

# Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

## Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014-2023

### 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.

### Mission

Cognizant that genetic resources for food and agriculture are a common concern of all countries, in that all countries depend on genetic resources for food and agriculture that originated elsewhere, the Commission strives to halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to ensure world food security and sustainable development by promoting their conservation and sustainable use, including exchange, access and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.

### Strategic Goals and Objectives

***Goal 1: The Commission has a coordinating role and deals with policy, sectorial and cross-sectorial matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of relevance to food and agriculture.***

- The Commission guides and monitors FAO's policies, programmes and activities related to genetic resources for food and agriculture within the framework of FAO's strategic objectives.
- The Commission keeps under continuous review relevant matters in other forums, including policy developments, relating to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.

***Goal 2: The Commission monitors the state of the world's genetic resources for food and agriculture.***

- The Commission supervises the periodic preparation of global assessments on genetic resources for food and agriculture leading to *The State of World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, and, as appropriate, the development of a comprehensive global information system or systems for relevant genetic resources in support of this role.

***Goal 3: The Commission strives to reach international consensus on policies and action programmes to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.***

- The Commission provides an intergovernmental forum for negotiation of international policies on genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- The Commission oversees the implementation of, and updates, global action plans and other instruments addressing the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.
- The Commission responds to developments in other forums, where appropriate.

***Goal 4: The Commission contributes to the strengthening of national and regional policies on biodiversity for food and agriculture and promotes cooperation in capacity-building***

- The Commission supports the development or strengthening of national and regional policies and programmes on genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular by facilitating the implementation of global plans of actions for genetic resources, and establishes coordination mechanisms to promote national and regional cooperation across relevant sectors and among actors.
- The Commission identifies and facilitates the availability of financial, human, scientific, technical and technological resources to enable Commission Members to contribute actively to the achievement of the outputs and milestones of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work and to implement policies and recommendations developed by the Commission.
- The Commission supports its Members in the development and implementation of strategies and activities that raise public awareness and facilitate education that creates a better understanding of the relevance of biodiversity for food and agriculture and thereby promotes broader participation of stakeholders in the conservation and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

***Goal 5: The Commission maintains and strengthens cooperation and partnerships on biodiversity for food and agriculture.***

- The Commission facilitates and oversees cooperation between FAO and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, including the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Conference of Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

- In addition to its activities on plant and animal genetic resources, the Commission brings together international partners addressing biodiversity for food and agriculture, to facilitate exchange of experiences and to create new partnerships, including in particular for forest, aquatic, micro-organism and invertebrate biodiversity and their interrelations.
- The Commission's cooperation with other relevant international bodies strives to ensure that negotiations in other forums take into account the special needs of the agricultural sector with regard to all components of biological diversity relevant for food and agriculture.
- The Commission will actively increase the involvement of all stakeholders, such as civil society and producer organizations, including organizations representing women and small-scale producers, breeding institutions and industries, and public- and private-sector organizations involved with genetic resources for food and agriculture.