion of the Commission's Twentieth Regular Session[2] and taking into account the gaps, needs and priorities identified through regional consultations. It further recommended inviting the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) to participate in the updating process.[3]

2. This document provides some background to the Second GPA and introduces the results of the regional consultations on the review of the Second GPA, held in 2024. It identifies, based on the results of the regional consultations, key issues for each Priority Activity of the Second GPA. The document seeks the Commission's guidance regarding next steps for the review and update of the Second GPA. The reports of the regional consultations on the review of the Second GPA have been made available for information of the Commission.[4]

II. BACKGROUND

3. The Second GPA is a rolling plan of action.[5] Overall progress on its implementation has been monitored and guided through the Commission. As stated in the Second GPA, its "review should deal with the progress made at the national, regional and international levels in the implementation, elaboration, and adjustment, as appropriate, of the Second GPA."[6]

4. A first assessment of the implementation of the Second GPA between January 2012 and June 2014 was presented to the Commission at its Sixteenth Regular Session, including an assessment of its achievements, as well as gaps and needs for its implementation.[7] Together with the first assessment, the second assessment of the implementation of the Second GPA spanning the period of July 2014 to December 2019 provided a key source of information for the Third Report.

III. REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

5. Regional consultations on the review of the Second GPA were held jointly by FAO, the Commission and the International Treaty for Africa (Nairobi, Kenya, 7–9 May, 2024) Latin America and the Caribbean (Cali, Colombia, 21–23 May, 2024), the Near East and North Africa (9–11 July, 2024), Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 23–25 July, 2024), Europe (virtual, 10–12 September, 2024) and North America (virtual, 4 October, 2024). Representatives from a total of 120 countries and from ten international and regional organizations attended the regional consultations and provided suggestions for the revision of the Second GPA. The reports have been made available for information of the Commission.[8]

IV. KEY ISSUES AND NEXT STEPS

6. The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group), at its Twelfth Session, reviewed and revised a list of key issues for the review of the Second GPA, prepared by the Secretariat based on the findings of the Third Report and

[1] FAO. 2011. *The Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. https://www.fao.org/4/i2624e/i2624e00.pdf
[2] FAO. forthcoming. *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.* Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome.
[3] CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 58.
[4] CGRFA-20/25/9.3.2/Inf.1–6.
[5] Second GPA, paragraph 315.
[6] CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.1; CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.2.
[7] CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.2.
[8] CGRFA-20/25/9.3.2/Inf.1 – CGRFA-20/25/9.3.2/Inf.6.

the outcomes of the regional consultations.[9] The list of key issues for the review of the Second GPA, as revised by the Working Group, is reproduced in the *Appendix* to this document.

7. The Working Group recommended that the Commission invite FAO to prepare, based on the revised list of key issues, a draft revised Second GPA for consideration by the Working Group at its next session and, subsequently, the Commission at its Twenty-first Regular Session.[10]

8. The Working Group further requested the Commission Secretariat to propose to the Commission a process for simplifying the reporting format and tool for monitoring the implementation of the revised Second GPA, while ensuring that the data are comparable with those collected for previous reports. As the revision of the reporting format is closely linked to the revision of the Second GPA, it is proposed to initiate the revision of the reporting format once the review of the Second GPA has been completed. This would also be in line with the Commission's request to "revise and simplify the WIEWS Reporting Tool and indicators on which countries shall report, once the Second GPA has been reviewed."[11]

V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

9. The Commission may wish to:

(i) review and revise, as appropriate, the key issues for the review of the Second GPA given in the *Appendix*;

(ii) recommend that FAO prepare, based on the key issues identified by the Commission, a revised Second GPA for review by the Working Group and, subsequently, the Commission at their next sessions; and

(iii) recommend that FAO revise and simplify the reporting format for monitoring the implementation of the revised Second GPA, including the WIEWS Report Tool and the indicators against which countries shall report, once the review of the Second GPA has been completed.

[9] CGRFA-20/25/9.1, *Appendix* B.
[10] CGRFA-20/25/9.1, paragraph 31.
[11] CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 57.

APPENDIX

KEY ISSUES FOR THE REVIEW OF THE SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE[12]

The following information summarizes and consolidates key inputs received from the regional consultations, on the review of the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Second GPA). General inputs are presented, followed by inputs relevant to each of the Priority Activities (PA) of the Second GPA.

General inputs

- PAs should be reorganized into the following sections and order:
    - *In situ* conservation and management: PA 1, PA 4, PA 2
    - *Ex situ* conservation: PA 5, PA 6, PA 7
    - Sustainable use: PA 8, PA 9, PA 10, PA 11, PA 12, PA 3
    - Building sustainable institutional and human capacities: PA 13, PA 14, PA 15, PA 16, PA 17, PA 18
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) should be mentioned in the introduction/preamble.

IN SITU CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

PA 1. Surveying and inventorying plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

- **Technical capacities**: The PA should emphasize the need for developing and leveraging expertise across different institutions in areas such as taxonomy, data collection and use, analysis of genetic erosion and development of methodologies for the identification of unique farmers' varieties/landraces (FV/LR).
- **Synergies with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) or comparable instruments**: The PA should reference NBSAPs and stress the importance for synergies for surveying and inventorying, as appropriate.
- **Emphasize key plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) groups**: The PA should differentiate among crop wild relatives (CWR), wild food plants (WFP), FV/LR and underutilized species. These plant groups each require a separate focus, including their inventorying, monitoring and management.
- **Facilitate access to protected areas**: The PA should highlight the importance of access to protected areas for monitoring wild PGRFA as well as recommending the inclusion of the monitoring of PGRFA in protected areas management plans, as appropriate.
- **Traceability and identification**: The PA should stress the importance of traceability and identification for monitoring (e.g. permanent unique identifier or Digital Object Identifiers and passport data to be developed for surveyed populations).
- **Comprehensive inventories**: The PA should encourage countries to promote the development of checklists and inventories of CWR, WFP, FV/LR and neglected and underutilized species. These inventories should be periodically updated, include passport data, distribution maps, as possible, and be made accessible through information systems to all stakeholders.
- **Increased efficiency in surveying**: The PA should promote the use of the most efficient tools (e.g. drones and artificial intelligence [AI]) for surveying PGRFA, and support capacity-building initiatives to support the effective application.

[12] Reproduced as contained in *Appendix* B to document CGRFA-20/25/9.1.

- **Involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs)**: The PA should emphasize the importance of greater involvement of, and coordination to support, NGOs and CSOs, in the surveying, inventorying, conservation, distribution and sustainable use of PGRFA, particularly in community seed banks (CSBs). Include a broad and inclusive definition of CSB to reflect diversity of various actors.

PA 2. Supporting on-farm management and improvement of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

- **Sharing of experiences**: The PA should promote sharing of knowledge among countries for the effective management of FV/LR. It may be a general issue for the introduction.
- **Inclusive agriculture measures**: The PA should stress the need for capacity development and increased awareness on the importance of biodiversity for food and agriculture (BFA) and ecosystem services in conserving and using crop diversity.
- **Participatory approaches**: The PA should promote farmers participatory approaches using Participatory Varietal Selection (PVS) and Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB), the inclusion of gender and youth in on-farm management activities, and foster linkages with CSBs ensuring complementarity with *ex situ* conservation efforts. The PA should stress the role of national and regional genebanks and CSBs. This issue may overlap with PA9, 10 and 11.
- **Registration and incentives**: The PA should invite countries to consider formal registration of FV/LR, as well as incentives and recognition for their cultivation according to national laws, as appropriate.

PA 3. Assisting farmers in disaster situations to restore crop systems

- **Inclusion of emergency responses**: The PA should promote the integration of disaster, conflict and crisis responses measures into national PGRFA strategies, as well as the participation of genebanks in national disaster committees.
- **Mechanisms to assess crop and varietal diversity**: The PA should emphasise the need for pre- and post-disaster assessments of crop diversity, including through the documentation and development of catalogues, for restoration and repatriation.
- **Coordination between national genebanks and CSBs**: The PA should stress the role of national genebanks and CSBs in rapid and adequate supply of seed of FV/LR in disaster response.
- **Information systems**: The PA should highlight the use of information technology and databases to assess the extent and impact of disasters on crop diversity, including through mobile phone applications.
- **Invasive alien species:** The PA should highlight the role of invasive alien species, as well as insect pests and diseases, as causes of disasters.
- **Regional cooperation:** The PA should emphasize regional seed emergency preparedness, and the sharing of good practices and lessons learned.

PA 4. Promoting *in situ* conservation and management of crop wild relatives and wild food plants

- **Policies and frameworks**: The PA should promote the strengthening of legal, institutional and technical frameworks to support the effective conservation, access and use of wild PGRFA, including through fostering synergies in implementing relevant international policies and frameworks (e.g. the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework).
- **National monitoring systems**: The PA should highlight the need to develop national-level monitoring systems for management plans of CWR and WFP.

- **Coordination**: The PA should support national coordination among the different ministries, institutions and related stakeholders. The need for more efforts at the local level and collaboration with local authorities should be highlighted.
- **Efficient management of wild PGRFA populations**: The PA should promote good practices in the management of wild PGRFA populations, including: encouraging cultivation of WFP to relieve harvesting pressure; promoting restoration of wild PGRFA in degraded areas; establishment of *in situ* conservation areas; and developing lists of priority species of wild PGRFA.

EX SITU CONSERVATION

PA 5. Supporting targeted collecting of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

- **Training and capacity building**: The PA should address the need for capacity for targeted collecting, including for collecting vegetatively propagated species, and taxonomic identification.
- **Collecting of CWR, WFP, underutilized species and FV/LR**: The PA should promote the targeted collecting of CWR, WFP, underutilized species and FV/LR, also taking into account their threat status and nutritional and cultural values in line with international agreements. It should also address the challenges of collecting these resources – especially when found in areas managed by other Ministries or Departments and areas of conflict – and highlight the importance of ensuring sufficient availability of equipment and securing the collected samples in *ex situ* genebanks. The value of applying gap analyses should be highlighted.
- **Criteria and methodologies for collecting/sampling wild PGRFA**: The PA should highlight the need for establishing common criteria and methodologies for collecting and sampling wild PGRFA.
- **Targeted collecting as part of national strategy**: Collecting of PGRFA should be reflected in medium-term and long-term national programmes and strategies.
- **Documentation and information management systems**: The PA should highlight the need for improved documentation and information systems to enhance data sharing, support prioritization for targeted collecting, reduce duplications and undertake gap analyses through the application of GIS and tools for predictive characterization (e.g. FIGS and CAPFITOGEN). Passport and eco-geographical characterization data of the collected germplasm, as well as documentation of associated traditional knowledge should also be emphasized.

PA 6. Sustaining and expanding *ex situ* conservation of germplasm

- **Supporting policies and sustainable funding**: The PA should make reference to the need for supporting policies and long-term funding to promote *ex situ* conservation and avoid loss of diversity through the development and implementation of risk management plans.
- **Technical capacities**: The PA should stress the importance of maintaining qualified human resources and further developing capacities in taxonomy, phytosanitary screening, characterization methods (including molecular), seed physiology, documentation and information management.
- **Increased quality of collections**: The PA should promote the use of genebank quality management systems and the application of standard operating procedures, as well as genebank information management systems. It should emphasize the need for rationalizing collections and improving their quality, rather than expanding collections. The PA should make reference to AI for improving quality management of collections and options for optimization of available resources, as appropriate. The title of the PA should reference "improving" *ex situ* conservation of germplasm, in addition to "sustaining" and "expanding."

- **Conservation technologies:** The PA should highlight the importance of using advanced conservation technologies, including *in vitro* culture and cryopreservation for recalcitrant seeded and vegetatively propagated species, and molecular tools, as appropriate.
- **Knowledge sharing**: The PA should promote knowledge sharing among scientists, as well as with farmers and other relevant stakeholders.

PA 7. Regenerating and multiplying and safety duplicating *ex situ* accessions

- **Sustainable funding:** The PA should make reference to the high cost of regeneration and emphasize the importance of providing adequate funding, especially for regeneration of unique germplasm and multiplication for safety duplicates.
- **Assess, strengthen and enhance infrastructure and technical capacities:** The PA should emphasize the need for infrastructure and technical capacities, especially for the regeneration and multiplication of CWR, WFP, and non-orthodox seeded, vegetatively propagated and cross-pollinated species. It should promote the enhancement of facilities for irrigation, the use of crop-specific field sites and the development of regeneration protocols.
- **Coordinate efforts to support safety duplication and long-term conservation of germplasm:** The PA should promote regional coordination for the safety duplication and long-term storage of more challenging taxa conserved through cryopreservation, *in vitro* culture and DNA banks. Reference to "safety duplication" of *ex situ* accessions should be added to the title, in addition to existing references to "regenerating" and "multiplying" efforts.
- **Monitor genetic integrity and germplasm health:** The PA should emphasize the need to monitor and assess genetic integrity and health of regenerated accessions prior to conservation to ensure distribution of healthy germplasm.
- **Improve genebank information management systems**: The PA should stress the importance of data including flagging accessions requiring regeneration.
- **Threat status:** Regeneration of samples of endangered species and local varieties should be given due attention.

SUSTAINABLE USE

PA 8. Expanding the characterization, evaluation and further development of specific subsets of collections to facilitate use

- **Strengthen financial and technical capacities:** The PA should highlight the need for sufficient funds and technical skills for characterizing and evaluating PGRFA.
- **Improve technical cooperation:** The PA should emphasize the need to strengthen collaborations/partnerships among genebanks, universities, public and private research and plant breeding centres/programmes and extension services.
- **Promote molecular characterization:** The PA should highlight the value of molecular characterization data and analysis, in particular for lesser researched crops and underutilized species.
- **Enhance evaluation data and their availability:** The PA should emphasize the importance of recording data on nutritional components, biochemical profiles, digital sequence information (DSI)/GSD and high-throughput phenotypes and genotypes using standardized descriptors.
- **Promote evaluation in farmers' fields:** The PA should mention the benefits of engaging with farmers in germplasm evaluation (through e.g., participatory breeding), and recognize the role of extensionists.

- **Enhance characterization:** The PA should support the review, revision and application of morphological descriptors, and the development of standardized descriptors for those species or crops for which they are not yet available and make the data available.

PA 9. Supporting plant breeding, genetic enhancement and base-broadening efforts

- **Breeding programmes sustainability**: The PA should stress the need for long-term support of public pre-breeding and breeding programmes, and sources of quality germplasm for breeding improved varieties.
- **Improvement of FV/LR and underutilized species**: The PA should stress the need to incorporate FV/LR and underutilized species into national research and participatory breeding programmes to provide varieties suitable to farmers' local productions systems, conditions and preferences.
- **Enhance use of modern technologies and associated capacities**: The PA should also promote the use of modern technologies – including sequencing technologies, high throughput genotyping and phenotyping, and AI – to undertake genome-wide association studies for establishing marker-trait associations, and support capacity development for their use, as appropriate.

PA 10. Promoting diversification of crop production and broadening crop diversity for sustainable agriculture

- **Promote linkages among stakeholders**: The PA should stress the importance of stakeholder cooperation, including among CSBs, genebanks, extensionists and other national institutions.
- **Foster farmers' engagement and organization**: The PA should emphasize the need for adequate seed stocks to meet farmers' demand for quality seed of FV/LR.
- **Improve assessment of local diversity**: The PA should promote capacity-building for assessing crop diversity at the local level, including to document and raise awareness on it.
- Strengthening of incentives to promote diversification of crop production should be highlighted as well as the importance of organization at local level.

PA 11. Promoting development and commercialization of all varieties, primarily farmers' varieties/landraces and underutilized species

- **Value chain development**: The PA should stress the importance of value chain development for FV/LR and underutilized species. It should mention: (i) training for PPB; (ii) developing catalogues for FV/LR and underutilized species; (iii) creating attractive branding for niche markets, including through geographic indication strategies; and (iv) connecting producers to buyers interested in traditional diversity rich products, including through initiatives such as agrotourism and e-commerce.
- **Role of community seed banks**: The PA should stress the role community seed banks can play in the development of FV/LR.
- **Registration procedures for FV/LR**: The PA should mention the need for appropriate registration procedures for smallholders, as appropriate and subject to national legislation.

PA 12. Supporting seed production and distribution

- **Foster capacities for community seed enterprises**: The PA should stress the need for fostering the capacities of farmers and local communities in producing quality seeds on-farm through community seed enterprises.
- **Quality seed standards**: The PA should stress the need for quality seed production through the application of quality assurance mechanisms (e.g. FAO Quality Declared Seed) including for FV/LR.

- **Traditional exchange of FV/LR:** The PA should emphasize that different seed systems include traditional exchange of seeds of FV/LR between farmers, as appropriate and subject to national legislation.
- **Promote knowledge exchange:** The PA should encourage efforts to facilitate exchange of experience in the promotion and commercialization of FV/LR seeds.
- The PA should emphasize the need for countries to design seed policies, laws and regulations that support and promote diversity as well as allowing farmers access to high quality planting material.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN CAPACITIES

PA 13. Building and strengthening national programmes

- **Unified and coherent policies**: The PA should stress the need for coherent and integrated policies and strategies supporting the conservation, access and use of PGRFA. It may refer to international instruments and agendas, and the implementation of national legislation on Farmers' Rights and breeders' rights.
- **Collaboration and synergies among stakeholders**: The PA should stress that collaboration and synergies among stakeholders within national programmes are paramount and, where possible, should be strengthened. Emphasis should be placed on ensuring that national programmes are not solely implemented by individual institutions, but instead integrate all relevant stakeholders. It should further emphasize the need for substantial engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including CSO and community seed banks, in all the processes including development, implementation and monitoring of national programmes.
- **Representativeness in advisory and decision-making bodies**: The PA should emphasize the importance of having and promoting a broad representation of all stakeholder categories in advisory and decision-making bodies, as well as in relevant initiatives.
- **Updated national PGRFA strategy**: The PA should emphasize the importance of a comprehensive national strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, which should be regularly revised, as needed. The national strategy should guide the implementation of the national programme, complement existing NBSAPs and other efficient conservation measures and address both cultivated and wild PGRFA. It should foster coordination between organizations in the environment and agriculture sectors and ensure synergies and compliance with relevant international agreements, including this rolling Global Plan of Action, the International Treaty, the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture,[13] the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge. The establishment and revision of the national PGRFA strategy should consider actions related to post-disaster restoration.
- **Technical capacities and resources**: The PA should emphasize the importance of national programmes having adequate human technical capacities and resources for supporting coordination and participatory mechanisms to address the tasks and priorities outlined in the national PGRFA strategy.
- **Strengthened links to networks**: The PA should highlight the importance of national programmes maintaining and strengthening connections with existing national, regional and international networks.

PA 14. Promoting and strengthening networks for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

[13] 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

- **Integration of networks into national programmes**: The PA should emphasize the need for long-term funding of networks and promote their incorporation into national programmes. Sustainability should be ensured by positioning networks as platforms for the development of inter-institutional project proposals and hubs of expertise for national programmes.
- **Facilitation role of networks**: The PA should highlight that networks can facilitate cooperation among genebanks, breeders and researchers at local, subnational, national, regional and global levels, and facilitate the establishment of regional hubs and partnerships with centres of excellence.

PA 15. Constructing and strengthening comprehensive information systems for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

- **Access to *in situ* and on-farm inventories**: The PA should stress the importance of ensuring that standardized data for both *in situ* (including on-farm) and *ex situ* PGRFA is accessible and updated, including through inclusive interoperable information systems, as appropriate. Stress the importance that information systems include local and traditional knowledge and practices.
- **Increase capacity**: The PA should emphasize the need to strengthen expertise related to information management and bioinformatics, the availability of necessary digital infrastructure, and the interoperability among existing systems. Increase capacity for using relevant information systems available.
- **Fostered collaboration**: The PA should stress the need to foster collaboration between government agencies, research institutions and regional and international platforms to create robust, interoperable and standardized information systems.
- **Enhancing and improving compatibility among international and regional platforms**: International platforms, including GLIS,[14] GRIN-Global,[15] WIEWS,[16] GENESYS[17] and other relevant regional platforms, should be compatible to improve national PGRFA information systems.
- **Supportive legal frameworks**: The PA should promote the development of legal frameworks that support the establishment and strengthening of information systems.

PA 16. Developing and strengthening systems for monitoring and safeguarding genetic diversity and minimizing genetic erosion of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

- **Promote establishment of national early warning system**: The PA should call for countries to establish early warning systems for PGRFA to identify threats and inform timely conservation measures, as well as developing plans to reduce the threat of genetic erosion.
- **Emphasize periodic PGRFA monitoring**: The PA should highlight the need for updated documentation on the status of CWR, WFP, FV/LR and underutilized species to monitor and safeguard genetic diversity and minimize genetic erosion.
- **Refinement and application of assessment methods and indicators**: The PA should stress the need to refine and implement methods to minimize genetic erosion, including indicators to assess inter- and intra-specific diversity, and the impact of associated drivers. The PA should promote training in such methods and indicators. The PA should mention IUCN methodologies for national Red List assessments and available eco-geographic tools that could be applied in the assessment and monitoring of wild PGRFA.

PA 17. Building and strengthening human resource capacity

[14] https://glis.fao.org/glis/
[15] https://www.grin-global.org/
[16] https://www.fao.org/wiews/en/
[17] https://www.genesys-pgr.org/

- **Policies for education and capacity development**: The PA should stress the need for policies to support education and capacity development in PGRFA conservation and use. Policies should be periodically revised to incorporate innovative technologies, harmonized with existing regional capacity programmes to reduce disparities among countries, and recognize the importance of including PGRFA in primary, secondary and tertiary education programmes.
- **Periodically assess human competencies**: The PA should promote periodical monitoring and development of human competencies within countries.
- **Enhance training opportunities through partnerships**: The PA should call for increased institutional dialogue to strengthen national and international financing opportunities for training personnel in PGRFA management. This should involve fostering partnerships with world-class institutions, promoting South–South cooperation, developing capacities of experts who work with farmers, developing capacities of policymakers, and forming interdisciplinary research teams to address complex challenges.
- **Emphasize risks arising from turnover and shortage of qualified staff**: The PA should highlight that National Programmes frequently face a shortage of qualified professionals due to staff turnover and challenges in recruiting young people to replace retiring staff. It should also emphasize the importance of creating attractive career paths and implementing recognition strategies to retain professionals in the field of PGRFA.
- **Promote renovation of educational facilities**: The PA should stress the need for modern, well-equipped educational infrastructure.
- Need to support capacity development, mentoring and networking of and among National Focal Points for PGRFA.
- Stress the role of CGIAR and other relevant international instruments in building capacity.

PA18: Promoting and strengthening public awareness of the importance of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

- **Emphasize key PGRFA groups**: The PA should address CWR, WFP, FV/LR and underutilized species separately.
- **Additional means for raising awareness**: The PA should make explicit reference to additional means and initiatives for raising awareness on the importance of PGRFA, including new movements (e.g. citizens' science), diversity fairs, innovative learning tools and symbolic celebrative events and value of success stories with relation to PGRFA. The PA should also highlight the role of social media and mobile phone apps for enhancing awareness and collecting important data on PGRFA diversity.
- **Communication strategy development**: The PA should encourage countries to develop a communication strategy to raise awareness of the importance of PGRFA. This strategy should highlight linkages between consumers and PGRFA, promote cultural identity and sovereignty, encourage food consumption from native or local and highly diverse PGRFA, and stress threats to PGRFA.

  Emphasize key target groups: The PA should specify target groups, including youth, policymakers, decision-makers, ministries and farmers, agencies and staff from the environmental sector as well as current or potential PGRFA users not currently listed. It should also promote increased awareness of policymakers on all PAs. Suitable strategies for reaching decision-makers.