



Our Ref.: C/X/AGP-813

Invitation to the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group  
on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Rome, Italy, 9 – 11 July 2014

Reply requested by 16 May 2014

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to announce that the Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) will be held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 9 to 11 July 2014. The opening meeting will begin at 9.30 hours on Wednesday 9 July 2014.

The Session is being convened under the Regular Programme of the Organization. It will be conducted in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

The Working Group was established by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its Seventh Session in May 1997. The members of the Working Group, as elected by the Fourteenth Session of the Commission in April 2013, are as follows:

Africa: Algeria, Benin, Central African Republic, Kenya, South Africa

Asia: Cambodia, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka

Europe: Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Turkey

Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago

Near East: Egypt, Kuwait, Yemen

North America: Canada, United States of America

Southwest Pacific: Cook Islands, Fiji

Members of the Commission which are not members of the Working Group may participate, upon request to the Commission Secretariat, in the work of the Working Group in an observer capacity. The Working Group or the Bureau on behalf of the Working Group may invite experts, as well as representatives of specialized international organizations to attend its meetings as observers.

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This invitation is sent to addressees of all FAO Members of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as prescribed in the official channels of communication of FAO, as follows:

**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 invitation is also being sent to heads of selected international organizations.

The Fourteenth Regular Session of the Commission (April 2013), requested the Working Group to meet prior to the next Session to, *inter alia*, consider: (i) progress in the implementation and monitoring of the *Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, including draft guidelines for national plant genetic resources strategies and seed policy formulation; the establishment of global network(s) for *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources; and higher order composite indices for plant genetic resources; (ii) a detailed outline of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*; and (iii) a number of cross-sectorial matters. The Provisional Agenda for the Seventh Session of the Working Group is enclosed.

In line with the Organization's objective to minimize the environmental impact of FAO's processes and to contribute to climate neutrality, the Seventh Session of the Working Group will be a paper-smart meeting, i.e. the use of paper at all stages of the meeting will be greatly reduced. Participants are requested to bring their own documents to the meetings, as hard copies will not be available. All meeting and background documents, including in-session documents, will be published on-line at:

<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/itwg/en/>.

The Director-General would appreciate receiving the names, official titles and addresses of the representatives designated to attend the Session by 16 May 2014 at the latest. Online registration will be available through the password-protected Permanent Representatives Website at <http://permreps.fao.org>. Please note that online registration requires the uploading of a recent passport-size digital photograph. Representatives from international organizations designated to attend the meeting as observers are requested to forward their names, official titles and addresses by email to: [ITWG-PGRFA@fao.org](mailto:ITWG-PGRFA@fao.org), together with a recent passport-size digital photograph.

Participants requiring visas must obtain these from the Italian Consulate or competent Diplomatic Mission in their country before leaving for Rome. Visa applications must be submitted well in advance of departure, as up to three weeks or more may be required for an Italian visa to be issued. Exclusively those participants traveling from a country where there is no Italian Consulate or other competent Diplomatic Mission may obtain a visa on arrival in Rome, provided that they advise the Secretariat of the meeting of their full name, date of birth, nationality, passport number, issue and expiry dates, flight number, date and hour of arrival and their full travel itinerary, which must not include any other Schengen country. This information must reach FAO at least three weeks before the arrival of participants to permit FAO to request that a visa be issued at Rome airport. Participants failing to comply with the above will not be allowed to enter Italy by the Italian authorities.