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Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge – Tangible and Intangible Heritage of the Republic of Belarus



15 October 2019

The Republic of Belarus as a Party to the Convention on Biological diversity is actively involved in its realization and strives to achieve the objectives set – the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

With a view of generating an international regime promoting and ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits between the providers and users of genetic resources (3rd objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity), the Nagoya Protocol was developed and adopted to regulate access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. The Republic of Belarus has been a Party to this International Treaty since 2014.

2018-2019. The State Scientific Institution “Institute of Genetics and Cytology of NAS of Belarus” jointly with the UNDP Office in Belarus and under the control of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection realized the Global UNDP-GEF ABS Project “Strengthening of human resources, legal frameworks and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol” consisting of 3 Components:

- **Development of the National ABS (access and benefit-sharing) framework to comply with the Nagoya Protocol.**
- **Building trust between the providers and users of genetic resources using state-of-the-art DNA identification techniques.**
- **Study of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. Such investigation has taken place in our country for the first time.**

The Republic of Belarus is Number One out of 24 countries participating in the above-noted Global Project to have buttoned up its realization. On 11 October 2019, the final workshop was held in Minsk.

During the workshop, the main project outcomes and results achieved in line with each component were presented. Also, the workshop participants discussed the lessons learned and some other issues related to the project implementation and shared experience with the Region’s representatives implementing the afore-mentioned project (the Republic of Kazakhstan).



The workshop was attended by Mr Alexander Kilchevsky, Academician, the Deputy Chairperson of the Presidium of NAS of Belarus and the National Project Coordinator; Ms Alexandra Solovieva, the UNDP Resident Representative in Belarus; Ms Tatiana Zheleznova, representative of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection; and Global Project Coordinators – Mr Claudio Chiarolla, the Regional Project Specialist for Europe and CIS of the UNDP Regional Office and Mr Alejandro Lago, Project Manager from the UNDP Regional Center for LAC.

