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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

22 – 23 February 2022

**FUTURE WORK ON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF
PGRFA AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NINTH SESSION OF
THE GOVERNING BODY**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to its Terms of Reference, the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ACSU or the Committee) will report to the Governing Body on its work, for consideration at the Ninth Session.¹ The Committee will also recommend further steps on how the Governing Body could assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders in advancing the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty.

2. At its fifth meeting, the Committee reviewed the work done so far and processes undertaken in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the Treaty.² However, the Committee recognized that further discussions would be needed including considerations for the design of future work that would comprehensively and practically follow a streamlined approach for supporting progress towards integrated implementation of Articles 5 and 6, and agreed to continue discussions at its next meeting.

3. This document is an update of the previous document prepared for the Committee's consideration of this issue,³ incorporating the initial recommendations discussed by the Committee at its fifth meeting. It outlines the possible future areas of work and some elements for consideration of the Committee in providing relevant recommendations to the Governing Body, as requested.

¹ [Resolution 5/2019](#), *Annex*, para. 6.

² IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/Report

³ IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/5

II. EXAMPLES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST CONTRACTING PARTIES AND STAKEHOLDERS IN PROMOTING, ENHANCING AND FURTHER DEVELOPING THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA

4. At its fifth meeting, the Committee recalled that its mandate included the task “to identify examples and opportunities to support and assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting, enhancing and further developing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA”. The Committee agreed that work on this item would need to avoid duplication of efforts and to consider the availability of resources.

5. Taking into account the diversity of proposals and the complexity of the task, the Committee agreed that the following options should be considered and discussed at its Sixth meeting:

- a. Development of a collection of examples and opportunities on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA; with a concise structure of categories, building on the different sub-provisions of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty; the collection would subsequently be used to assess possible gaps and needs in promoting the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and for the Governing Body to identify any further work in these areas;
- b. Updates to the *Toolbox*, so that it would become the repository of examples to support and assist Contracting Parties and stakeholders in promoting, enhancing and further developing the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA; or
- c. Consider the summary list given in paragraph 33 of the document, IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/4, to develop a more comprehensive list of examples and opportunities, reproduced below.

6. “This section summarises some of the measures and practices found in the submissions and presentations of Contracting Parties and stakeholders. It is to be noted that the measures and practices were presented in the respective national contexts and consequently vary from one Contracting Party to another as well as between Regions.

- i. Establishment of an inventory of PGRFA and assessments of threats and gaps;
- ii. Seed systems (formal and informal sector complementarity), including the contributions of diverse actors to their functioning and development;
- iii. Integrated approaches (in situ and ex situ) for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- iv. Documentation and management of scientific and traditional knowledge for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- v. Technical and financial support to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- vi. Awareness raising on the value of crop genetic diversity and local activities such as seed fairs, seed exchange, seed networks, community seed bank, community biodiversity management, participatory plant breeding and varietal selection, farmers’ field school;
- vii. Recognition schemes for farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities who conserve and develop PGRFA;

- viii. Role of traditional knowledge, adaptive management system, and/or agroecological farming systems and practices for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- ix. Crop wild relatives (CWR) and wild edible species for food production, including status and degree of variation in existing populations, potential threats to them and possible approaches for their conservation and use, including approaches for value-chain development;
- x. In situ conservation and management (and/or protection) of crop wild relatives, wild plants, native species for food production are promoted through local or national system of protected areas /zones such as conservation sites, botanical gardens, parks, biosphere reserves, nature reserves, sanctuaries, and through other environmental conservation measures;
- xi. Enhanced coordination and partnerships among public institutions, researchers, private entities, and other stakeholders; and
- xii. Policies and regulatory frameworks supporting the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, including CWR, by integrated in national sectoral and intersectoral plans, programmes and strategies, such as for enhancing national food security, climate change adaptation, environment, rural livelihoods, poverty alleviation, biodiversity protection, agricultural development, etc.”

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STEPS TO ASSIST CONTRACTING PARTIES IN ADVANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLES 5 AND 6 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

7. The Committee agreed to focus on the possible immediate further steps set out in section V of the document IT/GB-9/ACSU-5/21/5:
 - (i) activities for strengthening and capitalising on ongoing initiatives to increase their benefit, impact and visibility including the Joint Programme on Biodiversity in agriculture for sustainable use of PGRFA; and
 - (ii) possible new activities to further support Contracting Parties and stakeholders in the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty
8. The Committee agreed to continue discussion at its Sixth meeting on:
 - whether there is a need for a new Programme of Work on Conservation and Sustainable use of PGRFA. The Committee considered that a draft mandate for the next biennium should build upon strengthening and capitalising on ongoing activities;
 - contributions and participation of farmers, local and indigenous communities to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, possibly with a focus on gender-responsive approaches;
 - country/region-specific studies to enhance the implementation of Articles 5 and 6.

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

9. The Committee is invited to consider the information provided in this document, and develop recommendations to the Governing Body on further steps in advancing the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty, and may wish to indicate how the Secretary may assist in this task, as well as in the preparation of its report to the Ninth Session of the Governing Body.