



STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY BY ENSURING AVAILABILITY OF GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Ensuring that appropriate genetic resources for food and agriculture with relevant traits are available and accessible for research and breeding is crucial to food security. At the same time, it is widely acknowledged that countries have the sovereign right to exploit their genetic resources, including the right to control and limit access to them and to claim benefits arising from their utilization.

The project supported the convening of the International Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which assisted countries in identifying and raising awareness of the distinctive features and specific practices of the different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture in the context of the “Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture”. The Workshop strengthened the strategic partnerships of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture with other instruments and organizations.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project provided funding for participants in the Workshop from the least developed countries, other low-income countries and lower to middle-income countries, as well as for the attendance of guest speakers. It also supported the preparation of a survey for consideration by the Workshop, the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. Support was provided by the project to the participation of experts from developing countries in the First Meeting of the Expert Group on Micro-organism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and in the Fourth Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing. Both of these events were held in Rome in October 2018.

IMPACT

Participation in the Workshop and in meetings of the different working groups helped to build the understanding and capacity of delegates in the area of access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture. However, as the Elements state, the development and implementation of access and benefit-sharing measures is a work in progress. It will therefore be important to continue to offer capacity-building in the areas of access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 182 664

Duration

October 2017 – December 2018

Resource Partners

Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture of Germany (BMEL), Government of Germany

Partners

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Convention on Biological Diversity, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Beneficiaries

Farmers, pastoralists, forest dwellers and fisher folk, rural and indigenous populations and those who benefit from the flow of biodiversity for food and agriculture and its provision of multiple ecosystem services

OUTCOMES

- Survey produced and distributed to countries, indigenous and local communities on aspects such as use and exchange practices, relevant voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices, approval and involvement of indigenous and local communities.
- International Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture convened from 10 to 12 January 2018 at FAO headquarters in Rome.
- Contribution made to the preparation of draft subsector-specific explanatory notes for review by the intergovernmental technical working groups and for consolidation by the access and benefit-sharing Expert Team and finalization by the Commission.
- Workshop proceedings published and made available to all subsidiary bodies of the Commission and to the Commission itself.



Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/844/GER

Project Title

Support to the International Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

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