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THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY AND THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL – A TANDEM WORKSHOP FOR NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS

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The adoption of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) in 2010 initiated renewed efforts to develop and implement the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) through regulatory ABS frameworks at the national level. At the same time, legislative, administrative or policy measures to implement the NP need to be consistent and mutually supportive with other existing ABS instruments, in particular with the national implementation of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), which establishes a multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). 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.

An expert workshop, which took place from 29 to 31 January 2013 at Bioversity International in Rome, Italy, already explored issues related to the interface between the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol and shed light on the potential issues for consideration with a view to promoting the harmonious implementation of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol. Moreover, the workshop stimulated fruitful discussions between different actors involved in the implementation of the ITPGRFA and the NP and succeeded in gaining commitments to future collaboration, including a tandem workshop for National Focal

Points of the ITPGRFA (IT NFPs) and the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP ABS NFPs) on the mutually supportive implementation of both instruments.

OBJECTIVES

Against this background, the tandem workshop aims at increasing the understanding of the interface of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA's multilateral system (MLS) of access and benefit-sharing. In more detail the objectives of the workshop are:

- to gain a better understanding of the two different ABS systems under the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol
- to identify the core issues at the interface of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol (e.g. complementary scope of coverage, non-Annex I crops, voluntary inclusion of PGRFA into the MLS, requests for PGRFA for non-food/non-feed purposes ...)
- to discuss and elaborate approaches for mutually supportive administrative processes and cooperation between i) the relevant agencies responsible for implementing access and benefit sharing measures pursuant to the ITPGRFA and Nagoya Protocol, and ii) lead agencies and other stakeholders

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

It is expected that the outcomes of this workshop will have a positive impact on the national processes by bringing together the respective national focal points and thus triggering direct discussions and concrete cooperation. Further, the results can be utilized in future capacity development activities of the workshop organizers, including elements for a joint fact sheet providing technical guidance to the relevant national actors on mutual supportive implementation of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol at national level.