

Global Consultation on Use and Management of Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Food Security



February 12-14, 2013
New Delhi, India





Rationale and Background

Humankind since its very origin has relied upon biodiversity for its survival and more importantly, agriculture related biodiversity or agrobiodiversity forms the foundation of sustainable agricultural growth and development as it provides the raw materials or combination of genes that produce the plant varieties and animal breeds upon which agriculture depends. However, the genetic diversity has been eroding at an alarming pace due to developmental activities, climate change and ill-planned use leading to irreversible and irreparable loss. It is now increasingly accepted that sustainable management, use and conservation of agrobiodiversity is central to any sustainable food production initiative for improving the livelihoods of poor farmers. Therefore, the conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use, are both an international concern and an imperative. These are the objectives of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), which is in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The second Global Plan of Action (GPA) of FAO is a manifestation of the international community's continued concern and responsibility in this area. The GPA assisted the national governments in the formulation of national policies and strategies on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA). It was used by the international community to define priorities at the global level, to improve coordination of efforts and to create synergies.

Proposed Themes

1. Genetic resources conservation strategies at global, regional and national level
2. Documentation and sharing mechanism for effective use of genetic resources for commodity improvement
3. Collaborative research, capacity building and sharing of expertise for sustainable food production
4. Strategies for the implementation and monitoring of the Second Global Plan of Action and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
5. Global research initiative and agenda for conservation and use of animal, fish, microorganisms and agriculturally important insects

It has been well recognized that South-South cooperation and partnerships work more effectively because they provide opportunities for developing countries to jointly find solutions to common problems. South-South Cooperation is being seen as a key tool for the implementation of the ITPGRFA as well as new CBD Strategic Plan for 2011-2020, as well as the new regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), both of which were adopted by the tenth Conference of Parties in Nagoya, Japan in 2010.



Objectives

- Provide platform to exchange experiences and disseminate best practices and relevant information on major South-South initiatives on agrobiodiversity conservation
- Review the current status, trends and challenges for conservation, exchange and use of genetic resources at national, regional and global level
- Develop plans for inter-regional cooperation for use and sustainable management of genetic resources
- Develop plan for capacity building and sharing of expertise
- Identify research agenda for conservation and use of animal, fish, microorganisms and agriculturally important insects

Expected Output

- The status, challenges and priorities to improve conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources at local, regional and global level
- Priority areas for South-South cooperation and an operational roadmap for strengthening partnership in conservation and utilization of genetic resources
- Guidelines and work plans for better access to expertise, experience, germplasm and technologies
- A consensus on how to facilitate the implementation of current international agreements and frameworks through South-South and North-South cooperation

In this context, the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in collaboration with Bioversity International and with support from the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid tropics (ICRISAT) and International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is proposing to organize a Global Consultation on **Use and Management of Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Food Security**.

The Consultation aims to provide an opportunity to the stakeholders in the developing world to review and identify role and directions for conservation through exchange and use of valuable agricultural biodiversity for sustainable agricultural development. The Consultation will focus on issues related to management, exchange and use of agrobiodiversity for sustainable development. The deliberations will lead to enhancing the capacity and capabilities of national partners through South-South cooperation and further strengthening of North-South partnership.



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Venue

National Agricultural Science Complex
Dev Prakash Shastri Marg
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Participants

About 55 international and 60 national participants are expected to take part in this consultation workshop. The participants will include Heads of national genebanks as well as users of PGR for crop improvement from developing countries

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