

**Consultative Committee****CC/97/13****Ninety-Seventh Session  
Geneva, October 29, 2020****Original:** English  
**Date:** October 14, 2020**DEVELOPMENTS OF RELEVANCE TO UPOV IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA***Document prepared by the Office of the Union**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This document reports on developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora since the ninety-sixth session of the Consultative Committee, held in Geneva on October 31, 2019, that are not otherwise reported to the Consultative Committee or other UPOV bodies and invites the Consultative Committee to consider the participation of the Office of the Union in the reference group for the research project “Pathways to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods through the implementation of farmers’ rights to crop genetic diversity (DIVERSIFARM)”.

2. The Consultative Committee is invited to:

- (a) note developments in the EAPVP Forum;
- (b) note the developments concerning the consultations with the Secretariat of the CBD and the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and developments concerning the CBD;
- (c) note the developments in the OECD Seed Schemes;
- (d) note the developments concerning the cooperation with FAO in relation to the in-depth case studies on status and trends of seed policies and laws;
- (e) note the report on the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA (GB-8);
- (f) note the report on the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Experts Group on Farmers’ Rights (AHTEG) of the ITPGRFA;
- (g) note the participation of the Office of the Union in the Webinar I: “Farmers’ Rights in the International Legal Architecture for Food and Agriculture”, held on September 16, 2020;
- (h) consider the participation of the Office of the Union in the reference group for the research project “Pathways to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods through the implementation of farmers’ rights to crop genetic diversity (DIVERSIFARM)”;
- (i) note the developments in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO);
- (j) note the developments in the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- (k) note the developments in the United Nations concerning the Food Systems Summit in 2021 and its Task Force;
- (l) note the developments concerning the World Seed Partnership; and
- (m) note that the “ISTA List of Stabilized Plant Names” with relevant UPOV codes was published on January 2020.

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## I. EAST ASIA PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION FORUM (EAPVP FORUM)

4. The background to the East Asia Plant Variety Protection Forum (EAPVP Forum) is provided in document CC/96/13 Corr. "Developments of Relevance to UPOV in Other International Fora", paragraphs 4 to 7.

5. Due to the restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the thirteenth annual meeting of the EAPVP Forum planned to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, in May 2020, was postponed. The 13th EAPVP Forum annual meeting and the International Seminar on the Protection of New Plant Varieties are planned to be hosted by Viet Nam and organized by virtual means on November 25 and 26, 2020, respectively.

6. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note developments in the EAPVP Forum.*

## II. DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)

### Consultations with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

7. The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-fifth session, held in Geneva on November 1, 2018, requested the Vice Secretary-General to consult the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) on how the objectives of the CBD and ITPGRFA might be reflected in the FAQ "What is the relationship between the UPOV Convention and international treaties concerning genetic resources, e.g. the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)?" (FAQ on CBD, ITPGRFA and UPOV), and to explore means on how to facilitate the exchanges of experiences and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention, the CBD and the ITPGRFA.

8. The background to the consultation with the Executive Secretary of the CBD and the Secretary of the ITPGRFA is provided in document CC/96/7 "Interrelations with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)", paragraphs 16 to 19.

9. On November 22, 2019, in Montreal, the Vice Secretary-General met with Mr. Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the ITPGRFA, and Mr. Worku Damena Yifru, Senior Legal Officer of the CBD, in order to explore how to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention, the ITPGRFA and the CBD. A number of colleagues from the CBD secretariat participated at the beginning of the meeting where a presentation was made by Mr. Yifru on "Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol", followed by an overview of the ITPGRFA by Mr. Nnadozie and a presentation by the Vice Secretary-General on "Brief introduction to UPOV – its objectives, scope and status of implementation".

10. During the meeting it was suggested by Mr. Yifru and Mr. Nnadozie that UPOV should consider involvement in the CBD Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which would also provide a good opportunity for further discussions. The discussions on the revision of the FAQ on CBD, ITPGRFA and UPOV could be pursued in parallel via e-mail or electronic meetings.

11. On February 27, 2020, in Rome, the Office of the Union attended a further meeting with Mr. Yifru CBD, the Secretary of the ITPGRFA and Mr. Tobias Kiene, Treaty Technical Officer, ITPGRFA, at the fringes of the second meeting of the CBD Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to explore how to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention, the ITPGRFA, the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.

12. A virtual meeting of the Vice Secretary-General with Mr. Nnadozie, Mr. Yifru and Mr. Taukondjo Sem Shikongo, Senior Programme Manager on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS), CBD, is planned on November 11, 2020.

Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15)

13. Due to the restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) scheduled to be held in Kunming, China, from October 15 to 28, 2020, was postponed to May 17 to 30, 2021, in accordance with the CBD announcement dated July 15, 2020 (see: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2020/pr-2020-07-16-sbstta-sbi-en.pdf>).

Special Virtual Sessions for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24) and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-03)

14. The Office of the Union plans to attend the Special Virtual Sessions for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24) to be held from November 2 to 7, 2020, and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-03) to be held from November 9 to 14, 2020.

15. Information, including the program, is available at the webpage of those special virtual sessions, which is accessible at: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3-prep>.

16. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note the developments concerning the consultations with the Secretariat of the CBD and the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and developments concerning the CBD.*

## III. ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

OECD Schemes for the Varietal Certification or the Control of Seed Moving in International Trade*Ad Hoc Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and Technical Working Group*

17. At the meetings of the OECD Seed Schemes *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques (AHWG) and Technical Working Group (TWG), held in Milan, Italy, on January 28 to 31, 2020, the Office of the Union made a presentation on “Cooperation between UPOV/ISTA/OECD.” The presentation outlined the next steps agreed by the Technical Committee (TC) for future joint activities on biochemical and molecular marker techniques (see document TC/56/7 “Molecular Techniques”).

*OECD Seed Schemes Annual Meeting*

18. The Annual Meeting of the OECD Schemes for the Varietal Certification or the Control of Seed Moving in International Trade (Annual Meeting) was held by virtual means on June 18 and 19, 2020.

19. The Annual Meeting agreed the revised terms of reference of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Biochemical and Molecular Techniques, which would be submitted for approval via written procedure (see document TAD/CA/S/M(2020)2 “Draft summary records”).

*OECD analysis “The Global Food System: Performance, Challenges and Opportunities”*

20. In January 2020, the Office of the Union was approached by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for assistance in relation to an OECD analysis on “The Global Food System: Performance, Challenges and Opportunities”. This OECD analysis will include a Chapter on scenario analyses to explore the linkages across different dimensions of the “triple challenge” in the global food system. In support of the analysis, another Chapter will be developed with three case studies, one of them on seeds.

21. In accordance with UPOV Circular E-20/006, of January 27, 2020, members of the Union agreed that the Office of the Union provide relevant information, publications or data using data available in UPOV databases, guidance adopted by the UPOV Council and information published in the UPOV website. On that basis, the Office of the Union provided the OECD Secretariat with relevant information.

22. At the 2020 OECD Seed Schemes Annual Meeting, the OECD Secretariat provided a brief update on the joint project with the Committee for Agriculture's (COAG) working party on Agricultural Policies and Markets (APM). The latest version of the seed case study, developed as part of a broader project on the Global Food System, would be circulated to OECD delegates following the Annual Meeting for their information and comments. On June 22, 2020, the OECD Secretariat circulated draft document TAD/CA/APM/WP(2020)19 "Case study: The Contribution of the Seed Sector to the Triple Challenge".

23. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note the developments in the OECD Seed Schemes.*

#### IV. DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

##### FAO Council

24. The Office of the Union attended certain parts of the 164<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council, held in virtual form from July 6 to 10, 2020. The relevant documents are available at: <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/council/cl164/documents/en/>.

##### Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)

25. The background to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) is provided in document CC/96/13 Corr. "Developments of Relevance to UPOV in Other International Fora", paragraphs 18 to 21.

26. The Council, at its fifty-third ordinary session, held in Geneva on November 1, 2019, decided to request that the Office of the Union cooperate with FAO in relation to the in-depth case studies on status and trends of seed policies and laws, as reproduced above (see document C/53/15, "Report", paragraph 23(h), available at [https://www.upov.int/edocs/mdocs/upov/en/c\\_53/c\\_53\\_15.pdf](https://www.upov.int/edocs/mdocs/upov/en/c_53/c_53_15.pdf)).

27. On the above basis, the Office of the Union contacted Ms. Irene Hoffmann, Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), Climate and Natural Resources, FAO, by letter dated January 31, 2020, concerning consultation with UPOV in the context of the review of document "Status and trends of seed policies and laws", as reproduced in Annex I to this document.

28. By letter dated February 12, 2020, Secretary Hoffmann informed the Office of the Union that the letter sent by the Office of the Union had been shared with the responsible technical division of FAO which would contact the Office of the Union in due time and provide advice on how it intended to consult the Office of the Union in the course of the preparation of the case studies, as reproduced in Annex II to this document. No contact by the responsible technical division of FAO had been made at the time of publication of this document.

29. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note the developments concerning the cooperation with FAO in relation to the in-depth case studies on status and trends of seed policies and laws.*

##### First International Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Intergovernmental Technical Working group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITWG)

30. Due to the restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the First International Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, scheduled to be held on June 15 and 16, 2020, and the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITWG) planned to be held from June 17 to 19, 2020, by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Commission for Genetic Resources, were postponed. The new dates for the tenth session ITWG have not yet been provided.

31. Following the request by the FAO Secretariat, on May 4, 2020, the Office of the Union provided a report of the activities undertaken by UPOV in relation to plant genetic resources for the tenth session ITWG, to be presented under item 11 "Reports from international organizations and instruments" of the Draft Agenda. The Draft Agenda is available at: <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/itwg/10th/en/>.

Interrelations with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

32. The Council, at its fifty-first ordinary session, held in Geneva on October 26, 2017, agreed the following concerning interrelations with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA):

- “(i) to review the FAQ on the interrelations between the UPOV Convention and the ITPGRFA; and
  - “(ii) exchange of experience and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention and the ITPGRFA, with the involvement of stakeholders.
- [...]”

(see document C/51/22 “Report”, paragraph 20(e)).

33. The background to matters concerning interrelations with the ITPGRFA is provided under document CC/97/7 “Interrelation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)” (see document CC/97/13 Corr. “Developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora”, paragraphs 22 and 23). Further developments are considered under “Developments under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)”, paragraphs 7 to 12 of this document.

*Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)*

34. The Office of the Union attended the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), held in Rome, Italy, from November 11 to 16, 2019 (GB-8). The relevant documents are available at: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/eighth-governing-body/en/>.

35. A copy of the report, which includes the Resolutions adopted at GB-8, is available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/nb918en/nb918en.pdf>

*Item 12 of the agenda “Farmers’ Rights”*

36. Document IT/GB-8/19/12.2 “Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers’ Rights to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body” (AHTEG on Farmers’ Rights) provides the report of the Expert Group to the Eighth Session of the Governing Body, describing the work undertaken by the Expert Group during the biennium pursuant to its Terms of Reference (available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/na554en/na554en.pdf>). The Office of the Union is a member of the AHTEG on Farmers’ Rights and has participated in its two meetings.

37. Under Resolution 6/2019, “Implementation of Article 9, Farmers’ Rights”, GB-8 decided as follows:

[...]

**“3. Welcomes** the Inventory of National Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned on the Realization of Farmers’ Rights (the Inventory), recognizing that it will be periodically reviewed and updated, as necessary;” [...]

**“6. Takes note** of the outline of the Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers’ Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, which will form the basis for the completion of the task of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group in this regard;”

**“7. Decides** to reconvene the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group for the 2020–2021 biennium in order to complete its tasks based on the Terms of Reference established at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body and the provisions of this Resolution;” [...]

**“22. Notes** the ongoing review process of the FAQ on the interrelations between the UPOV Convention and the International Treaty and exchange of experiences and information on implementation of the UPOV Convention and the International Treaty, and **requests** the Secretary to continue exploring how Contracting Parties to the International Treaty could further contribute to these processes, and to continue the dialogue with UPOV on these matters; [...]

*Item 10 of the agenda "The Global Information System" (GLIS)*

38. GB-8 was invited to adopt a Resolution on Implementation of the Global Information System for the 2020-2021 biennium, taking into account the elements provided in the Appendix to document IT/GB-8/19/10 (available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/na508en/na508en.pdf>). The draft Resolution in document IT/GB-8/19/10 did not contain any references to UPOV, nor to the PLUTO database. However, at GB-8, proposals were made requesting changes to the decision of the UPOV Council concerning the PLUTO database and, in particular, the introduction of a charge for premium users of the PLUTO database (see below).

"The Council, at its fifty-third ordinary session, held in Geneva, on November 1, 2019, decided:

"(b) to approve the following approach for the PLUTO database from November 2020:

"(i) free option: the PLUTO database with a search function would be free to all users. Search results would be limited to an on-screen display of a single page of results. There would be no facility to download search results or data from the PLUTO database;

"(ii) premium option: users paying a fee would have access to all PLUTO database features and would be able to download data without restrictions. The fee would be CHF 750 per annum;

"(iii) members of the Union and data contributors: access to all PLUTO database "*premium*" features would be free to all members of the Union and data contributors (i.e. OECD); and

"(iv) access to PLUTO data could also be granted in cases approved by the Consultative Committee, in a similar way to the assistance provided by the Office of the Union to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA);

[...]"

(see document C/53/15 "Report", paragraph 23).

39. After discussion in relation to the above decision of the Council, under Resolution 4/2019, "Implementation of the Global Information System", GB-8 decided as follows:

"[...]"

*"4. Encourages the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) to explore possibilities for free access to and use of the information in the PLUTO database, including downloading information, for example by linking PLUTO to GLIS;"*

*Item 15 of the agenda "Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations"*

40. A copy of the intervention made by the Office of the Union under agenda item 15 is reproduced in Annex III of this document.

41. Under Resolution 4/2019, "Cooperation with International Instruments and Organizations", GB-8 decided as follows:

"9. **Requests** the Secretary to continue participating in relevant meetings of UPOV and in the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of WIPO, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources;

"10. **Requests** the Secretary of the International Treaty to continue cooperating with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Vice-Secretary General of UPOV on the review of the FAQ on the interrelations between the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and UPOV as a basis to explore means to facilitate exchanges of experiences and information on the implementation of the UPOV Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty;"

42. The Ninth Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA, is tentatively scheduled to be held from December 6 to 11, 2021, in India. The ITPGRFA meeting dates are available at: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/en/>.

*Third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Experts Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)*

43. Due to the restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Experts Group (AHTEG FR-3) on Farmers' Rights, tentatively scheduled from July 7 to 10, 2020, to be held in Rome, Italy, was postponed to August 25 to 28, 2020, and was held by virtual means. The Office of the Union attended the meeting.

44. Relevant documents are available at: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/1259557/>. The report of the meeting can be consulted at: <http://www.fao.org/3/cb0993en/cb0993en.pdf>. The AHTEG FR-3 reached the following conclusion:

"The Expert Group exchanged views on the Options and discussed how to further develop them. It also asked the Secretariat to prepare a working document for the next meeting which will include the Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty (IT/GB-9/AHTEG-FR-3/20/2), the issues that may need further discussion, based on the exchange of views held during the third meeting, and proposals on possible ways to address those issues. The Secretariat will provide the working document to the Expert Group at least six weeks prior to its next meeting in all four languages. The Expert Group agreed to use it as basis for work at its fourth meeting, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group."

45. The Fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG FR-4) is tentatively scheduled to be held on March 23 to 26, 2021, in Italy. The Office of the Union plans to attend that meeting.

*Farmers' Rights Webinar Series*

46. The Office of the Union was invited by Ms Titilayo Adebola (Lecturer, School of Law, University of Aberdeen) to make a presentation on the "Topic: UPOV Plant Breeders' Rights System and Farmers' Rights" in the context of Farmers' Rights Webinar Series, held in September 2020. The Office of the Union made a presentation at the Webinar I: "Farmers' Rights in the International Legal Architecture for Food and Agriculture", held on September 16, 2020. The platform to attend the Webinar, the presentation materials and the recorded Webinar were made available by links provided by the ITPGRFA Secretariat.

*Project 'Pathways to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods through the implementation of farmers' rights to crop genetic diversity' (DIVERSIFARM) (2020-2023)*

47. The Office of the Union was approached by Ms. Regine Andersen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute to join the reference group for the research project "Pathways to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods through the implementation of farmers' rights to crop genetic diversity (DIVERSIFARM)", approved in February 2020 (see "Project Brief" as reproduced in Annex IV to this document).

48. The Office of the Union explained that participation in the reference group would be subject to approval by the representative of Norway to the Council and by the members of the Union. On October 13, 2020, Norway expressed its agreement to the participation of the Office of the Union in the reference group of the research project DIVERSIFARM.

49. *The Consultative Committee is invited to:*

(a) *note the report on the Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA;*

(b) *note the report on the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Experts Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG) of the ITPGRFA;*

(c) *note the participation of the Office of the Union in the Webinar I: "Farmers' Rights in the International Legal Architecture for Food and Agriculture", held on September 16, 2020; and*

(d) *consider the participation of the Office of the Union in the reference group for the research project "Pathways to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods through the implementation of farmers' rights to crop genetic diversity (DIVERSIFARM)".*



## V. WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC)

50. The background to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) is provided in document CC/96/13 “Developments of Relevance to UPOV in other International Fora”, paragraphs 24 to 26.

51. By Note C. N 9026 dated October 8, 2020, the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the IGC planned to be held from October 19 to 23, 2020 (see Note C. N 4020 dated July 17, 2020) has been postponed, without prejudice to future IGC sessions.

52. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note the developments in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).*

## VI. WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

Council for TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)

53. The background to this item is provided in documents CC/84/9 Rev. and CC/85/9 both entitled “Developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora”, paragraphs 58 to 60 and paragraphs 30 and 31, respectively.

*Meeting of the Council for TRIPS of February 6 and 7, 2020*

54. The Council for TRIPS met on February 6 and 7, 2020.

55. The Council for TRIPS was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Lundeg Purevsuren (Mongolia). The minutes of the meeting are contained in document IP/C/M/94 of February 14, 2020. The statements made during the meeting are provided in an addendum to document IP/C/M/94 (document IP/C/M/94/Add.1 of April 16, 2020). Both documents are available on the WTO website at: <http://docsonline.wto.org/?language=1>.

*Meeting of the Council for TRIPS of July 30, 2020*

56. The Council for TRIPS, originally scheduled to be held on May 14 and 15, 2020, was postponed and met on July 30, 2020 by a hybrid of virtual and physical means. The Office of the Union participated by virtual means.

57. The Council for TRIPS was chaired by H.E. Ambassador Xolelwa Mlumbi-Peter (South Africa). The minutes of the meeting will be contained in document IP/C/M/95. At the time of publication of this document, document IP/C/M/95 was not yet available (see [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/trips\\_e/intel6\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/intel6_e.htm)).

*Future meetings*

58. The next meeting of the Council for TRIPS, which the Office of the Union plans to attend, is scheduled to take place on October 15 and 16, 2020. The meeting will have a special focus on technical cooperation. The Council for TRIPS agreed to invite WTO members and intergovernmental organization observers to the Council for TRIPS, including UPOV, to provide information on their technical cooperation activities relevant to the TRIPS Agreement.

59. As in previous years, the Office of the Union intends to prepare a contribution with relevant extracts from documents C/54/2 “Annual report of the Secretary-General for 2019” and C/54/INF/3 “Report on activities during the first nine months of 2020”. The document containing the submission of UPOV, which will be entitled “Technical cooperation activities: information from other intergovernmental organizations – International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants”, will be made available at the following address of the WTO website: <http://docsonline.wto.org/?language=1>.

60. *The Consultative Committee is invited to note the developments in the World Trade Organization (WTO).*

## VII. UNITED NATIONS

61. On World Food Day (October 16, 2019), the Secretary-General of the United Nations, announced his intention to convene a Food Systems Summit in 2021 as a part of the Decade of Action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. This was followed by the appointment of Mr. Agnes Kalibata (Rwanda) as his Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit. The aim of the Summit is to support Member States of the United Nations and stakeholders to maximize the co-benefits of a food systems approach across the entire 2030 Agenda, including meeting the challenges of climate change <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/highlight/2019-12-16.html>.

62. To engage the rest of the United Nations system in the leadership of the Summit and to take full advantage of the assets across the multiplicity of United Nations institutions that impact directly or indirectly the food systems, the Executive Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations has established an United Nations System Task Force (Task Force) to provide the Secretary General with strategic support in relation to the work ahead.

63. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Task Force is responsible for ensuring a strategic and coordinated engagement of the United Nations System throughout the preparatory process to the United Nations Secretary-General's 2021 Food Systems Summit. It will be Chaired by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Membership will be open to all entities of the United Nations system as well as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and any other International Finance Institution that wishes to join. The United Nations System Task Force will be represented on the Summit Advisory Committee by the Chair.

64. In addition to strategic coordination, the main areas of remit of the Task Force will include (1) mutual learning around existing efforts of participating entities (e.g. programmes, tools, initiatives, knowledge products); (2) supporting the cross-fertilization of knowledge and experience gained through the process, particularly through engagement in the action tracks; and (3) feedback in the development of the Summit follow-up mechanism. While recognizing the global nature of the process, most country-level engagement will be in the purview of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

*65. The Consultative Committee is invited to note the developments in the United Nations concerning the Food Systems Summit in 2021 and its Task Force.*

## VIII. WORLD SEED PARTNERSHIP (WSP)

66. At its ninety-sixth session, held in Geneva on October 31, 2019, the Consultative Committee considered document CC/96/13 "Developments of relevance to UPOV in other international fora" and received an oral report from the Office of the Union on recent developments in relation to the World Seed Partnership (WSP) (see document CC/96/14 "Report", paragraphs 99 to 100).

67. The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-sixth session, agreed to propose to the Council that the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) be invited to become a full partner in the WSP, as set out in paragraph 42 of document CC/96/13, and reproduced below:

"The World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) currently has the status of Advisory Partner in the WSP. Following discussion on the status of the WFO in the WSP Steering Committee, the representative of the WFO has informed the WSP Steering Committee that WFO would be interested to become a full partner in the WSP. Subject to approval of OECD, UPOV, ISTA and ISF, the WSP plans to invite WFO to join the WSP as a full partner."

68. The Consultative Committee, at its ninety-sixth session, agreed to propose that the Council approve the draft joint paper "Benefits of the WSP for farmers", as reproduced in Annex III to document CC/96/13, to be posted on the WSP website and to be used for communication purposes.

69. The Council, at its fifty-third ordinary session, held in Geneva, on November 1, 2019, decided:

"[...]"

"(j) to approve the draft joint paper "Benefits of the WSP for farmers", as reproduced in Annex III to this document, to be posted on the WSP website and to be used for communication purposes."

(see document C/53/15 "Report", paragraph 23(j)).

70. On November 5, 2019, the WSP Steering Committee received a letter signed from the Secretary General of WFO reporting that the WFO Board has agreed to become a full partner in the WSP. On November 8, 2019, the WSP Steering Committee informed WFO that the members of the respective organizations had unanimously supported the proposal of the WSP Steering Committee for WFO to become a full partner in the WSP.

71. On April 27, 2020, the joint paper on “Benefits of the WSP for farmers” was published on the WSP website ([www.worldseedpartnership.org/](http://www.worldseedpartnership.org/)). A series of social media posts were prepared by the WSP Steering Committee on the basis of the WSP joint paper statement and published, from May to June 2020, via each organizations’ social media channels.

72. The WSP activity planned in Mongolia in October 2020 was postponed to 2021 due the COVID-19 situation.

73. A new WSP infographic is under development to explain the role of each of the WSP partners in the seed and food chain.

*74. The Consultative Committee is invited to note the developments concerning the World Seed Partnership.*

#### IX. INTERNATIONAL SEED TESTING ASSOCIATION (ISTA)

75. On June 30, 2019, the Office of the Union received a request from the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) Nomenclature Committee to provide UPOV codes for all botanical names listed in the “ISTA List of Stabilized Plant Names”. On October 3, 2019, the Office of the Union provided the list of UPOV codes covering all botanical names in the “ISTA List of Stabilized Plant Names”. On January 2020, ISTA published the Seventh Edition of the “ISTA List of Stabilized Plant Names” with relevant UPOV codes (available at: <https://www.seedtest.org/upload/cms/user/ISTAListofStabilizedPlantNamesed.75.pdf>).

*76. The Consultative Committee is invited to note that the “ISTA List of Stabilized Plant Names” with relevant UPOV codes was published on January 2020.*

[Annexes follow]

ANNEX I / ANNEXE I / ANLAGE I / ANEXO I

[In English only / En anglais seulement / Nur auf Englisch / En Inglés solamente]



International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants

Ms. Irene Hoffmann  
Secretary  
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and  
Agriculture (CGRFA)  
Climate and Natural Resources  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the  
United Nations (FAO)  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Roma  
Italy

January 31, 2020

Dear Secretary Hoffmann,

I have the pleasure to refer to the Seventeenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), held in Rome from February 18 to 22, 2019, concerning consultation with UPOV in the context of the review of document "Status and trends of seed policies and laws".

The CGRFA, at its Seventeenth Regular Session, considered document CGRFA-17/19/9.3 "Status and trends of seed policies and laws" and took note of the review undertaken (see document CGRFA-17/19/9.3/Inf.1), as follows:

"The [CGRFA] considered the document Status and trends of seed policies and laws and took note of the review undertaken. It requested FAO to carry out, in coordination with the Treaty [ITPGRFA] and in consultation with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), in-depth case studies for consideration by the Working Group, at its next session. These case studies should consider the effects of seed policies, laws and regulations on: (i) on-farm diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA); (ii) smallholders' access to sufficient, affordable, diversified and locally adapted PGRFA, including farmers' varieties/landraces; and (iii) food security and nutrition under the different seed systems. The Commission requested FAO to clarify the terms 'farmers' seed systems', 'informal seed systems', 'formal seed systems' and 'integrated seed systems', taking into account submissions by Members and observers."

"(see document CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 67);"

The Council of UPOV, at its fifty third ordinary session, held in Geneva on November 1, 2019, decided to request the UPOV Office to cooperate with FAO in relation to the in-depth case studies on status and trends of seed policies and laws, as reproduced above (see document C/53/15, "Report", paragraph 23(h), available at [https://www.upov.int/edocs/mdocs/upov/en/c\\_53/c\\_53\\_15.pdf](https://www.upov.int/edocs/mdocs/upov/en/c_53/c_53_15.pdf)).

On the above basis, I look forward to cooperating in relation to the case studies on status and trends of seed policies and laws and would welcome your advice on how we might proceed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Button", written over a white background.

Peter Button  
Vice Secretary-General

## ANNEX II / ANNEXE II / ANLAGE II / ANEXO II

[In English only / En anglais seulement / Nur auf Englisch / En Inglés solamente]

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United NationsOrganisation des  
Nations Unies pour  
l'alimentation et  
l'agricultureПродовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных НацийOrganización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la  
Agricultura

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Fax: +39 0657053152

Tel: +39 0657051

www.fao.org

Our Ref.: UPOV-CBDC

Your Ref.:

12 February 2020

Dear Mr Button,

I have the pleasure to refer to your letter of 31 January 2020 informing me of the decision of the Council of UPOV to request the Office of the Union to cooperate with FAO in relation to the in-depth case studies on status and trends of seed policies and laws, the preparation of which was requested by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its last session, held in February of last year.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and, through you, to the Council of UPOV for the willingness to cooperating in relation to the case studies with FAO. I have shared your letter with the responsible technical division of FAO which will be in touch with you in due time and provide advice on how it intends to consult you in the course of the preparation of the case studies.

I look forward to our continued close collaboration.

Yours sincerely

Irene Hoffmann  
Secretary  
Commission on Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture

Mr Peter Button  
Vice Secretary-General  
International Union for the Protection  
of New Varieties of Plants  
34, Chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20  
Switzerland

[Annex III follows]

## ANNEX III / ANNEXE III / ANLAGE III / ANEXO III

[In English only / En anglais seulement / Nur auf Englisch / En Inglés solamente]

INTERVENTION OF THE VICE SECRETARY-GENERAL MADE UNDER  
AGENDA 15 "COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS"  
AT THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON  
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (ITPGRFA)

"Distinguished delegates,

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to report on developments in UPOV. Before reporting on UPOV, please let me express my congratulations on the 15th anniversary of the ITPGRFA.

UPOV's mission is to encourage the development of new varieties of plants for the benefit of society – and we have just updated our FAQ on that theme (<https://www.upov.int/about/en/faq.html#QG50>).

The FAQ starts with the following:

- New, improved varieties of plants are an important and sustainable means of achieving food security in the context of population growth and climate change

As emphasized at the opening of the GB, there is growing belief that responding to climate change is becoming more important and increasingly urgent. It is also clear that responding to climate change will require all actors to work together in a mutually supportive way. The availability of plant genetic resources and use of those plant genetic resources for plant breeding will be critical in addressing climate change. UPOV is committed to ensuring that the international instruments supporting these aspects work in a mutually supportive way for the benefit of farmers and society as a whole. I am therefore very pleased that the Secretary of the ITPGRFA and the Executive Secretary of the CBD have agreed to a request to meet with UPOV to explore how to develop our cooperation in that view.

Focusing on the ITPGRFA, mutual supportiveness with the UPOV Convention is becoming ever more important as the overlapping of territorial coverage of our treaties increases.

Currently, 77 States plus the European Union are bound by both the UPOV Convention and the ITPGRFA.

To illustrate this, Egypt, which deposited its instrument of accession on November 1, thus becoming UPOV's latest member, is also a Contracting Party to the ITPGRFA. Furthermore, in 2019, a further 5 countries received positive decisions from the UPOV Council on the conformity of their laws/draft laws with the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention; 4 of those are also Contracting Parties of the ITPGRFA.

Continuing on the theme of cooperation, agriculture is facing many challenges at the same time as seeking to respond to climate change and we need to ensure that farmers are at the core of our considerations, so I am pleased to announce that the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO) has recently become a full partner in the World Seed Partnership, alongside OECD, ISTA, ISF and UPOV. It has been very refreshing to work with WFO and to see how our visions and objectives are aligned. However, that is not really so surprising when you see the growing body of information on the benefits that plant variety protection and UPOV membership is bringing to farmers. If you haven't yet seen this, please pay a visit to our website or follow us on social media.

Partnerships and cooperation, such as in the World Seed Partnership, rely on each member of the team performing their role effectively. For UPOV, that means encouraging the development of new varieties suited to farmers' needs. Therefore, it is good to be able to report that the UPOV system of plant variety protection is growing strongly in terms of the number of new varieties being developed. In 2018, the number of applications for new varieties exceeded 20,000 for the first time and has now doubled in less than 20 years.

Since UPOV was created, more than a quarter of a million titles of protection have been granted by UPOV members. Around 130,000 titles of protection are still in force but more than 165,000 titles are no longer in force, meaning that the varieties are now freely available. Of course, in this setting focused on Plant Genetic Resources, it is important to recall that, under the breeder's exemption in the UPOV Convention, even protected varieties are freely available for breeding purposes. In short, UPOV delivers benefits from new plant genetic resources without restricting their access for further development.

We are pleased that there are so many encouraging signs about the level of plant breeding activity but it is still important to explore ways of improving the UPOV system. The creation of the UPOV PRISMA PBR Application Tool is expected to increase the availability of improved new varieties to farmers around the world by assisting breeders to make applications in UPOV members, which can be particularly helpful for SMEs and individuals, including farmer-breeders.

Madam Chair, honored delegates, thank you again for the opportunity to report on these developments.

Let me conclude by reaffirming that UPOV is committed to playing its role to meet the challenges facing agriculture and looks forward to further intensifying its cooperation with the ITPGRFA to achieve our mutual goals.”

[Annex IV follows]

## ANNEX IV / ANNEXE IV / ANLAGE IV / ANEXO IV

[In English only / En anglais seulement / Nur auf Englisch / En Inglés solamente]

## PROJECT BRIEF:

“PATHWAYS TO FOOD SECURITY, POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND LIVELIHOODS THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS TO CROP GENETIC DIVERSITY (DIVERSIFARM)”

Regine Andersen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, e-mail: [randersen@fni.no](mailto:randersen@fni.no)

***DIVERSIFARM is a multidisciplinary research project (2020–2023) carried out by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI), Norway, in collaboration with partners from the University of Cape Town, South Africa; Mekelle University, Ethiopia; Bioversity International, Nepal Office; German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture; and the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, with support from the Research Council of Norway.***

**Project objectives:** The project will provide knowledge on agrobiodiversity-based pathways to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods among small-scale farmers in developing countries exposed to fragile environments due to rapid climate change, with emphasis on:

- Options and barriers for the implementation of farmers' rights, as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- The extent to which national policies implement farmers' rights and enable agrobiodiversity-based pathways to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods (case studies);
- Models of local agrobiodiversity-based pathways to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods (focus: community seed banks and participatory plant breeding);
- Conditions – across scales – under which such models succeed in achieving food security, poverty alleviation, and livelihoods among small-scale farmers in developing countries, exposed to fragile environments due to rapid climate change.

**Project summary:** DIVERSIFARM is designed to identify agrobiodiversity-based pathways to food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods among small-scale farmers in developing countries. The diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is a crucial factor for the ability of farmers to adapt their food production to the effects of climate change, like rising temperatures, droughts, floods, pests and diseases. From this diversity they can identify plants which are more resilient to climate change and develop them further through selection breeding. Crop diversity enables spreading the risks of crop failure. Community seed banks and participatory plant breeding have emerged as pathways to improving locally adapted crops and maximising the benefits for food security and innovative means of income in developing countries. More knowledge is needed to understand their conditions for success and for scaling out best practices.

However, farmers' rights to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed are under increasing pressure worldwide through legislation related to seed and intellectual property rights. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture provides for the realization of farmers' rights. This is of great importance for food security and livelihoods among small-scale farmers. As the issue is beset with interest conflicts, more knowledge is needed to guide the implementation of farmers' rights.

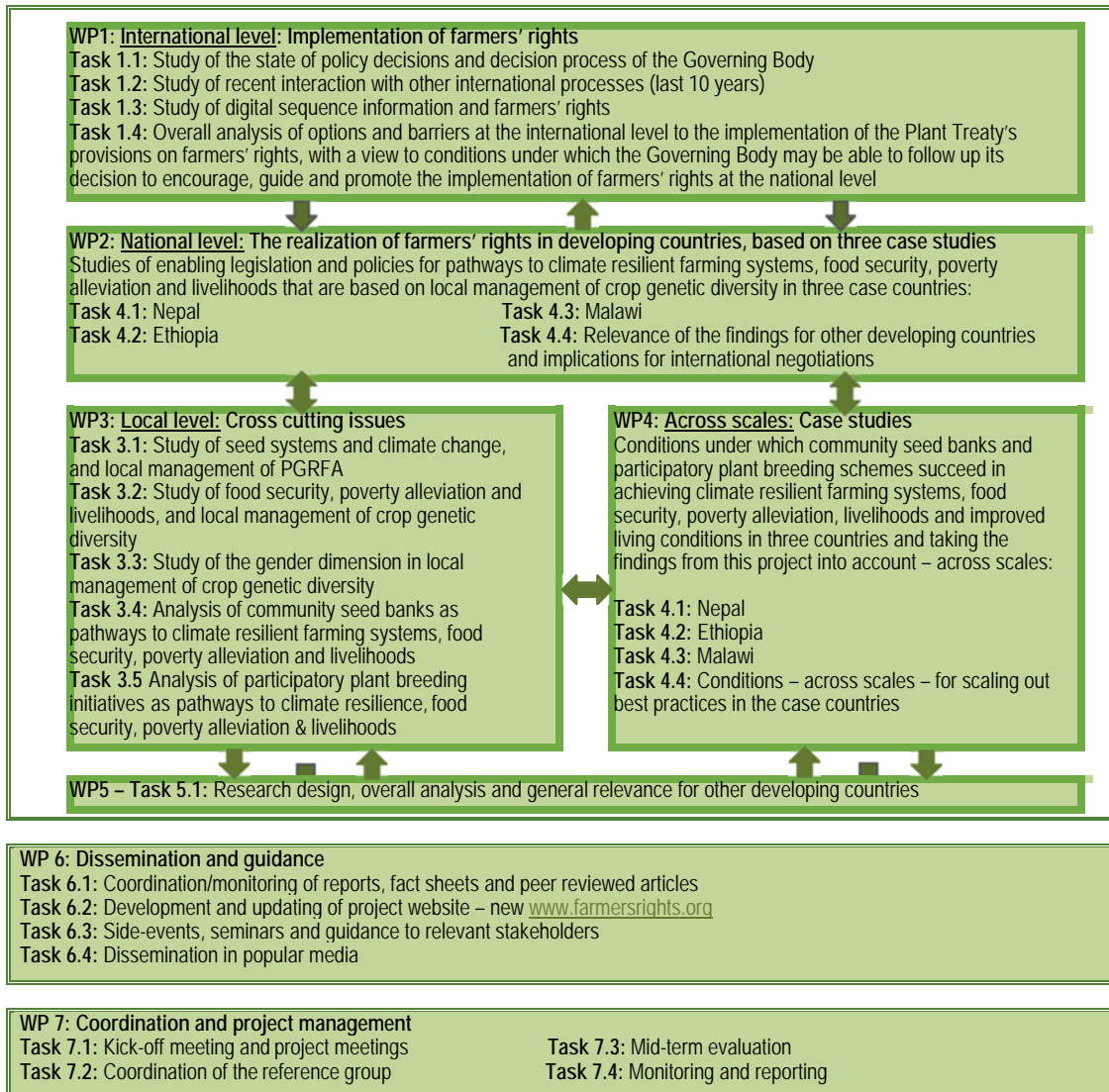
DIVERSIFARM will meet these knowledge needs. Options and barriers to the implementation of farmers' rights at the international level, and at the national level in Nepal, Ethiopia and Malawi, will be analyzed, guided by a theoretical framework of structural, instrumental and normative power. On this basis, conditions under which local level community seed banks and participatory plant breeding schemes succeed in achieving climate resilient farming systems, food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods will be analyzed. This will be informed by issue specific studies on climate resilient farming systems, gender equality, and models of community seed banks and participatory plant breeding. Finally, the general relevance for developing countries and implications for international negotiations and development cooperation will be derived.



**The DIVERSIFARM project team:**

- Regine Andersen, Senior Research Fellow (Dr. Polit), FNI (project leader)
- Tone Winge, Senior Research Fellow, FNI
- Christian Prip, Senior Policy Analyst, FNI
- Rachel Wynberg (PhD), Bio-Economy Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Fetien Abay (PhD), Professor and Vice President for Research and Community Services, Mekelle University, Ethiopia;
- Devendra Gauchan (PhD), National Programme Manager, Bioversity International, Nepal Office;
- Anja Christink (PhD), German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture
- Ola Westengen (PhD), Associate Professor, Department of International Environment and Development Studies (Noragric), Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)

**Organization of DIVERSIFARM: Work packages, tasks and interaction**



## Project plan

(darkest colour = emphasis of work)

Work packages and tasks	2020				2021				2022				2023			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
<b>WP1: Realization of FR at the international level</b>																
Task 1.1: Study of the state of policy decisions and processes in the Governing Body of the Plant Treaty																
Task 1.2: Study of recent interaction with other international processes (last 10 years)																
Task 1.3: Study of digital sequence information and implications for the implementation of farmers' rights																
Task 1.4: Overall analysis of the realization of farmers' rights at the international level																
<b>WP2: Realization of FR at the national level in DCs</b>																
Task 2.1: Case study A – Realization of FR in Nepal																
Task 2.2: Case study B – Realization of FR in Ethiopia																
Task 2.3: Case study C – Realization of FR in Malawi																
Task 2.4: Relevance of the findings for other developing countries and implications for international negotiations																
<b>WP3: Local level – cross cutting issues</b>																
Task 3.1: Cross-cutting issues A – Seed systems and climate change, and local management of PGRFA																
Task 3.2: Cross-cutting issue B – Food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods, and local management of PGRFA																
Task 3.3: Cross-cutting issue C – The gender dimension in local management of PGRFA																
Task 3.4: Relevance of community seed banks to climate resilient farming systems, food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods																
Task 3.5: Relevance of participatory plant breeding to climate resilience, food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods																
<b>WP4: Across scales – case studies</b>																
Task 4.1: Case study A – Conditions for success in Nepal																
Task 4.2: Case study B – Conditions for success in Ethiopia																
Task 4.3: Case study C – Conditions for success in Malawi																
Task 4.4: Conditions – across scales – for scaling out best practices in the case countries																
<b>WP5: Research design and overall analysis</b>																
WP 5.1 Research design overall analysis, general relevance for other developing countries and implications for int. processes																
<b>WP 6: Dissemination and guidance</b>																
Task 6.1: Coordination/monitoring of reports, fact sheets and peer-reviewed articles																
Task 6.2: Development and updating of project website – new <a href="http://www.farmersrights.org">www.farmersrights.org</a>																
Task 6.3: Side-events, seminars and guidance to relevant stakeholders																
Task 6.4: Dissemination in popular and social media and other dissemination activities																
<b>WP 7: Coordination and project management</b>																
Task 7.1: Kick-off meeting and project meetings																
Task 7.2: Coordination of the reference group																
Task 7.3: Mid-term evaluation																
Task 7.4: Monitoring and reporting																

## Deliverables and dissemination plan

**Deliverables from WP1:** Four fact sheets, one from each task; three peer reviewed articles on: interaction among international processes related to farmers' rights (Task 1.2), digital sequence data and farmers' rights (Task 1.3) and the general findings from WP1 (Task 1.4); one report with a more comprehensive account of the findings from WP1 (Task 1.4).

**Deliverables from WP2 will be merged with deliverables from WP4:** For WPs 2 and 4, at least one fact sheet will be produced per country and one fact sheet each for tasks 2.4 and 4.4. At least one peer reviewed article and one report will result from these two tasks.

**Deliverables from WP3:** Five fact sheets, one from each task; five peer reviewed articles, one from each cross-cutting issue; one report with a comprehensive account of the findings from WP3.

**Deliverable from WP5:** Task 5.1 will feed into the article and report above.

**Deliverables from WP6:** A project website will be launched, building on an update of the former [www.farmersrights.org](http://www.farmersrights.org) (Task 6.2) Two side events will be organized at the Governing Body sessions in 2021 and 2023 (Task 6.3). Annual meetings/seminars will be arranged in Norway (Task 6.3). There will be articles in Norwegian media, and entries in social media on an occasional basis (Task 6.4).

### **DIVERSIFARM multi-stakeholder reference group**

The reference group is an advisory board for the project and consists of representatives of central stakeholder groups. The group will meet in 2021 and 2023 in connection with Governing Body Sessions. It will be updated on progress in the project throughout the project period, for comments, advice and information:

#### **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture:**

- **Kent Nnadozie**, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- **Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim**, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway; Focal Point for the ITPGRFA; delegate to its Governing Body; previous member of its Bureau
- **Mónica Martínez Mendiño**, Permanent Representative to the UN from Ecuador and delegate to the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA; previous member of the Bureau of the ITPGRFA
- **Godfrey Mwila**, Deputy Director of Zambia Agricultural Research Institute; Focal Point for the ITPGRFA; Delegate to its Governing Body; previous Chair of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA
- **Rinchen Dorji**, Head of the On-farm Conservation Programme, National Bioversity Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Thimphu, Bhutan; Delegate to the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA

#### **Civil society:**

- **Pitambar Shrestha**, Head of Programme Operations, Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Nepal
- **Andrew Mushita**, Executive Director, Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT), Zimbabwe
- **Pat Mooney**, Former Executive Director Action Group on Erosion Technology and Concentration (ETC Group), Canada
- **Sangeeta Shashikant**, Legal Advisor, Third World Network, Malaysia
- **Wilhelmina Pellegrina**, Interim Country Director, Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Philippines
- **Normita Ignacio**, Executive Director, South East Asia Regional Initiative for Community Empowerment (SEARICE), Philippines
- **Francois Meienberg**, Coordinator, Association for Plant Breeding for the Benefit of Society (APREBES), Switzerland

#### **Farmers' Organizations:**

- **The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC)** will appoint three farmers to attend reference group meetings and facilitate commenting as required.

#### **Seed Industry /Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV):**

- **Szonja Csörgő**, Director IP and Legal Affairs, European Seed Association, Belgium
- **Yolanda Huerta**, Legal Counsel, UPOV (*participation conditional on UPOVs' approval*), Geneva

#### **Norwegian Donor Organizations:**

- **Lise Albrechtsen**, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Jan Erik Studsrød**, Senior Advisor, Norad
- **Elin Cecilie Ranum**, Head of Programme Dept., The Development Fund, Norway

#### **Research:**

- **Ximena Cadima**, Researcher, Fundación para la Promoción e Investigación de Productos Andinos (PROINPA) Bolivia
- **Bert Visser**, Scientific Advisor, Oxfam Novib, Netherlands, previous Director of the Centre for Genetic Resources, University of Wageningen
- **Elsa Tsioumani**, Law Cooperative, Greece, member of the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Reporting Services