

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	CPGR/93/10  February 1993
	联合国粮食及农业组织	
	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS	
	ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE	
	ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION	

Item 8 of the  
Provisional Agenda

**E**

**THE COMMISSION ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES**

Fifth Session

Rome, 19 - 23 April, 1993

**THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND PROGRAMME ON THE  
CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES (ICPGR)**

**Table of Contents**

	<u>Paras</u>
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 4
II. BACKGROUND	5 - 12
III. OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS PREPARATORY PROCESS	
A. The main outputs	13 - 19
B. Methodology and the preparatory process	20 - 33
C. The conference	34 - 37
IV. ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	
A. Working Group, Internal Committee, & Expert Groups	38 - 41
B. Secretariat	42 - 45
C. Cooperation with other organizations	46 - 47
V. AREAS WHERE GUIDANCE OF THE COMMISSION IS SOUGHT	48
VI. ANNEXES	
A. Preparation of sub-outputs	Annex 1
B. Chart: International Conference	Annex 2
C. Tentative Timetable	Annex 3

# THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND PROGRAMME ON THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES (ICPGR)

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The convening of a "Fourth International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources" was recommended by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources at its Fourth Session, and endorsed by the FAO Conference in 1991 which requested the Director-General to secure extra-budgetary funds (C91/REP, para 113). Subsequently, Agenda 21, agreed at UNCED in June 1992, called for the appropriate UN agencies and regional organizations to promote the "Fourth International Technical Conference on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture". The Director-General, in accordance with the decision of FAO Conference, will proceed with the convening of the Conference as soon as written assurances are received from member governments that the entire budget of the project can be met from extra-budgetary resources. In line with the decisions of the FAO Commission and Conference and the recommendations of UNCED in Agenda 21 the aims of this Conference and its preparatory process are to produce an authoritative report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources (PGR/SW), and to secure agreement on a Global Plan of Action for the conservation and sustainable utilization of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR/GPA).

2. The Working Group of the Commission discussed document CPGR/WG/92/3, on which the present document is based, at its Seventh Session in October 1992 (see CPGR/93/3.) The Working Group emphasized the importance of the bottom-up, country driven approach as presented in the document. The Working Group emphasized that a full "programme" was envisaged, not just a "conference" and that this conference and programme would launch action at the national level, transform the relevant parts of Agenda 21 into a costed Global Plan of Action and make the Global System fully operational.

3. This paper presents the methodology for the Conference itself and its preparatory process. In view of the importance of the process, and taking into account the view of the Working Group, the overall project is referred to in this paper as "The International Conference and Programme on Plant Genetic Resources" (ICPGR).

4. Accordingly, a Project Document has been drawn up as part of the FAO/Government Cooperative programme, and extra-budgetary funds are being sought on that basis. This paper incorporates the main points of the Project Document. The Project Document and this paper have been compiled on the basis of the Commission's decisions and the guidance provided by the Working Group of the Commission at its seventh session (CPGR/93/3), as well as the recommendations of an *ad hoc* expert group which met in June 1992. Copies of the Report and Recommendations of the Expert Group are available on request, in English, to members of the Commission.

## II. BACKGROUND

5. The genetic base of the world's food and other agricultural commodities is under serious threat and a global cooperative action is needed to contain the danger facing plant genetic diversity and to promote ecologically sustainable agriculture in increasing food and agricultural production. Plant germplasm represents the raw material for new cultivars and is the reservoir of genetic adaptability which acts as a buffer against harmful environmental changes.

6. The conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources calls for a variety of appropriate and timely actions at international, regional, national and community levels. These actions relate to the planning, identification, collecting, conservation and maintenance, monitoring, evaluation, exchange and use of plant genetic material; the enhanced use of material through local communities as well as professional plant breeders, biotechnologists and seed producers; the training, education, and legal aspects of Plant Genetic Resources; and finally the financial and economic implication of the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources.

### *The Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources*

7. The Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources has the objective of promoting the conservation, the availability and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for present and future generations, by providing a flexible framework for sharing the benefits and burdens. The System covers the conservation (*ex situ* and *in situ*) and utilization of plant genetic resources. Successive Sessions of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources (CPGR) have contributed to building the Global System on Plant Genetic Resources and to facilitating its operation, and to developing a broad intergovernmental consensus on plant genetic resources conservation and use. At its Fourth Session the CPGR considered that it should now exercise the coordinating and monitoring role provided for in its mandate. The CPGR requested the preparation of the first of periodic reports on "The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources" and a first "Global Plan of Action" through the ICPGR to provide it with the tools it requires to do this.

### *The UN Conference on Environment and Development*

8. The importance of plant genetic resources was recognized at the UN Conference on Environment and Development which agreed on a comprehensive set of programmes of action to promote sustainable development -- Agenda 21. Chapter 14 of that document includes a programme area on "Conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and sustainable agriculture" which contains programmes of action at national and international levels. At the national level, Agenda 21 promotes the objective: not later than 2000, to adopt policies and to strengthen or establish programmes for *in situ*, on-farm, and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), integrated into strategies and programmes for sustainable agriculture. At international level Agenda 21 suggests that FAO, as the appropriate United Nations agency, is expected to take actions to strengthen the Global System on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA; develop a network of PGRFA in *in situ* protected areas; prepare periodic State of the World Reports on PGRFA and a rolling global cooperative plan of action on PGRFA; promote the fourth International

Technical Conference to adopt the first PGR/SW and PGR/GPA, and adjust the global system to be in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

9. A Convention on Biological Diversity was signed at UNCED by over 150 countries and is likely to enter into force as a legally binding instrument in 1994 or 1995. The objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity are: (i) the conservation of biological diversity; (ii) the sustainable utilization of its components; and (iii) the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The objectives are to be realized (*inter alia*): (a) by appropriate access to genetic resources, and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and technologies, and (b) by appropriate funding.

#### *Previous Technical Conferences*

10. A series of International Technical Conferences on Plant Genetic Resources have been convened by FAO in cooperation with other Organizations to create awareness about this pressing issue among policy-makers at national and international levels. The first such Conference took place in 1967 and some of its important resolutions were subsequently adopted by the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, in Stockholm. The Second International Technical Conference, which was held in 1973, interpreted the resolutions of the Stockholm Conference in the Context of plant genetic resources. The Third International Technical Conference which took place in 1981 catalyzed the development of the Global System itself.

#### *Objectives of the International Conference and Programme*

11. The ICPGR would aim to develop consensus and commitment from countries and from all relevant sectors for the conservation of PGRFA and their use in sustainable development, and in particular:

- (i) to catalyze action at the country level to promote capacity building, including increased communication and access to information, improved planning and evaluation, identification of problems and emergency needs and formulation of projects to address such needs, and encouragement of regional cooperation and initiatives;
- (ii) to describe, through the report on the State of the World's PGR (PGR/SW) the current situation of plant genetic resources, identify gaps and needs and propose priorities for action; and
- (iii) to secure agreement on a Global Plan of Action for plant genetic resources as it emanates from the PGR/SW and its financing through an International Fund and other mechanisms, in line with annex 3 of the International Undertaking on PGR and building upon the outline plan of action of Agenda 21.

The ICPGR would play a major role in implementing Agenda 21 and in making the Global System fully operational.

### *Target Beneficiaries*

12. All nations would be the target beneficiaries of the ICPGR, first through the capacity-building process, and then particularly through the Global Plan of Action and the resources that might be forthcoming for its implementation. The specific target groups would be policy makers as well as plant breeders, farmers, donors and recipients of plant germplasm, networks involved in *ex situ* base collections and *in situ* conservation areas, public institutions involved in the sustainable use of biotechnology and entities engaged in the evaluation, monitoring and early warning system of plant genetic resources. The report on the State of World's Plant Genetic Resources, would be valuable to the Commission which is responsible for establishing global policies and priorities on the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources and would also have other important audiences namely policy decision makers on national resources management, researchers, international, regional and national funding agencies, and many NGOs and grass-root organizations involved in the collection and preservation of germplasm, and in their promotion.

## **III. OVERVIEW OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS PREPARATORY PROCESS**

### **A. The main outputs**

13. The main outputs of the ICPGR include the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources and a Global Plan of Action.

#### *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources*

14. The report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources (PGR/SW) would describe the current situation of plant genetic resources, and identify gaps and emergencies. In particular it would:

- assess the present state of genetic diversity, the degree of genetic erosion, and the current coverage and status of *in-situ* and *ex situ* conservation and utilization of PGRFA. This would build upon assessments by country and by sub-region, and, to the extent feasible, by crop group;
- identify major constraints to plant genetic resources conservation, utilization and exchange;
- evaluate the extent to which collections are used and developed and identify problems which prevent lack of full utilization for plant breeding;
- assess national and regional capabilities for the conservation and utilization of PGRFA in terms of human resources, institutional structures and methodologies pursued; and
- examine areas of special interest to PGRFA conservation and utilization such as informatics, new biotechnologies, local technologies and other issues such as on-farm conservation;
- identify appropriate technologies in meeting the special needs of the developing countries and assess the current state and pattern of technology transfer in plant genetic resources.

15. The scope of the PGR/SW would encompass plants of social and economic interest especially for agriculture and forestry. In practice, the PGR/SW would concentrate on domesticated crop species and their wild relatives and forest species of current or potential economic value, medicinal plants and promising species of plants which could be developed into new crops. The PGR/SW would give balance attention to new as well as traditional and indigenous technologies. A static "inventory" approach would be avoided by emphasizing existing gaps and emergencies at national, regional and global levels. The PGR/SW and other documents would take into account the past and present role of women in plant genetic domestication, adaptation, management and use.

16. The PGR/SW would serve as a bench mark of the current situation and would form the basis on which to develop the Global Plan of Action. The PGR/SW is to be periodically updated over the years to reflect the changing situations.

#### *Global Plan of Action for PGR*

17. The Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources (PGR/GPA) would complement and draw upon PGR/SW and would propose actions aimed at: (i) arresting the continued erosion of plant genetic diversity; (ii) enhancing the safe conservation and sustainable utilization of plant germplasm for present and future generations under an international mechanism acceptable to both donors and users of germplasm; and (iii) ensuring the monitoring of plant genetic resources on a global scale. Building upon the skeleton programme of action in Agenda 21, it would:

- propose policies and strategies for conservation and utilization of PGR at the national, regional and global levels paying particular attention to the linkages between conservation programmes and utilization capabilities and programmes;
- assist countries in elaborating plans or programmes of priority action for conservation activities at the national level;
- assist countries in strengthening national capabilities for utilization of PGRFA, plant breeding and seed production capabilities;
- propose appropriate and feasible measures which would make the Global System for Plant Genetic Resources more effective.
- include costed programmes, projects and activities to be financed by an International Fund and other mechanisms.

18. The Global Plan of Action is to be periodically updated drawing upon updated reports of the PGR/SW.

#### *Other Outputs*

19. Other products, which would be integrated in the main outputs or utilized in their preparation, would include country reports and sub-regional reports on the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources, papers to analyze critical issues, and case studies on a number of topics as described in the following section. Some of these may also be published separately.

## **B. Methodology and the Preparatory Process**

20. The project would support a "bottom-up", country driven process for formulating a concrete PGR/GPA. Such a participatory approach is important in developing an innovative yet practical plan to which all countries can feel fully committed. The main inputs into the process leading to PGR/SW and PGR/GPA, described in more detail below would be:

- existing background information complemented by the information provided in a questionnaire completed by each country to be compiled and analyzed by the Secretariat of the ICPGR;
- country reports to be submitted by individual countries;
- case studies and issue analysis papers to be identified and compiled by the Secretariat of the ICPGR;
- the results of the sub-regional workshops; about 10 sub-regional Workshops are planned.

21. Guidelines for the country reports are being drawn up; a framework for the PGR/GPA; a framework for the Sub regional meetings, and terms of reference for the case studies and issue analysis papers. The preparatory process has been designed to result not only in countries endorsing PGR/GPA, but also in their commitment for its timely implementation, and the endorsement from both scientific and political communities. The PGR/GPA would be drafted as part of this consensus building approach. The process is illustrated in the attached chart.

### *Background information including the Questionnaire*

22. In the preparation of the State of World's Plant Genetic Resources, information available in FAO and in other international institutions involved in the collection of information related to plant genetic resources would be used. Within the Organization, the project would draw on the work of other FAO programmes e.g. the Plant Production and Protection Division, Forest Resources Development, Tropical Forestry Action Programme, the Environment and Energy Programmes Coordinating Centre and the Regional and Country Offices. Amongst other institutions the most important are the IBPGR and other international centres of the CGIAR.

23. In addition, a questionnaire, as recommended by the Commission, has been sent to countries requesting (a) facts about the national collection and its use, including number of accessions, institutes working with germplasm, conditions of storage, and (b) enquiries about their most crucial needs and priorities. A questionnaire on forest genetic resources is also being sent to countries.

### *Country reports and the National Level*

24. Reports on country activities and initiatives would be prepared by member countries on the basis of guidelines drawn up by the Secretariat. They would be available at the sub-regional meetings as well as being used as resource papers for other meetings and for the elaboration of PGR/SW and the PGR/GPA.

25. Besides generating the information required, country reports are important to foster involvement in the process, and to encourage commitment to the products of ICPGR. Countries would be encouraged to establish national committees and focal points. Full use should be made of all appropriate agencies including relevant units of FAO, IBPGR and their regional and country contacts as far as their resources allow.

*The sub-regional meetings and the regional approach*

26. Sub-regional meetings would be organized to review country reports and to consolidate them into sub-regional studies. These sub-regional meetings would permit active and cooperative participation of countries sharing common agro-ecological systems.

27. Sub-regions would be defined, as far as is practical, to group countries which share common agro-ecological systems, crops of importance, and problems in genetic resource conservation and use. Additionally, in order to foster cooperation in building the PGR/GPA, sub-regions, will, as far as is possible, group together countries which already have regional or sub-regional political, economic or technical cooperation agreements. Special consideration would be given to sub-regions which are centres of origin and/or diversity of crops or have other special interests such as important forest species. Some countries may participate in more than one sub-region depending on their ecological situation. Based on these considerations, the number of sub-regions that are envisaged is between 12 and 20, though the number of separate meetings foreseen is about 10. This is because in the cases when several countries share agro-ecological conditions of two or more regions, a single meeting for these sub-regions is envisaged. The number of sub-regions and the countries to be included in each sub-region, would be finalized after consultation with regional experts.

28. Regional synthesis reports incorporating draft regional plans of action would be compiled, based on the outcome of the sub-regional meetings. Special meetings at the regional level would not be held. However, the regional synthesis reports, as available forwarded to the FAO Regional Conferences in 1994 for information and discussion as appropriate,

*Critical issue analysis papers and Case studies*

29. A number of papers to analyze critical issue would be commissioned to provide conceptual and "thought provoking" as well as factual inputs to PGR/GPA and particularly SW/PGR. Funding would be made available for about 10 to 15 papers, with others, solicited or unsolicited, being produced on a voluntary basis. Papers might be published in their own right. The Secretariat of the ICPGR would publicize a list of topics for the papers and also canvass ideas from other sources before drawing up the final list.

30. About five sub-regional and regional case studies would be commissioned to provide in-depth information and analyses for the three main outputs of the ICPGR, especially PGR/SW. These case studies might examine topics such as genetic erosion in specific crops or regions, country studies on plant genetic resources conservation and utilization, case studies on selective adoption



of modern varieties versus continued use of landraces; case studies on on-farm crop improvement and seed production, etc. Guidelines for the case studies would be drawn up by the ICPGR Secretariat.

31. Outside the preparatory process for the ICPGR itself, a number of comprehensive national studies are included in an umbrella proposal to be submitted by FAO to GEF for funding and implementation during the coming years. If funding is forthcoming and the studies are completed in time, information from these would also be utilized for the ICPGR.

#### *Preparation of PGR/SW and PGR/GPA*

32. The State of the World Report is planned to be prepared by the Secretariat and a group of senior consultants with the technical and scientific advice of a Group of Experts. It would be a step by step process, drawing upon all relevant material provided by background information, country reports, the outcome of the sub-regional meetings, issue analysis papers and case studies.

33. The Global Plan of Action would be drafted by the Secretariat with the technical and scientific advice of a group of experts, building upon the PGR/SW, as well as the regional plans of action prepared by the regional coordinators. A group of experts would be convened to examine the financial needs of the PGR/GPA. The widest consultation would be sought on drafts of the PGR/GPA.

#### C. The Conference and related meetings of the Commission

34. The Conference itself is tentatively scheduled to be held in 1995; the actual date would depend upon when the required funding is made available by donors. It is planned that the Conference will be held over a period of seven days (five working days and a weekend). The German Government has indicated interest in hosting the Conference.

35. In order to obtain full endorsement of the results and recommendations of the ICPGR, attendance at a high level would be promoted. The Seventh Session of the Working Group discussed options to achieve this and suggested that the Conference be attended by both technical experts and policy makers and that attendance at a high level, preferably by plenipotentiary ministers, be encouraged for the last two days of the Conference for adoption and signing of the Global Plan of Action, or that, alternatively, this is done through a follow-up meeting of the Commission.

36. In addition the Sixth regular Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, if not planned as a follow-up meeting (second option, para 35) could be held at its regular time in 1995 to review the draft PGR/GPA.

37. The Conference should benefit from participation of both technical experts and policy makers from each country. While the project budget has no provision for funding representatives from developing countries, efforts would be made to raise funds for this purpose.

#### IV. ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

##### A. Working Group, Internal Committee and Expert Groups

38. At the political and policy level, overall direction and monitoring of the ICPGR and its preparatory process would be provided by the Commission on PGR, *inter alia* through its Working Group.

39. At the technical level, a group of experts is planned to be appointed to provide expert technical advice for the ICPGR. It would comprise up to 14 members and would have a regionally-balanced composition and include persons in their personal capacities competent in both scientific and managerial aspects of areas related to the objectives of the ICPGR. Active participation of inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations including academia and the corporate sector in the work of the group of experts would be secured. The group of experts would meet up to four times during the preparatory process.

40. An Internal Committee, chaired by the Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department would guide and facilitate the work of the project and ensure coordination with other concerned units in FAO headquarters and regional and country offices.

41. Additionally, meetings of *ad hoc* groups of experts would be convened as necessary, including one to examine the financial implications of the PGR/GPA.

##### B. Secretariat

42. A Secretariat is to be established in the AGP Division to ensure the successful completion of the Conference and its preparatory process. While cooperating fully with the Secretariat of the CPGR, the Secretariat of the ICPGR would function independently.

43. At least four Rome-based professional staff would be required to organize the Conference and oversee the preparatory process, as well as four regional coordinators to guide the process at the sub-regional and regional levels. These professionals plus supporting staff would be recruited by FAO and funded by the project as the ICPGR Secretariat. Amongst the Secretariat there would be staff members responsible for overall coordination, administration, and research coordination, and for public information and communication. Some of the Secretariat staff would be appointed only for part of the preparatory process. When required the staff of other FAO Units would assist the ICPGR Secretariat. A newsletter on the ICPGR process would be one of the channels of communication used.

### *The Role of Consultants and Others*

44. In addition to members of the ICPGR Secretariat, consultants would be appointed as needed to assist the Secretariat in the preparatory process and contractual services would be provided as necessary.

45. Country and regional representatives of FAO and IBPGR Regional Offices would play a catalytic and facilitation role in the preparatory process. The Secretariat would also draw upon the experience of other relevant experts in FAO, such as the FAO Panel of Experts on Forest Genetic Resources, and from other agencies.

### C. Cooperation with other organizations

46. The planning and organization of the ICPGR on the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources would be a cooperative effort between FAO, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its precursor, and other most important partners, particularly the IBPGR, other international centres of the CGIAR, other UN organizations, the World Bank and other multilateral financial institutions, and IUCN, WWF, and other NGOs. Regional and national centres, private industry and institutions engaged in various aspects of plant genetic resources would also be consulted. These institutions would be encouraged to participate actively in the exchange of ideas and information pertinent to the Global Plan of Action and would be invited to provide expertise and finance for various components of the Global Plan of Action.

47. Full and active cooperation of various relevant organizations is required from the beginning to the end of the process in order to ensure consensus in the production of the PGR/SW and of a concrete and effective PGR/GPA. Therefore, in line with the recommendation of the Commission on PGR that the PGR/SW should draw upon the experience of all relevant specialized bodies, meetings of interested relevant organizations would be convened as part of the consultative process to develop a broad consensus on the methodology of the ICPGR and to consider the draft PGR/GPA.

### V. AREAS WHERE GUIDANCE OF THE COMMISSION IS SOUGHT

48. The guidance and/or approval of the Commission is sought on the ICPGR and its preparatory process presented in this document. Additionally, particular guidance is requested on the following areas:

- (i) the role of the Commission and its Working Group in the preparatory process (see. paras 35, 36 and 38);
- (ii) the role of the FAO Regional Conferences (para 28);
- (iii) the use of the Sixth regular Session of the Commission as a preparatory body to examine the PGR/GPA (para 36);
- (iv) the format of the Conference itself (para 35);
- (v) expected number of participants and funding for the participation of representatives from developing countries (para 37);
- (vi) issues, additional to those already agreed by the CPGR, which should be addressed by the ICPGR; particularly in the light of the decisions of UNCED.

## VI. ANNEXES

### Annex A. Preparation of sub-outputs.

(Note: the dates and procedures indicated are tentative and assume that full funding becomes available to allow initiation of the project in January 1993)

#### (1) Methodology for the ICPGR including PGR/SW and PGR/GPA.

A report of a group of experts on the methodology for the ICPGR has already been completed (June 1992). A meeting of major organizations dealing with the conservation and utilization of PGR, major bilateral and multilateral financial institutions and agencies in developed and developing countries interested in various aspects of PGR, would be held to produce a consensus report on methodology (May 1993).

The Secretariat would prepare guidelines for the country reports and the frameworks for the PGR/SW and PGR/GPA. These would be reviewed by the first meeting of the Advisory Group.

#### (2) Survey of PGR Information.

A questionnaire has already been sent out to countries. The data received from completed questionnaires will be screened, evaluated and compiled. This, and other existing background information will be reviewed by experts.

#### (3) Country Reports.

All countries would be requested to prepare national reports on the state of genetic resource conservation and use based on guidelines prepared by the Secretariat.

#### (4) Sub-Regional Reports.

About 10 meetings would be held at sub-regional level ( in late 1993 and early 1994). For these meetings sub-regional consultants, under the supervision of regional coordinators, would prepare draft synthesis reports based on country reports (October to December 1993). The final sub-regional reports would be completed in May 1994. The first meeting of Regional Coordinators would be held in September 1993. The second meeting of the Advisory Group of Experts would review the country reports and the sub-regional process as well as the completed issue papers and case studies (April 1994).

#### (5) Regional Syntheses.

Regional synthesis reports incorporating draft regional plans of action for the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources would be completed by the Regional Coordinators (January to April 1994). Each regional report would be reviewed where feasible by the appropriate FAO Regional Conference.

#### (6) Papers for analysis of critical issues.

Papers would be commissioned throughout the process as needs are identified.

**(7) Case Studies.**

Case studies would be commissioned for completion in early 1994.

**(8) State of the World Report.**

The State of the World Report would be compiled by the Secretariat and a group of senior consultants (May to July 1994). It would be reviewed by the third session of the group of experts (September 1994) and published (December 1994).

**(9) Financial Implications.**

A group of experts would be convened to consider the financial needs of the draft PGR/GPA (October 1994). A strategy paper would be produced on this basis (November 1994).

**(10) Global Plan of Action.**

The draft PGR/GPA would be compiled by the Secretariat based on the PGR/SW, Regional Reports and other inputs (July to September 1994). A meeting of interested relevant organizations would be convened to review the draft PGR/GPA and the financial strategy (November 1994). The final draft would be completed following incorporation of the financial strategy (December 1994) and would be reviewed by the fourth session of the Advisory Group (March 1995) before publication (May 1995).

**(11) Conference Organization and Report.**

The venue would be finalized and the provisional agenda prepared in April 1993. Invitation letters would be despatched in October 1993. The Conference would be held in Summer 1995, and the report published in October/November 1995.

### Annex B: International Conference and Programme



