



Convention on
Biological Diversity



THE ABS
CAPACITY
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INITIATIVE



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POUR L'APA

Embedding mutually supportive implementation of the Plant Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol in the context of broader national policy goals –

A workshop for national teams of policy actors

jointly organized by the

ABS Capacity Development Initiative and Bioversity International

in cooperation with the African Union Commission and the Secretariats of the CBD and the ITPGRFA

16 to 20 November 2015

International Livestock Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Background

The coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) in October 2014 initiated renewed efforts to develop and implement access and benefit sharing mechanisms at the national level. At the same time, many countries are also working to develop policies and processes to implement the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Legislative, administrative or policy measures to implement both instruments need to be consistent and mutually supportive. So far, in a number of countries, implementation efforts have been challenged by uncertainties about how to address the interface between these systems and delayed national processes.

To address these challenges, the organizers of this workshop have supported previous efforts to bring together experts, stakeholders, and policy makers to develop tools and methods in support of coordinated, mutually supportive implementation. In 2014, they organized a workshop for national ITPGRFA and CBD/NP focal points from 20 countries with a wide range of stakeholders whose daily work requires smooth co-implementation.¹ Considerably more work is required in this area to develop best practices, options and

¹ A full account of the outcomes of the meeting is provided in 'Mutually supportive implementation of the Plant Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol: A primer for National Focal Points and other stakeholders' available online: <http://www.bioversityinternational.org/e-library/publications/detail/mutually-supportive-implementation-of-the-plant-treaty-and-the-nagoya-protocol/>.

In 2013, the same group organized an expert workshop called 'The International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol: Supporting mutual supportiveness in the implementation of both instruments at the national level'. See the report and related documents at <http://www.abs-initiative.info/stakeholders-and-topics/agriculture>

models for policy makers to take into consideration when developing their national policies to implement these two agreements.

At the same time, however, it is critically important that access and benefit sharing policy making and implementation does not take place in a national policy vacuum, divorced from other national objectives and planning processes. The implementation of the ITPGRFA and the CBD/NP can and should be complementary to, and integrated with, countries' national planning processes for sustainably using and conserving biological diversity, addressing food security challenges in the context of climate change, rural economic development and poverty alleviation. It is also critically important to scale-up discussions about mutually supportive implementation of these two agreements and their links to regional efforts to address climate change, sustainable use, etc. Indeed, these were all conclusions that national ITPGRFA and CBD/NP focal points emphasized at the 2014 workshop referred to above.

Objectives

Against this background, this 'national teams workshop' aims at increasing awareness about the CBD/Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA/MLS with key actors in finance and national planning processes related to climate change adaptation, NBSAPs, and rural development, and to promote cross-fertilization in national planning and policy making processes where access and benefit sharing has potential to make important contributions.

In particular, the workshop will provide national teams with opportunities to:

- identify areas of common interest in national policy development, with a particular focus on how ABS can play a supporting role for realizing sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity, climate change adaptation, poverty alleviation and rural development goals;
- identify options for mutually supportive administrative processes and cooperation between i) the agencies responsible for implementing access and benefit sharing measures pursuant to the ITPGRFA and Nagoya Protocol, ii) lead agencies responsible for other relevant national planning processes, and iii) other stakeholders;
- discuss and elaborate possible proposals for funding from the GEF and other donors to address complementary policy development where access and benefit sharing has a role to play.

Expected Outcomes

It is expected that the outcomes of this workshop will have a positive impact on national processes for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA in ways that complement and support not only the objectives of those two agreements, but also complementary national objectives related to agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use, climate change adaptation, poverty alleviation, etc.

It is expected that in the period following the workshop, national teams will continue with plans commenced during the workshop that involve closer coordination and long term planning, including project proposal development.

The workshop will also generate useful information and reflections – in the form of workshop report, policy briefs, and information sheets -- for national policy makers interested in linking up national planning and policy development across a number of potential sectors and fields of interest.

Methodology/Process

Participant selection

The workshop will likely only be able to accommodate ten national teams (of up to five members each). We will circulate an invitation for expressions of interest to African focal points for the ITPGRFA and CBD/NP. The focal points will also be tasked to recruit 2-3 additional country colleagues from the following fields:

- A representative from the department responsible for **climate change adaptation planning in the agricultural sector**, someone who has been or is engaged in developing the national adaptation programme of action (NAPA).
- A representative from the **national planning authority** – responsible for national development planning in relation to scientific research (e.g. identification of national research priorities, development of domestic research capacity), poverty reduction and national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
- The **GEF operational focal point** – they are responsible for the operational aspects of GEF activities such as endorsing project proposals to affirm that they are consistent with national plans and priorities and facilitating GEF coordination, integration and consultation at the country level. A full list of GEF focal points is available online: https://www.thegef.org/gef/focal_points_list.

Pre-workshop survey and information sharing

After being selected, a very short survey will be sent to individual members of national teams concerning their perceptions of the ABS measures implementing the CBD/NP and ITPGRFA/MLS in their countries, linkages to other national policy development processes, challenges faced, and future opportunities. Responses will be compiled, synthesized and presented to participants during the first day of meeting.

Some key references will be circulated before the meeting as required reading.

Workshop process

Focus of the workshop will be on experience exchange and joint learning. To this end, participants will be led through a series of participatory exercises, sometimes as country-based teams, sometimes in groups with their counterparts from other countries, sometimes grouped together on the basis of a particular thematic interest (e.g. sustainable use, poverty alleviation, climate change, etc.) Participants will explore the links between ABS and national planning processes through, for example, the role of planning in identifying genetic resources in the country that could be of interest externally, or genetic resources needs for climate change adaptation.

Building on the interface scenarios examined in the previous workshop, participants will also work on ideas for proposals for GEF and other donors that assist with mutually supportive implementation of the IT and the NP, incorporating the ideas from the workshop and building on existing GEF- and other donors funded ABS, climate change, poverty alleviation and sustainable use-related projects being implemented in their countries.

Considering the recent adoption of the AU Strategic Guidelines on the Coherent Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, participants will have the opportunity to reflect their initial ideas and proposals with relevant AUC officials, including the Permanent Representative Committee with a view to raise awareness at political level on mutually supportive implementation of both instruments.

The specific subjects and topics will be introduced by representatives of the organizing institutions and selected resource persons from relevant stakeholder groups, such as gene banks, private sector (e.g. breeders), research, civil society and indigenous peoples and local communities.

Simultaneous interpretation English/French/English will be available for most of the workshop sessions.

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