



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Our Ref.: GB6 – 010 Working Group – Inputs

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NOTIFICATION

***Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to solicit relevant available information as contribution to the work of the *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (Working Group), based on the following:

At its Fifth Session, the Governing Body decided to establish the Working Group through Resolution 2/2013, *Implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty*.¹ The Working Group will develop a range of measures for consideration and decision by the Governing Body at its Sixth Session that will:

- (a) Increase user-based payments and contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner, and,
- (b) Enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System by additional measures.

For this purpose, the Secretariat will prepare a number of short, strategic preliminary studies, taking into account all available information of relevance to the work of the Working Group. These studies should include:

- A study estimating income to be expected from possible changes, consistent with the objectives of the Treaty, in the provisions governing the functioning of the Multilateral System, taking into account reports of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and the *Ad Hoc* Technical Advisory Committee on the Multilateral System and SMTA;

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¹ The Resolution 2/2013 is available at:

http://www.planttreaty.org/content/fifth_gb_resolutions



- A policy and legal study on the feasibility and effects of such changes;
- A study on how to enhance mechanisms for capacity-building, technology-transfer and information-exchange;
- An analysis of the factors that influence the willingness of stakeholder groups to make contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund and to access plant genetic resources for food and agriculture from the Multilateral System.

On the basis of the above studies, with the view of achieving enhanced access and increase fair and equitable sharing of benefits, the Working Group will, *inter alia*, consult with relevant stakeholder groups. The Governing Body appealed to stakeholders who use plant genetic resources under the Treaty to themselves develop, and assist the Working Group to develop, innovative user-based approaches to realizing monetary benefit-sharing, within the context of the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, and other innovative approaches that can contribute to an adequate and sustainable flow of resources to the Benefit-sharing Fund.

I therefore have the pleasure to invite Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, stakeholder groups and relevant international organizations to make available any information relevant to the above studies being prepared by the Secretariat, including in particular on the development of innovative user-based approaches to realizing monetary benefit-sharing, within the context of the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, and other innovative approaches that can contribute to an adequate and sustainable flow of resources to the Benefit-sharing Fund.

To facilitate the consolidation of information by the Secretariat for consideration by the first meeting of the Working Group, and to disseminate relevant information through the website of the International Treaty, where appropriate, I would appreciate if information could be sent by 25 April 2014 electronically to PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org and in hard copy to:

Dr Shakeel Bhatti
 Secretary
 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Dr Shakeel Bhatti
 Secretary of the Governing Body
 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
 for Food and Agriculture