



8 March 2013

Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to inform the Members of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of amendments which will be proposed to the Commission's Rules of Procedure under item 10, *Status and profile of the Commission, including discussion of the operation of Commission meetings*, of the Provisional Agenda for the 14th Session of the Commission.

The Commission, at its last Session, had requested its Secretary to review the Commission's Statutes and Rules of Procedure in the light of the outcome of the review of the FAO Statutory Bodies and the reform of the Technical Committees (CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 121). In reviewing the reform of FAO's Technical Committees, two possible amendments to the Commission's Rules of Procedure have been identified which the Commission may wish to consider at its next Session which will be held from 15 to 19 April 2013 at FAO Headquarters. The proposed amendments¹ read as follows:

Proposed Amendment 1

Rule IV.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission shall read:

The Commission shall normally hold one regular session each biennium. It may also decide to convene extraordinary sessions as necessary, subject to the approval of the FAO Council. Sessions of the Commission shall normally be held at the Organization's Headquarters. *Regular sessions shall be held with timing that enables the Programme and Finance Committees to take into consideration the report of the Commission in formulating advice to the Council.* Regular sessions shall normally not exceed five days. Sessions shall normally be preceded by regional consultations with appropriate facilities.

Proposed Amendment 2

The following paragraph 2 shall be added to Rule XI of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission:

2. The Commission shall make every effort to ensure that recommendations are precise and can be implemented.

Notice is hereby given to Members of the Commission in accordance with Rule XIV.2 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

Background information on the proposed amendments is provided in the document, *The status of the Commission* (CGRFA-14/13/27), which is available on the Commission website: <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-home/en/> Versions in the other official languages will be posted on the Commission website as they become available.

¹ Insertions are indicated using *underlined italics*.