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Our Ref.: AGP/GPA-12

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations presents its compliments to the National Focal Points for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) and has the honour to refer to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which was 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 13th Regular Session, considered the *Draft Revised Genebank Standards for the Conservation of Orthodox Seeds* (*Draft Revised Genebank Standards*)*.* The Commissionthanked FAO for preparing the *Draft Revised Genebank Standards* in cooperation with the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other relevant international institutions and recognized that the revised genebank standards would be a highly useful instrument for facilitating the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

While commending the technical quality and presentation of the *Draft Revised Genebank Standards*, the Commission requested FAO to provide in addition draft standards on “evaluation” in order to achieve more comprehensiveness. The Commission recommended that any further inputs be provided through an electronic consultation prior to the next session of its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The Organization wishes to draw attention to the updated *Draft Revised Genebank Standards* *for the Conservation of Orthodox Seeds* which contain a new section on evaluation standards. The document may be downloaded from the FAO website at: <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/en/>

Countries and relevant international organizations are invited to provide further inputs and comments on the updated *Draft Revised Genebank Standards* by 19 December 2011, by e-mail or fax:

E-mail: ITWG-PGRFA@fao.org

Fax: +39 06 570 56499

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the National Focal Point for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture the assurance of its highest consideration.

11 November 2011