



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Convention on
Biological Diversity

The International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol: Supporting mutual supportiveness in the implementation of both instruments at the national level

Expert Workshop

Organized by:

ABS Capacity Development Initiative

In collaboration with:

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

**Secretariat of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)**

Hosted by:

Bioversity International

29 to 31 January 2013, Bioversity International, Rome, Italy

Background

Following the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol in October 2010 the development and implementation of regulatory ABS frameworks at national level will need to ensure that any legislative, administrative or policy measures taken are consistent and mutually supportive facilitating the national implementation of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). This is also reflected by the increasing number of requests for support from policy makers and administrators in developing countries for setting up such coherent and mutually supportive regulatory frameworks at national level.

The special nature of agricultural biodiversity is highlighted in several preambular paragraphs and duly considered in Articles 4 and 8 of the Nagoya Protocol. The Governing Body of the International Treaty has repeatedly emphasized the necessity for close cooperation and coordination between the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA. The CBD Secretariat is currently focusing its efforts towards promoting the ratification and entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, including through collaboration with the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA in the organization of capacity building workshops. The work of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative is currently focused on assisting countries in their efforts towards the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

The expert workshop will explore issues related to the interface between the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol and will seek to shed light on the potential issues for consideration with a view to promoting the harmonious implementation of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol. In addition to that, the expert workshop will endeavor to identify some basic parameters for national measures to achieve mutual supportiveness in the implementation of the two instruments.

With a view to inform the discussions during the expert workshop, a background paper will be jointly developed by Bioversity International and the Fridtjof-Nansen-Institute analyzing the interface between

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the Nagoya Protocol and the Treaty at the international level especially with regards to the scope of the two instruments. The second part of the paper elaborates on approaches taken by countries to implement the ITPGRFA at national level highlight issues for consideration in order to ensure mutual supportiveness in the implementation of both instruments.

Objectives

Against this background, the expert workshop aims at increasing the understanding of the inter-linkages between the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol with a view to support their implementation in a mutually supportive manner by regulators and other relevant actors involved in national implementation processes. It is expected that the outcomes of this workshop can be utilized in future capacity development activities of the workshop organizers. In order to support coherent messages the workshop is designed specifically to

- discuss and elaborate approaches for regulating access and benefit-sharing for PGRFA at the national level, and
- further discuss and elaborate on the relation between Farmers' Rights and the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol on traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

Expected Outputs

- Elements for a technical paper providing advice/guidance to the relevant national actors in supporting the mutual supportiveness in the implementation of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol at national level.
- Outline how future capacity development activities could be designed to support mutual supportiveness in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and the ITPGRFA.

Participants

Up to 30 experts will be invited in their personal capacities of relevance for developing and implementing the ITPGRFA and the ABS provisions of the CBS and specifically the Nagoya Protocol at national level.

Contact

Dr. Andreas Drews
Manager, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Postfach 5180 – 65762 Eschborn – Germany

T +49 (6196) 79-1363

E andreas.drews@giz.de

I www.abs-initiative.info