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**PREPARATION OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S PLANT
GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND UPDATING THE GLOBAL
PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants of the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, this report as submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The report is circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/1.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----------|
| INTRODUCTION..... | 3 |
| I. PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE SECOND <i>REPORT</i>..... | 3 |
| Preparation of Country Reports..... | 3 |
| National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISM) and the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS)..... | 4 |
| Information gathering from CGIAR Centres | 5 |
| Thematic Background Studies..... | 5 |
| Regional Meetings..... | 5 |
| Structure and preparation of the Second Report..... | 5 |
| Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture..... | 6 |
| II. UPDATING THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE..... | 6 |

INTRODUCTION

1. This document gives information on the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* ¹ (Second Report) and the process for the review and update of the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Global Plan of Action)*, as adopted by FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission). The Second Report provides the basis for updating the rolling *Global Plan of Action* which was adopted in 1996 by 150 member states through the Leipzig Declaration².

I. PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE SECOND REPORT

2. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Eleventh Regular Session:

- recommended that FAO make available the draft Second Report at the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission in 2009, to consider its finalization.³
- noted that the Second Report should be a high quality document, with regional and global analysis, to identify the most significant gaps and needs, in order to provide a sound basis for updating the rolling *Global Plan of Action*.
- agreed that the second *Report* needed to be updated with the best data and information available, including country reports, information gathering processes and thematic background studies, with the largest possible participation of countries, and should focus on changes that have occurred since 1996.

Preparation of Country Reports

3. The Country Reports were the main source of information on the status and trends of plant genetic resource conservation and use at the national level. Additional sources of information used for the Second Report were scientific literature, thematic background studies and other relevant technical publications. Throughout the preparation, FAO strived to ensure high quality of the data and that the process was country-driven, participatory, and involved relevant international organizations.

4. FAO received the first Country Reports in 2006. The majority of Country Reports were received in 2008. At the time of the finalization of the Second Report, 111 Country Reports had been received by the Secretariat. Most Country Reports have been provided in their final version while a few were made available as drafts. Table 1 shows the geographical distribution of Country Reports received by FAO for the preparation of the Second Report.

¹ CGRFA-12/09/Inf.7 Rev.1. *Draft Second Report of the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* – Available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/017/ak528e.pdf>

² ITCPR/96/REP, Annex 1. *Report of the International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources*, Leipzig, Germany, 17-23 June 1996 - Available at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGP/AGPS/Pgrfa/pdf/itcrepe.pdf>

³ CGRFA-11/07/Report, par. 41. *Report of the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

TABLE 1:
REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE COUNTRY REPORTS RECEIVED BY FAO FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE SECOND REPORT

| Region⁴ | Country reports |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Africa ⁵ | 23 |
| Americas ⁶ | 22 |
| Asia and Pacific ⁷ | 19 |
| Europe ⁸ | 30 |
| Near East ⁹ | 17 |
| Total | 111 |

5. In order to streamline the process of the preparation of the Second Report with the new approach for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*, FAO invited countries to undertake these activities and nominate or confirm a National Focal Point. Follow-up communications were sent to request countries to submit their Country Reports to facilitate the timely preparation of the Second Report. A number of technical workshops were also organized and relevant information was disseminated to stakeholders.¹⁰

National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISM) and the World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WIEWS)

6. The application of the new monitoring approach led to the establishment of 64 National Information Sharing Mechanisms (NISM), which provide comprehensive information on all of the 20 priority activity areas of the *Global Plan of Action*. In all countries which have established NISMs, the mechanism contributed important information to and facilitated the preparation of the Country Report. Data provided by NISMs have also been used for the analysis of regional and global trends, for quality assurance and for the identification of priorities and needs in the sector of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

⁴ The regional distribution of countries in the first Report has been retained in the second Report for consistency and for comparative purposes

⁵ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Rep. of, Democratic Rep. of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

⁶ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

⁷ Bangladesh, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

⁸ Albania, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

⁹ Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

¹⁰ CGRFA/WG-PGR-3/05/Rep, Appendix D. *Report of the Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* – Available at: http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/PGR/ITWG/ITWG3/P3rep_e.pdf

Information gathering from CGIAR Centres

7. In order to ensure that the role and contributions of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) genebanks and other regional and international genebanks were reflected in the Second Report, a short information-gathering questionnaire was circulated to these institutions in 2008.

Thematic Background Studies

8. The Commission, at its Tenth Regular Session, approved a list of thematic background studies to address specific topics as contribution to the Second Report to be developed as far as resources allowed. ¹¹ FAO, in collaboration with several partners, including the CGIAR centres, prepared a number of thematic studies, as approved by the Commission. The studies have been used as a valuable source of information in the preparation of the Second Report..

Regional Meetings

9. In 2008, FAO secured sufficient funding to hold two regional meetings on the status and trends of plant genetic resource conservation and use. The reports of the two regional meetings are given in the document, *Summary report of the regional consultations on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture*.¹²

Structure and preparation of the Second Report

10. As approved by the Commission, the draft second *Report* comprises eight chapters.¹³ A two-step process was followed in the preparation of these chapters:

- Compilation and preparation of the draft chapters, based on Country Reports and additional information gathering;
- Organization of a technical expert meeting to ensure consistency, quality and accuracy of data. The report of the technical expert meeting is given in the document *Summary report of the Technical Expert Meeting on the draft Second State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*¹⁴.

11. During the preparatory process, FAO received inputs from a broad range of partners, including Bioversity International, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Chapters of the report were also circulated to other relevant international organizations as well as civil society and the private sector, for comments.

¹¹ CGRFA-10/04/REP, para. 23. *Report of the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* – Available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/014/j3951e.pdf>

¹² The reports of the two regional meetings are available on the Commission's website, at: http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/images/PGR/cgrfa_pgr_409_Inf3.pdf

¹³ Chapter 1: The State of Diversity; Chapter 2: The State of In situ Management; Chapter 3: The State of Ex situ Management; Chapter 4: The State of Use; Chapter 5: The State of National Programmes, Training and Legislation; Chapter 6: The State of Regional and International Collaboration; Chapter 7: Access to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Use, and Farmers' Rights; Chapter 8: The Contribution of PGRFA Management to Food Security and Sustainable Development

¹⁴ CGRFA/WG-PGR-4/09/Inf.2. *Summary report of the Technical Expert Meeting on the draft Second State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

12. The Commission, at its Twelfth Regular Session, endorsed the Second Report as the authoritative assessment of this sector¹⁵. The Commission thanked FAO for preparing the Second Report and acknowledged the contributions of a wide range of stakeholders. It requested the Secretariat to finalize the report, taking into account the proposals submitted by the Members of the Commission. FAO was also requested to prepare a synthetic account of the Second Report that contains its main findings and conclusions, and highlights the gaps and needs for the future, which would be valuable in conveying the messages of the Second Report to policy-makers and others.

13. The Commission called upon Governments and donors to make available financial resources for the publication and wide dissemination of the Second Report, the country and regional reports in developing countries. The final version of the Second Report taking into account the inputs received from the Commission's Twelfth Regular Session will be launched in 2010 as a major contribution of FAO to the International Year of Biodiversity.

II. UPDATING THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

14. Since 1996, the *Global Plan of Action* has provided a coherent framework for the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including institutional strengthening and capacity-building. Its development and implementation has substantially increased the understanding of the importance of plant genetic resources, and resulted in significant investments to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of these essential resources. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) refers to the rolling *Global Plan of Action* as one of its supporting components, and calls upon the Contracting Parties of the International Treaty to promote its effective implementation and to provide a coherent framework, *inter alia*, for capacity-building, technology transfer and exchange of information¹⁶.

15. FAO has played a proactive role in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*. It developed tools for monitoring its implementation, which promote a country-driven, and participatory capacity-building process culminating in the establishment of national information-sharing mechanisms (NISMs) which serve as important components of the WIEWS.¹⁷ FAO also hosts the Facilitating Mechanism of the *Global Plan of Action* that provides a portal with comprehensive technical information for the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action*.

16. At its Eleventh Regular Session the Commission agreed that the updated *Global Plan of Action* would be considered at its Thirteenth Regular Session. It requested that FAO submit to its Twelfth Regular Session a proposed plan for the process of updating the *Global Plan of Action*.

17. A proposed plan for the process of updating the *Global Plan of Action*, as approved by the Commission, at its Twelfth Regular Session, is given in *Table 2* below. The plan foresees a series of regional meetings organized in collaboration with regional partner organizations; these meetings will review the status of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture at the regional level and identify areas of the *Global Plan of Action* which require updating as well as possible gaps of the *Global Plan of Action*.

¹⁵ CGRFA-12/09/Report, para. 17. *Report of the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* – Available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/017/k6536e.pdf>

¹⁶ Article 14 of the The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – Available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0510e/i0510e.pdf>

¹⁷ See <http://apps3.fao.org/wiews/wiews.jsp> and www.pgrfa.org

18. Two regional meetings have already been held (Near East and Latin America and the Caribbean) in collaboration with partners, with extra-budgetary resources from Italy, Norway and Spain. The meeting reports of these consultations have been made available to the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Commission (Working Group) at its Fourth Session, as an information document.¹⁸ Participants of both meetings indicated that the Priority Activities, covered by the *Global Plan of Action*, should remain the main areas for future action. While new areas in the field of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture had emerged, it was considered that those could be incorporated into existing thematic areas of the *Global Plan of Action*. However, some issues, such as climate change, might not be adequately reflected yet in the *Global Plan of Action* and would therefore have to be added. The regional consultations in the other regions are subject to the availability of extra-budgetary financial resources.

19. The process of updating the *Global Plan of Action* will require input from countries in all regions, as well as consultations with relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. Further consultations with relevant stakeholders may therefore, be necessary. A joint meeting of the Bureau of the Commission and of the Governing Body of the International Treaty will be held to ensure that interests and priorities identified by the Governing Body are sufficiently reflected in the updated *Global Plan of Action*.

20. The Governing Body of the International Treaty, at its Third Session, in considering the joint report of the Commission and the Treaty Secretariats, *Cooperation between the Governing Body and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and coordination of their fields of intergovernmental work*¹⁹, noted the need to ensure close collaboration between the Commission and the Governing Body with regard to the *Global Plan of Action*. More specifically, the Governing Body invited the Bureaus of the two Bodies to hold a joint meeting to review the first draft updated *Global Plan of Action*.

21. In their *Joint Work Plan*, the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Food and Agriculture Organization and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, agreed in 2009, that FAO and the CBD Secretariat will identify issues based on decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD which are of relevance to the update of the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, taking into account the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the work of its Governing Body and FAO will bring these issues to the attention of the Commission and the Governing Body of the International Treaty.²⁰

¹⁸ CGRFA/WG-PGR-4/09/Inf.3. *Summary report of the regional consultations on the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture* – Available at: http://typo3.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/images/PGR/cgrfa_pgr_409_Inf3.pdf

¹⁹ IT/GB-3/09/17. *Cooperation between the Governing Body and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and coordination of their fields of intergovernmental work* - Available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agp/planttreaty/gb3/gb3w17e.pdf>

²⁰ CGRFA/12/09/Inf.8. *Joint Work Plan with the Convention on Biological Diversity* – Available at: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/017/ak573e.pdf>

**TABLE 2:
UPDATING THE *GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION*:
INDICATIVE PROCESSES AND TIMELINE REQUIRED**

| Time Frame | Process |
|------------------------|--|
| CGRFA-12 / 2009 | <input type="checkbox"/> Plan for the process of updating the <i>Global Plan of Action</i> , including consideration of options for the adoption of the updated <i>Global Plan of Action</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Consideration of Progress Report on the Facilitating Mechanism for the implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i> |
| 2010 | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional meetings to consider the update of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation with partners on update of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation of first draft updated <i>Global Plan of Action</i> |
| 2011 | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint meeting of the Bureau of the Commission and the Bureau of the Treaty Governing Body to review the first draft of the updated <i>Global Plan of Action</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Review of the draft updated Global Plan of Action by the Working Group at its Fifth Session |
| CGRFA-13/2011 | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSIDERATION OF THE UPDATED <i>GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION</i> FOR ADOPTION <input type="checkbox"/> Provide guidance with regards to the implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i> |
