Conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture - Global perspectives and regional needs

Implementation of the Global Plans of Action (FAO): which role for the EC?
Bonn, Germany,
21 April 2016
The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

- Intergovernmental body established by the FAO Conference in 1983 to deal with issues related to plant genetic resources
- FAO Conference, in 1995, broadened the Commission’s mandate to cover all components of biodiversity for food and agriculture
- Permanent intergovernmental forum to specifically discuss and negotiate matters relevant to all components of biological diversity for food and agriculture
The Commission’s vision

Conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture and promoting its use in support of global food security and sustainable development, for present and future generations.
The Commission’s bodies

• Commission (Bi-annual regular sessions)
  • Commission - 178 Members + EU
  • Bureau – (Chair, Vice-Chairs from 7 regions)

• Technical advisory bodies
  • ITWG-4 FGR 10-12 May 2016
  • ITWG-8 PGR 8-10 June 2016
  • Ad Hoc ITWG-1 AqGR 20-22 June 2016
  • ITWG-9 AnGR 6-8 July 2016

• Team of Technical and Legal Experts on ABS
  TTLE-ABS-3 13-15 September 2016

28 representatives from 7 regions
2 experts per region
The Commission’s cycle of work
PGR: SoW & GPA

- 1<sup>st</sup> edition: 1996
- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition: 2010
  Second GPA
- 3<sup>rd</sup> edition: 2019
AnGR: SoW & GPA

- 1\textsuperscript{st} edition: 2007
  - GPA AnGR

- 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition: 2015
On-going global assessment: AqGR

- Requested by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 2007

- Draft to be presented at the 16th Session of the Commission in 2017
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• Draft to be presented at the 16th Session of the Commission in 2017
• Variety and variability of micro-organisms, plants and animals at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels that sustain the functions, structure and processes of the agro-ecosystem
• Ecosystem services framework
• Plant, animal, aquatic and forest production systems
• Animal GR
• Aquatic GR
• Forest GR
• Plant GR
• Biodiversity for food and agriculture
• Commission

Roles of National Focal Points

• Preparation of Country Reports
• Monitoring implementation
• Liaison to CGRFA secretariat
• Coordination with other focal points
• Roles to specified in TOR
  • Example: NFPs to CGRFA
Cross-sectoral activities of the Commission
CGRFA work cycle: Possible role of regions

Country Reporting
- Information exchange
- Support within and to other regions
- Regional consultations

CGRFA
- Preparation/coordination prior to CGRFA sessions
- Policy response
- Implementation
- Monitoring

Country Implementation
- Regional networks (e.g. ECPGR) contribute to
- Sharing of implementation tasks
- Mutual support

Monitoring
- (Sub-) regional collaboration
- Sharing of implementation tasks
- Regional networks (e.g. ECPGR)
- Provide support to other regions

Assessment
- Review of regional synthesis reports
- Review by ITWGs and CGRFA

Policy response
- Negotiating policy instruments, incl. GPAs, in CGRFA/ITWGS
- Setting priorities for MYPOW

Regional networks (e.g. ECPGR) contribute to:
- Sharing of implementation tasks
- Mutual support

Regional networks (e.g. ECPGR) contribute to:
- Preparation/coordination prior to CGRFA sessions
- Policy response
- Implementation
- Monitoring
Conclusions

- Regions may play a strong role in the preparation, negotiation, implementation and monitoring of Commission processes/policies.

- Collaboration among regions/countries in reporting, implementation and monitoring is essential.

- Commission as a model for multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration at national or regional level.
Thank you!

For more information:
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: