



Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Preparation of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*

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The Food and Agriculture Organization has the honour to refer to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) established in accordance with Article VI.1 of the Constitution of the Organization. The Commission is an intergovernmental forum for discussion and negotiation by Governments on matters related to biodiversity for food and agriculture.

The Commission, at its Fourteenth Regular Session (Rome, 15 to 19 April 2013) requested the Organization to prepare for its consideration at its Sixteenth Regular Session (2016/2017) the first authoritative assessment of the state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture. The Commission stressed that the process for preparing *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* should primarily be based on information from country reports and should also draw on thematic studies, reports from international organizations and inputs from other relevant stakeholders.

The Organization wishes to invite countries to nominate a National Focal Point responsible for coordinating the preparation of their country report on the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture as a contribution to the preparation of *The State of the World's Biodiversity*. It would be appreciated if this nomination could be communicated to Ms Linda Collette, Secretary of the Commission, at [CGRFA@fao.org](mailto:CGRFA@fao.org) by 30 November 2013.

The Organization also kindly invites countries to submit their country report no later than 31 December 2014 to the contact provided above. Guidelines to facilitate the preparation of country reports will be provided to National Focal Points and will be made available on the Commission's web site: <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa>.

The Organization wishes to emphasize the importance of the country report preparation as national strategic tool for the sustainable management of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and the need to establish national mechanisms to ensure all relevant national stakeholders are given the opportunity to participate in the preparation of the country report. Subject to the availability of financial and human resources, support may be provided to developing countries to facilitate the preparation of their country reports.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to its Members and their accredited Permanent Representations and Embassies the assurance of its highest consideration.

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**For ACTION/INFORMATION, as appropriate:**

- Main Addressees (Ministers for Foreign Affairs or Agriculture or other addressees selected by the Government);
- Permanent Representatives to FAO/Embassies.

This communication is also being sent to heads of selected international organizations.