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SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION FROM THE THIRD NATIONAL REPORTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In decision VIII/23, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and in consultation with other relevant international organizations, to prepare the full review of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, and in decision VIII/15 (annex III) provided guidelines for the review of the programmes of work of the Convention which include consideration of relevant information available through national reports. The primary aim of this review is to determine progress made towards the objectives of the Convention within its thematic areas. In addition to reviewing progress made, the review also aims to identify barriers and gaps to implement the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and the capacity-building priorities to address these barriers.

2. A summary and analysis of the in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity is provided in the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/2). The current document has been prepared by the Executive Secretary to provide further details of relevant information available in the third national reports. Section II provides details on the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and associated decisions, and section III provides a summary and conclusions.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1.

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II. INFORMATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY AND ASSOCIATED DECISIONS IN THE THIRD NATIONAL REPORTS

3. As defined in the appendix of decision V/5, agricultural biodiversity is a broad term that includes all components of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture, and all components of biological diversity that constitute the agro-ecosystem: the variety and variability of animals, plants and microorganisms, at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels, which are necessary to sustain key functions of agro-ecosystems, its structure and processes, in accordance with annex I of decision III/11 of the Conference of the Parties.

4. The current programme of work was structured in order to address the complexity of agricultural biodiversity using the ecosystem approach. Its four elements (assessment, adaptive management, capacity-building and mainstreaming) are intended to be mutually reinforcing; outputs of certain elements would feed into others. Accordingly, the ordering of the elements does not imply sequential implementation. However, prioritization of activities within each programme element is necessary as set out in the section on ways and means and timing of expected outputs.

5. The importance of the application of the ecosystem approach to implement the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (annex V to decision V/5) implies, *inter alia*, intersectoral cooperation, decentralization of management to the lowest level appropriate, equitable distribution of benefits, and the use of adaptive management policies that can deal with uncertainties and are modified in the light of experience and changing conditions.

6. This review is based on 130 national reports submitted to the Secretariat before 14 September 2007. Fifteen questions were asked to Parties on the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity: twelve questions related to the programme elements and the international initiatives (assessment, adaptive management, capacity-building and mainstreaming, and plan of action on pollinators), two questions related to other activities linked to the programme of work (genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) and national strategies) and one question related to the broad implementation of the programme of work (see annex I below).

Programme element 1: Assessment

7. The operational objective of programme element 1 is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the status and trends of the world's agricultural biodiversity, to identify the underlying causes of loss (including a focus on the goods and services provided by agricultural biodiversity), as well as of local knowledge of its management. Four questions (numbered 163 to 166) in the third national report requested information on specific activities undertaken to implement this programme element.

8. Most Parties (80 per cent 1/) reported having undertaken assessments of different components of agricultural biodiversity, in particular plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture (activity 1.1).

(a) Regarding plant genetic resources, examples of assessed components were cereals, grasses, vegetables, fruits and fruit trees, including wild relatives of plant species, traditional and local cultivars and medicinal plants.

(b) Regarding animal genetic resources, examples of assessed components were livestock, farm animal breeds and fish, including local races and wild relatives of animal species. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reported assessments on alien species affecting agriculture.

1/ All the following percentage are based on the 130 third national reports submitted by Parties before 14 Sept. 2007.

(c) Only few Parties (10 per cent) mentioned assessment of soil biodiversity, including microorganisms important for agro-products, food processing and nitrogen cycling. For example, Tunisia mentioned having assessed the presence of *Rhizobium*, which is useful in leguminous symbiosis.

(d) It should be noted that many Parties mentioned their involvement to the FAO State of the World's Animal and Plant Genetic Resources as a way to implement this activity.

9. Parties also developed specific assessments of additional components of agricultural biodiversity that provide ecological services, including targeted assessments on pollinators (17 per cent), pest management (29 per cent) and nutrient cycling (15 per cent) (Activity 1.2).

(a) Some Parties reported genetic resources assessments for pollinators; others mentioned pollinators related activities such as taxonomy studies and restoration and management of specific habitats and species.

(b) Regarding pest management, Parties reported specific assessments of invertebrate and vertebrate pests (e.g. grasshoppers, various lepidopterans pests, white grubs, badgers, cormorants, mute swans, deers, brown rats, wild boars and weeds) and their management. Pest management practices mainly included Integrated Pest Management (IPM), but also mixed and companion cropping, sustainable management of field cropping, biological control and use of biological products (microbial, medicinal plants).

(c) Parties that have undertaken assessments of nutrient cycling have focused on specific nutrients (nitrate, phosphorus) and/or specific crops (corn, pineapple, tropical fruits).

10. Many Parties (58 per cent) carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security (Activity 1.3).

(a) Examples of knowledge, innovations and practices assessed included agro-environmental practices (e.g. conservation of crops, manure storage, manure application, water management, and sustainable land management practices), use of neglected and underutilized crop species, animal technologies and impacts of minor crops on the lives and livelihoods of farmers. India for instance, carried out between 2000 and 2003 a project that allowed the collection, the classification and documentation of 2000 indigenous technical knowledge in diverse agrobiodiversity related thematic areas, such as water management, storage of seeds, cropping systems, soil fertility management, tillage practices, fisheries, veterinary and animal husbandry, ethnic foods, housing materials, thermal efficiency and fuel management;

(b) Some Parties mentioned the implementation of training programmes for farmers to increase their knowledge; examples of topics addressed included food processing, fruit trees propagation, beekeeping, water use and the utilization of up-to-date technologies into agriculture;

(c) In addition, two Parties mentioned the social and economic issues related to agrobiodiversity: Ethiopia reported ethno-biological studies of traditional farming systems, and Malaysia reported a socio-economic study to understand farmers' choices of maintaining traditional varieties and land races. Few Parties reported the implementation of programmes to protect and promote traditional and indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices; others mentioned the positive outcomes related to the promotion of traditional and regional products on the trade market, in media campaign or in national culinary contests.

11. Many Parties (65 per cent) have undertaken assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and habitats, species and communities and genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance (Activity 1.4).

(a) Ecosystems and habitats of importance that were mentioned included forests, hills, river meadows, peatlands, wetlands, bush lands, semi-natural grassland, and ecosystems and habitats in protected areas;

(b) Species and communities mentioned included birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrate groups, herbal plants and other plants. Examples of findings include, *inter alia*, the significant increase of the associated plant species (in particular herbaceous plants) in organic plots of winter crop compared to conventional production in an Austrian research project, and the conservation and sustainable use of plant biodiversity made possible by traditional agricultural practices such as mixed-cropping in Mexico. In addition, in Denmark, the benefits of organic farming on biodiversity have been evaluated for birds, mammals, groups of insects, herbs, and soil biodiversity;

(c) Information on genes and genomes was provided on the genetic characteristics of Bambara groundnut, coriander, date palm, okra, sesame, lupin, roselle, tamarind, watermelon, corn, cotton, soy, and certain landrace animal breeds. These genetic studies were undertaken to assess the potential economic value of these species, as well as the potential to increase the quality of life of farmers through, for example, increases in protein content in certain crops;

(d) Few Parties reported socio-economic studies to evaluate the capability of farming systems to provide environmental protection and economic viability. For example, how natural soil biodiversity improves soil structure and agricultural production, and the important role played by neglected and under-utilized species in the national economy and benefit to farmers;

(e) Details on the tools and indicators developed and/or used to assess and monitor the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity were very limited.

12. Many Parties (62 per cent) have monitored the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity and other components of biodiversity in agro-ecosystems since 1993 when the Convention entered into force (Activity 1.5). Among these, 22 per cent observed no changes since 1993, whereas 50 per cent observed an overall degradation. Nevertheless, 28 per cent of the Parties reported efforts to restore and rehabilitate agricultural biodiversity and other components of biodiversity in agro-ecosystems.

(a) Examples of degradation included a decline in the population of wild plants, endemic species and crop wild relatives, an overall decline in birds in agricultural areas, a major decline in butterfly populations in grasslands, the genetic erosion of cereals and grapes, the reduction of soil fertility, the degradation of water quality and landscape structure, desertification and salinization. Few Parties cited the direct and indirect causes of biodiversity loss, including overexploitation of land and water, overgrazing, excessive recreational activities, construction works, overuse of chemicals, introduction of invasive alien species, migration of farmers, social and market factors, climate change, and lack of effective laws, policies, technologies and awareness.

(b) Parties who reported restoration and rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity supported their assessment with examples of restored natural sites, grasslands, field margins, meadows, pastures, wetlands, increases in local races and reintroduced species. Successful restoration of agricultural biodiversity is reported to be partly due to the use of traditional knowledge, to the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of animal and plant genetic resources, and to economic incentives to use local races. In addition, Cote d'Ivoire reported a decrease in ecosystem degradation from the reduction of bush fires as a result of enhanced public-awareness.

(c) Few Parties mentioned the development of agro-environmental indicators to determine changing environmental conditions within agricultural ecosystems, and the reasons for these changes in order to best inform and guide policy-makers. Furthermore, only few Parties mentioned data and information exchange on agricultural biodiversity using *ex situ* collections or databases.

13. Significant progress has been made to assess components of agricultural biodiversity, in particular plant and animal genetic resources, mainly as a contribution to the FAO's State of the World's Genetic Resources. However, despite many ongoing activities, more work still needs to be done to develop specific assessments of microbial genetic resources and components of agricultural biodiversity which provide ecosystems services such as pollination, pest management and nutrient cycling.

Furthermore, even though Parties reported on the different components that were assessed, most of them did not provide details on the findings of these assessments and the methodologies developed for specific assessments.

14. A number of Parties reported planned, ongoing or completed activities toward the implementation of activity 1.3 (Carry out an assessment of knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security), activity 1.4 (Promote and develop assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity), and activity 1.5 (Develop methods and techniques for assessing and monitoring the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity and other components of biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems). However, very little information was provided on methodologies, tools and indicators developed and used to assess and monitor the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity and the underlying causes of loss, including social, economic and environmental causes and their interactions. Furthermore, Parties provided little information on the findings of these assessments.

15. Factors contributing to the successful implementation of the activities under this programme element were reported to be partly due to:

(a) Cooperation with relevant international organizations, in particular CGIAR, IPGRI, ICARDA, ACSAD, UNDP, OECD, and GTZ (see annex III below for a list of abbreviations and acronyms);

(b) Financial support from GEF, the World Bank, IDRC;

(c) Participation to national and international works (e.g. FAO's work as part of the preparation of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture) and networks on the components of agricultural biodiversity; and

(d) Implementation of national programmes, laws and policies.

16. Only a few Parties identified obstacles to the implementation of the activities under this programme element, including:

(a) Lack of national assessments and coordinated monitoring of the components of agricultural biodiversity, in particular indigenous plant and animal species, microorganisms, pollinators, pests, and organisms involved in nutrient cycling;

(b) Lack of technical (e.g. Specialists in microorganisms identification and monitoring) and methodological (such as lack of appropriate and widely accepted agro-environmental indicators) resources;

(c) Lack of awareness of the goods and services provided by the different levels and functions of agricultural biodiversity, especially its socioeconomic value;

(d) Lack of political recognition of the role and contributions of local agricultural practices in biodiversity conservation; and

(e) Lack of coordination amongst responsible agencies and lack of coherence between policy, legal and regulatory frameworks.

17. In addition, technological change and increasing trade are accelerating the loss of traditional agro-ecological knowledge, especially among the younger generations.

Programme element 2: Adaptive management

18. The operational objective of programme element 2 is to identify management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods, by expanding knowledge,

understanding and awareness of the multiple goods and services provided by the different levels and functions of agricultural biodiversity. Only one question (numbered 167) in the third national report requested information on activities undertaken to implement this programme element.

19. Many Parties (68 per cent) have identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods (operational objective).

(a) Management practices were identified by 62 per cent of the Parties, and included agro-environmental measures, economic incentives, promotion of traditional farming practices, education and communication, and implementation of networks. Information on agro-environmental measures were reported to be related to agricultural friendly management, organic farming, integrated pest management, agro-forestry management, biodiversity monitoring program, use of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides, conservation tillage, biological control, zero burning, integrated crop livestock system, crop rotation, mixed cropping, rainwater harvesting. Examples of economic incentives included subsidies or reduction in annual lease fees offered to farmers using environmentally safe practices, traditional techniques, rare landrace breeds and field crops. Training for farmers on integrated pest management, organic farming and specific agricultural techniques was undertaken. China reported economic, social and ecological benefits of agricultural friendly management.

(b) 13 per cent of Parties reported on the identification of technologies, including genetic tools to improve crop varieties, efficient irrigation systems, efficient and proper agro-chemicals, and the use of a geographic information system for agricultural management. However, very few provided detailed information on these technologies.

(c) Some Parties (25 per cent) reported policies in relation with biodiversity conservation, use and conservation of plant and animal genetic resources, good professional agricultural practices, use of agro-chemicals and manure, irrigation, and the distribution and use of genetically modified organisms. Some Parties of the European Union implemented the EU regulation on agro-environmental measures.

(d) Canada referred to its Environmental Health programme, which aims to develop knowledge and technologies that minimize the impact of agricultural production on soil, air, water and biodiversity while maintaining the sustainability of the sector. Australia mentioned the implementation of a network of rural industries research and development corporations and companies to invest in research and development promoting internationally competitive and environmentally sustainable practices.

20. In the synthesis of the second national reports, adaptive management was pointed out as an area for improvement (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/9). The third national reports confirmed that many Parties have made progress in the implementation of this programme element. However, as only one question requested information on adaptive management in the third national report, comments provided by Parties did not cover all activities of adaptive management, thereby providing only a limited overview of activities effectively undertaken by Parties.

21. The first activity in this programme element is to carry out a series of case studies to improve understanding of the multiple goods and services provided by the different levels and functions of agricultural biodiversity and the interaction between its various components. It should be noted that very few Parties have officially submitted case studies to the Secretariat under the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. Furthermore, few activities were reported to identify key goods and services provided by agricultural biodiversity, needs for the conservation and sustainable use of components of this biodiversity in agro-ecosystems, threats to such diversity, as well as activities to monitor and assess the actual and potential impacts of existing and new agricultural technologies.

22. In addition, very little information was provided on the activities undertaken to implement activity 2.2 which aims to identify and promote the dissemination of information on cost-effective practices and technologies, and related policy and incentive measures, and activity 2.3, which aims to

promote methods for sustainable agriculture, with particular focus on the needs of farmers and indigenous and local communities.

23. Successful activities have been reported to be partly due to the cooperation and financial support of relevant international organization, such as USAID, UNEP, GEF, WTO and the World Bank, and the implementation of European Union policies.

24. Very few Parties specified obstacles for the implementation of this programme element on adaptive management; these included:

(a) Lack of technical, methodological and financial resources;

(b) Lack of extension and dissemination programmes;

(c) Slow progress in implementation of policies; and

(d) Influence of factors such as climatic changes that restrained identification of management practices, technologies and policies.

Programme element 3: Capacity-building

25. The operational objective of programme element 3 is to strengthen the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to sustainably manage agricultural biodiversity in order to increase the benefits, and to promote awareness and responsible action. Three questions (numbered 168 to 170) in the third national report requested information on activities undertaken to implement this programme element.

26. Most Parties (72 per cent) have increased the capacity of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to sustainably manage agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for *in situ* conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity (Activity 3.2).

(a) Areas and components where capacity has been enhanced cover agricultural biodiversity management (animal and plant genetic resources, water, land, and vegetation), conversion to organic farming, public awareness, desertification, agro-forestry and traditional practices. Moreover, target groups reported by Parties included crop and livestock farmers, indigenous and local communities, farmers' organizations, farming technicians, rural women and other stakeholders including food industries.

(b) Specific strategies and methodologies for *in situ* conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biodiversity developed and/or used by Parties were related to training, awareness-raising and diffusion activities, implementation of policies and economic incentives. Examples of training topics included organic farming practices, integrated pest and crop management, management and protection of crop wild relatives, endangered breeds and field crops, application of new technologies, use of traditional knowledge for *in situ* conservation, women's role in relation to *in situ* conservation and geographic information system (GIS) applications for management of agrobiodiversity. Ethiopia emphasized the successful training of 3883 farmers (of which 16 per cent were women) on the conservation of plant genetic resources, in particular related to the use of traditional knowledge for *in situ* conservation for instance. Examples of diffusion and awareness-raising activities included the publication of books, newsletters, leaflets, scientific papers, media campaigns, and the creation of farmers' associations and networks. Examples of policies included protection of plant varieties and wild crop relatives, sustainable food and farming, animal welfare measures and organic farming schemes. Economic incentives were put in place to raise awareness, develop and provide information, enhance skills and provide support to farmers.

27. Many Parties (68 per cent) had not yet put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. Nonetheless, 16 per cent of the Parties reported that

some mechanisms were under development and 22 per cent reported that potential mechanisms had been identified.

28. Less than one third of the Parties (28 per cent) improved the policy environment to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity (Activity 3.4). Among these, 15 per cent established benefit-sharing arrangements and 19 per cent developed incentives measures.

(a) Examples of measures and arrangements improved in the policy environment included conservation of plant and animal genetic resources, indigenous peoples' right, agro-forestry, management agreements to sustain grassland birds, management of parcel edges, conservation of small-scale landscape elements, environmentally-friendly farming development, management of low-intensity pasture systems, integrated farm management and organic agriculture, preservation of landscape and historical features such as hedgerows, ditches and woods, and conservation of high-value habitats and their associated biodiversity.

(b) Even though several Parties reported no improvement in their policy environment, many of them identified policies, including genetic resources conservation, farmers and indigenous peoples' rights, participatory approaches to rural development and poverty reduction, and integrated farm management.

(c) Some Parties established access to benefit-sharing activities and provided economic incentives to farmers to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity. Economic incentives were provided to farmers for conservation and cultivation of fruits and medicinal plants, development of seed banks, conservation of soil, planting or enhancing native buffer strips, establishment of improved grazing systems and wildlife shelterbelt and conversion of environmentally sensitive land to perennial cover. Very little information was provided on benefit-sharing arrangements.

29. Important progress on capacity-building activities was observed, particularly in enhancing the capacity of farmers, indigenous and local communities and their organizations and other stakeholders to sustainably manage agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for *in situ* conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity with nearly three quarters of the Parties reporting on this activity.

30. However, improving the policy environment to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity was not well implemented. Very few Parties reported on access to benefit-sharing and economic incentives, highlighting an area in which improvements are needed.

31. As questions did not cover all the activities under this programme element, very little information was provided by Parties on the promotion of partnerships among researchers, extension workers and farmers in research and development programmes for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture, the promotion of networks of farmers and farmers' organizations to exchange information and experiences, and opportunities for farmers and local communities to participate in the development and implementation of national strategies, plans and programmes for agricultural biodiversity. Moreover, awareness about the value of agricultural biodiversity seems to be most often focusing on one component of agricultural biodiversity, whereas the programme of work emphasizes the need to promote the multiple goods and services provided by the different levels and functions of agricultural biodiversity.

32. Successful capacity development has been reported to be partly due to the cooperation between farmers and Government, nature museums, industries, research institutions, NGOs and extension officers, and the cooperation and financial support of relevant international organization, such as World Bank, GEF, SEARICE, USAID, and GTZ.

33. Main obstacles reported by a few Parties in the implementation of the programme element on capacity-building included:

(a) Lack of relevant implementation for economic incentives and benefit-sharing application;

(b) Slow policy change and implementation;

(c) Difficulties in integrating policies across different sectors.

Programme element 4: Mainstreaming

34. The operational objective of programme element 4 is to support the development of national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and to promote their mainstreaming and integration into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes. Three questions (numbered 171 to 173) in the third national report requested information on the implementation of this programme element.

35. Many Parties (57 per cent) reported having mainstreamed or integrated national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes (operational objective).

(a) Half of the Parties cited specific sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes dealing with, for example, rural development, poverty reduction, economic development, desertification, protected areas, forests, fresh and marine water, science and technology, sport and tourism, soil conservation and air and atmosphere. National plans and strategies mainstreamed or integrated into these sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes included consideration of environment, sustainable development, plant genetic resources and rural and agricultural development.

(b) Few Parties also mentioned the development of tools to promote public awareness and to assist the different sectors involved in integrating national plans and strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, such as guides, information systems and the creation of technical and advisory expert groups.

36. Most Parties (81 per cent) reported that their country is supporting the institutional framework, policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and action plans for biodiversity (Activity 4.1), through the implementation of one or several activities depending on the country.

(a) 46 per cent of the Parties supported institutions, such as agricultural research stations, agricultural college, universities and the private sector, in the conduct of relevant assessments on the status and trends of agricultural biodiversity.

(b) The following results were found regarding the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and actions for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity:

- 42 per cent of the Parties reported on the policy and planning guidelines developed, including those on rural development, organic farming and integrated pest management, conservation and management of plant and animal genetic resources, and medicinal plants, as well as guidelines on bioprospecting and agro-chemicals management;
- 24 per cent of the Parties reported on the development of training materials including, *inter alia*, on the conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources, medicinal plants and pollinators, organic farming and integrated pest management, and appropriate animal keeping;
- 29 per cent of the Parties reported on their capacity-building initiatives at the policital, technical and local levels, including discussion groups and networks on plant and animal genetic resources, and promotional campaigns for best management practices and specific products and policies.

(c) 32 per cent of the Parties promoted synergies in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessments and intergovernmental processes. Examples included implementation of interdepartmental and intergovernmental committees on agricultural health and food

safety or agro-environmental measures, and enhanced collaboration through information networks composed of Governments, private sector, research sector, local public authorities, farmers, stakeholders, and community organizations.

(d) Few Parties provided additional comments on policy and planning mechanisms to mainstream agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, on the increased awareness of farmers and citizens following the implementation of policies or networks, and an increased collaboration with private sector, productivity and food security.

37. Many Parties (69 per cent) promoted activities for the conservation, *in situ* and/or *ex situ*, in particular in the countries of origin, of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives (Activity 4.4).

(a) Nearly half of the Parties reported activities on *ex situ* conservation related to gene and seed banks, and germplasm collections, as well as activities to document and evaluate genetic resources. Only a few Parties mentioned their participation in the Millennium Seed Project (2 Parties) and the Nordic Gene Bank (4 Parties). Cooperation was reported especially among the Northern European countries, through participation in the Genebank Committee of the European Association for Research in Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA) and the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR).

(b) Nearly half of the Parties also reported activities on *in situ* conservation, including on-farm conservation (such as conservation of wild rice, wild wheat, fruit, wild coffee, millet, peas, sorghum, tea, medicinal plant, wild crop relatives, chicken, cattle, horse, sheep) and conservation in protected areas. Conserving the wild habitats and ecosystems has been reported to be effective for the conservation of wild crop relatives and fruit trees. Very few Parties reported on farmers' access to financial support for the maintenance of rare plant and animal breeds varieties with high cultural and genetic importance.

(c) Furthermore, a few Parties mentioned awareness-raising activities concerning the value of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, for instance through information networks, catalogues of old crop varieties, booklets and national agricultural contests on the quality of agricultural products, livestock and pets.

38. Progress has been made to mainstream national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes, among others by developing institutional frameworks and policies, as well as planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans. Nonetheless, few activities were carried out to improve consultation, coordination, and information sharing among focal points, lead institutions, relevant technical committees and coordinating bodies within countries.

39. Activities to promote the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of the variability of genetic resources were also enhanced, although insufficient attention appears to have been given to the conservation of wild relative species and species from centers of origin. In addition, as no question was focused on this specific activity, little information was reported on the development or adaptation of relevant systems of information, early warning and communication to enable effective assessment of the state of agricultural biodiversity and related threats, and of appropriate response mechanisms. The same conclusion applies to the enhancement of public awareness on the goods and services provided by agricultural biodiversity, and the value and importance of such diversity for agriculture and for society in general. Therefore, there is a need to improve these activities.

40. The few Parties that reported successful activities partly linked it to the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and to cooperation and financial support from national and international organizations such as UNDP, GTZ, ICRAF, FAO, CGIAR, IPGRI, ICARDA, ACSAD and financial support from GEF.

41. The main obstacles identified by Parties to the implementation of this programme element on mainstreaming included:

(a) Lack of coordination to improve efficiency of sectoral policies;

(b) Lack of synergy between legislation on plant protection products, seeds legislation and legislation on genetically modified organisms;

(c) Lack of a long-term vision within government agencies;

(d) Lack of adequate financial resources; and

(e) Market demands which hinders *ex situ* conservation.

International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators

42. In order to address the issue of worldwide decline of pollinator diversity, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an International Pollinators Initiative as a cross-cutting initiative within the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. The objective is to promote coordinated action worldwide in order to:

(a) Monitor pollinator decline, its causes and its impact on pollination services,

(b) Address the lack of taxonomic information on pollinators,

(c) Assess the economic value of pollination and the economic impact of the decline of pollination services,

(d) promote the conservation and the restoration and sustainable use of pollinator diversity in agriculture and related ecosystems.

43. In the third national report, Box LXV requested information from Parties on the implementation on its Plan of action, also composed of four programme elements (assessment, adaptive management, capacity-building and mainstreaming).

44. Less than one quarter of the Parties reported activities to implement the Plan of Action for the International Pollinator Initiative in their country.

(a) Actions undertaken by Parties included monitoring of the status and trends of pollinators, identification of causes of negative impacts on pollinators (vegetation loss, bee illness, pesticides), conservation activities, identification of management tools that could reduce negative impacts on pollinators (reduction of chemicals, introduction of bee species, use of movable frame hive technology, 'bee safe' label on pesticides), and assessment of goods and services of pollinators.

(b) A few Parties integrated conservation of pollinators into their NBSAP, undertaken international and regional collaboration and promoted awareness projects on pollinators. For example, Canada mentioned both ongoing discussions with the United States and Mexico about the conservation of pollinators in North America and early discussions within the country about the formation of a network for the conservation of pollinators led through the University system. Awareness-raising projects have been undertaken in the form of training and promotion of best management practices to benefit pollinators. Ethiopia specified that 873 extension staff and over 50.000 farmers have been trained to increase their knowledge in beekeeping, and develop skills to improve bee culture and increase the production of honey and beeswax.

45. Only one quarter of Parties mentioned having undertaken activities to implement the Plan of action of the International Pollinators Initiative, and of these, only a few provided details about the activities undertaken. This does not allow a comprehensive overview of the implementation of the Plan of action. While some Parties seem to have made progress, much more work is needed to increase good assessment of genetic resources of pollinators, awareness-raising of goods and services of pollinators, adaptive management of pollinators, capacity-building activities and mainstreaming.

46. Main obstacles identified by Parties in the implementation of the Plan of action included:

(i) lack of expertise and knowledge on pollinators;

(ii) lack of adequate financial and technical resources;

(iii) lack of coordinated monitoring of status and trends of pollinators;

(iv) lack of long-term vision within government agencies; and

(v) lack of awareness of the goods and services of pollinators.

International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity

47. In decision VI/5, the Conference of Parties decided to establish an International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity as a cross-cutting initiative within the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. Its framework of action was endorsed in decision VIII/23, with the following objectives:

(a) Promote awareness-raising, knowledge and understanding of key roles, environmental services, functional groups and impacts of diverse soil management practices, including those performed by indigenous and local communities, in different farming systems and agro-ecological and socio-economic contexts.

(b) Increase understanding of the role of soil biodiversity in agricultural production, traditionally applied land management practices and ecosystem and environmental health.

(c) Promote the understanding of the impacts, ownership, and adaptation of all land use and soil-management practices as an integral part of agricultural and sustainable livelihood strategies.

(d) Promote the mainstreaming of soil biodiversity conservation into land and soil-management practices.

48. In the third national reports, Parties were not requested to provide information on the implementation of this initiative.

Cross-Cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition

49. In decision VIII/23, the Conference of the Parties adopted the framework for a Cross-Cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition to promote and improve the sustainable use of biodiversity in programmes contributing to food security and human nutrition, as a contribution to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 1, Goal 7 and related goals and targets and, thereby, to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity, its conservation and sustainable use. This initiative is to be implemented as a cross-cutting initiative within the existing programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. It is composed of four elements:

(a) Developing and documenting knowledge;

(b) Integration of biodiversity, food and nutrition issues into research and policy instruments;

(c) Conserving and promoting wider use of biodiversity for food and nutrition;

(d) Public awareness.

50. In the third national reports, Parties were not requested to provide information on the implementation of this initiative.

Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs)

51. In decision V/5, the Conference of Parties decided to continue the work on genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) under the umbrella of, and integrated into, each of the four elements of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, and encouraged Parties and Governments to identify ways and means to address the potential impacts of GURTs on the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and

sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biodiversity. One question (numbered 162) in the third national report requested information on the implementation of this activity.

52. Some Parties (25 per cent) identified ways and means to address the potential impacts of GURTs on the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biodiversity.

(a) 22 per cent of the Parties reported ways and means to address the potential impacts of GURTs, including laws and policies, the establishment of Biosafety committees, the establishment of facilities for research on GURTs and the implementation of Environmental Risk Assessment. Examples of policies implemented were related to regulation of research, release of GURTs in the environment, and exportation and importation of GURTs.

(b) A few Parties reported on potential impacts of GURTs and on position of their country regarding GMOs use. These few Parties considered GURTs as any GMOs, with high risks for human health and environment, which are likely to harm indigenous and local communities and could have a high social and political risk (war, terrorism, local conflicts). Furthermore, GMOs and GURTs are not allowed in few countries because of these potential impacts on health and environment.

(c) Among Parties who did not identified ways and means to address the potential impacts of GURTs, some nonetheless reported potential measures under review, such as studies on socio-ecological impacts of GMOs (considering impacts on the environment, the local population, including producers and consumers, and the food-chain), development of National Biosafety Framework, and development of mechanisms of assessment of technological transfer. For example, Poland mentioned having strengthened the institutional potential by proper staff training, by improvement of research and technical qualifications of particular laboratories, by implementation of an electronic information system for the needs of the administrative activities in the sphere of GMOs, and by initiation and implementation of actions improving social awareness of the issues concerning biosafety.

53. Very few Parties (5 per cent) reported factors that contributed to the successful identification of ways and means to address the potential impacts of GURTs on the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, indicating an area for improvement.

54. Only four Parties identified factors that contributed to the successful implementation of this activity, including the cooperation and financial support from UNEP-GEF and the ratification of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

55. Furthermore, only a few Parties identified barriers for the implementation of this activity, including:

(a) Lack of adequate human, technological and financial resources;

(b) Lack of alternative technology, which lead to high pressure by population for use of GMOs;

(c) Lack of monitoring mechanisms.

National strategies, programmes and plans

56. In decision III/11 paragraph 15, Parties were encouraged to develop national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of the components of the agricultural biodiversity. In the third national report, one question (numbered 161) requested information on the implementation of this activity.

57. Most Parties (75 per cent) reported having developed such national strategies, programmes and plans.

(a) National strategies implemented were related to conservation and protection of agricultural biodiversity (including *in situ* and *ex situ* genetic resources conservation), environment, conservation and promotion of local knowledge and skills, promotion of sustainable land and agricultural management practices, and rural and agricultural development. Many Parties mentioned the implementation of their NBSAP which includes the components of the agricultural biodiversity, to contribute to national level decision-making process.

(b) Examples of programmes were mainly related to plant and animal conservation and management (e.g. *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of plant and wild crop relatives genetic resources, benefit-sharing of genetic resources, management and breeding, reintroduction of local varieties), as well as production of ecological agro-food, sustainable land management practices, public awareness, combating desertification, integrated pest management, organic farming and poverty reduction.

(c) Plans implemented were related to rural development, farm genetic resources, organic farming, management of watersheds and awareness management.

58. Although progress was observed to develop and implement national strategies, programmes and plans ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components, only 17 per cent of the Parties reported that comprehensive strategies, programmes and plans are in place, highlighting an area in which improvement can be made.

59. Factors reported to contribute to the successful implementation and to the achievement of outcomes were mainly related to the cooperation and financial support of relevant international (e.g. FAO, IPGRI, ICRAF, IDRC, GTZ and the World Bank) and local organizations.

60. Only a few Parties identified obstacles to the implementation of this activity, including a lack of adequate financial resources and a lack of coordination and intersectoral cooperation.

Broad implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity

61. In the third national report, Box LXVI requested information on the broad implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and associated decisions specifically focusing on: a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; and f) constraints encountered in implementation.

62. More than half of the Parties (55 per cent) elaborated on the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and associated decisions.

(a) 35 per cent of the Parties reported on the outcomes and impacts of actions taken which dealt with development of policies and laws, economic incentives and networks, increase of public awareness, re-valuation of traditional knowledge and the promotion of production of indigenous and local food products, development of partnership with indigenous and local communities, expansion of organic farming, and establishment of gene banks.

(b) 25 per cent of the Parties reported having contributed to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, namely Goal 1 “The Convention is fulfilling its leadership role in international biodiversity issues” (in particular targets 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6), Goal 2 “Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical, and technological capacity to implement the Convention” (in particular targets 2.1 and 2.5), Goal 3 “National biodiversity strategies and action plans and the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors serve as an effective framework for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention“ (in particular targets 3.1 and 3.3) and Goal 4 “There is a better understanding of the importance of biodiversity and of the Convention, and this has led to broader engagement across society in implementation” (in particular targets 4.1 and 4.4).

(c) 20 per cent of the Parties reported having contributed to progress towards the 2010 Target, namely Goal 2 "Promote the conservation of species diversity" (target 2.1), Goal 3 "Promote the conservation of genetic diversity" (target 3.1), Goal 4 "Promote sustainable use and consumption" (targets 4.1 and 4.2), Goal 5 "Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced" (target 5.1), Goal 7 "Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution" (target 7.2), Goal 8 "Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods" (targets 8.1 and 8.2), Goal 9 "Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities" (targets 9.1 and 9.2), Goal 10 "Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources" (target 10.1) and Goal 11 "Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention".

(d) 22 per cent of the Parties reported on progress in implementing NBSAP, and in the integration of programmes on assessment, adaptive management, capacity-building, sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and evaluation of economic benefits in this document. In addition, goals to conserve agricultural genetic resources and enable participation of farmers' organizations, local producers and the indigenous communities were integrated in the NBSAP. Implementation of the NBSAP has led to a strengthening of contributions towards rural development, promotion of organic farming and evaluation of medicinal and culinary properties of herbs.

(e) 13 per cent of the Parties reported on their contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, namely Goal 1 "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger" (target 2) and Goal 7 "Ensure environmental sustainability" (target 9). Brazil also reported on the achievement of Goal 3 "Promote gender equality and empower woman", Goal 4 "Reduce child mortality" and Goal 5 "Improve maternal health". However, very few Parties provided details on how the implementation of the programme on agricultural biodiversity contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

(f) 37 per cent of the Parties reported on the constraints encountered to implement the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. The main constraints identified were lack of adequate financial resources, poor collaboration and knowledge-sharing and lack of political will to implement the programme of work. Other constraints can be classified as:

- lack of adequate assessments, including the lack of national programme, economic assessment of the goods and services, good and widely-used agro-environmental indicators, and coordinated monitoring of status and trends of agricultural biodiversity;
- capacity constraints, including lack of institutional and technical capacity, lack of coherence in political, legal and regulatory frameworks, and lack of coordination amongst responsible agencies;
- inadequate mainstreaming, including lack of synergy within legislation, lack of long-term vision, slow progress in implementation of policies, and difficulties in integrating policies across different agricultural sectors); and
- other constraints, such as illegal cropping, absence of an effective national regime on access and benefit-sharing in conservation, lack of incentives for stakeholders, limited access to environmentally-sound technology, difficulties in transfer of technology, experience and knowledge, and lack of consideration of traditional knowledge.

63. Although many Parties responded to this question and its subsections, very few information and examples were provided to elaborate how the implementation of the programme on agricultural biodiversity contributes to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the Millennium Development Goals.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND COMMENTS

64. Information available from the third national reports suggests that the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity is well underway. Good progress was observed, in particular with regard to the four programme elements (assessment, adaptive management, capacity building and mainstreaming), for which most of the Parties have reported some activities. However, the analysis of the third national reports also highlights some areas where improvements are still needed, including, *inter alia*:

(a) Assessment and awareness-raising of key goods and services provided by the different levels and functions of agricultural biodiversity, in particular components of agricultural biodiversity which provide ecosystem services such as pollination, pest management and nutrient cycling;

(b) Assessment and integration of social and economic aspects related to agricultural biodiversity in policies and strategies, particularly the implementation of benefit-sharing arrangements;

(c) Development and adaptation of relevant systems of information, early warning and communication to enable effective assessment of the state of agricultural biodiversity and threats, and of appropriate response mechanisms;

(d) Support and promotion of local-level management through the improvement of the policy environment and the increase of partnerships and networks among different stakeholders; and

(e) Identification of ways and means to address the potential impact of GURTs on the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.

65. Parties reported that cooperation and the support of relevant international organizations were the main factors in the successful implementation of different activities of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. The main constraints to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity included: (i) the lack of technical, methodological and financial resources; (ii) the lack of awareness about the goods and services provided by agricultural biodiversity and knowledge sharing; and (iii) the lack of political will.

66. Most of the Parties answer to the questions. However, in most cases, they do not elaborate their answers as asked in the third national report. They provide little information on the way to implement the reported activities, especially with regard to the methodologies, tools and indicators developed and used, and to the findings. Consequently, the information reported in this analysis does not necessarily provide a comprehensive view of the situation.

67. Finally, because of the type of questions contained in the third national reports, it should be noted that this analysis does not provide a comprehensive view of the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. Indeed, while some questions focused on specific activities, others were really broad, giving heterogeneous perspectives on the activities both into and among programme elements. Moreover, Parties were not requested to provide information on the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity and the Cross-Cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition. Heterogeneous.

Annex I

QUESTIONNAIRE FROM THE THIRD NATIONAL REPORTS

Q161. Has your country developed national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components? (decisions III/11 and IV/6)

a) No
b) No, but strategies, programmes and plans are under development
c) Yes, some strategies, programmes and plans are in place
d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, programmes and plans are in place

Q162. Has your country identified ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity? (decision V/5)

a) No
b) No, but potential measures are under review
c) Yes, some measures identified
d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified

Programme element 1: Assessment

Q163. Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?

a) No
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)

Q164. Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?

a) No
b) Yes, assessments are under way
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)

Q165. Has your country carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security?

a) No
b) Yes, assessment is under way
c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)

Q166. Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?

a) No

b) Yes, no change found (*status quo*)
c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)
d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)

Programme element 2: Adaptive management

Q167. Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?

a) No
b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified
c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)
d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)

Programme element 3: Capacity building

Q168. Has your country increased the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainable agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for in situ conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity?

a) No
b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity)

Q169. Has your country put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity?

a) No
b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified
c) No, but mechanisms are under development
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place

Q170. Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?

a) No
b) No, but some measures and arrangements being identified
c) No, but measures and arrangements are under development
d) Yes, measures and arrangements are being implemented (please specify below)

Programme element 4: Mainstreaming

Q171. Is your country mainstreaming or integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes?

a) No
b) No, but review is under way
c) No, but potential frameworks and mechanisms are being identified
d) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)
e) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed into major sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)

Q172. Is your country supporting the institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and action plans for biodiversity?

a) No
b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments
c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines
d) Yes, by developing training material
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes

Q173. In the case of centers of origin in your country, is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, in situ, and ex situ, of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?

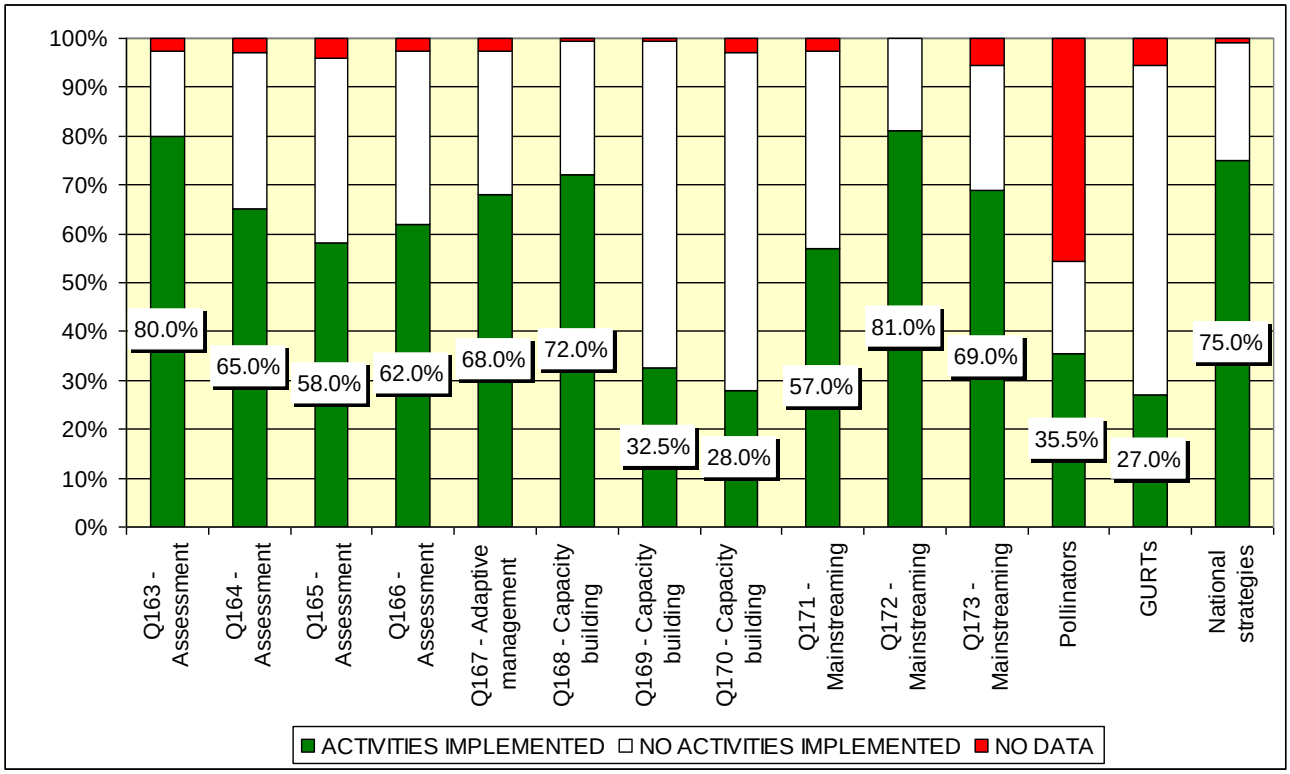
a) No
b) Yes (please provide details below)

Box LXV. Please provide information concerning the actions taken by your country to implement the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.

Box LXVI. Please elaborate below on the implementation of this programme of work and associated decisions specifically focusing on: outcomes and impacts of actions taken; contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; constraints encountered in implementation.

Annex II

PERCENTAGE OF COUNTRIES THAT RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONS IN THE THIRD NATIONAL REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY, BASED ON 130 RESPONSES 2/



2/ "Activities implemented" represents the percentage of those countries that reported activities under a given goal; "No activities implemented" represents the percentage of countries that reported no activities under a given goal; "No data" represents the percentage of countries that did not respond to a given question.

Annex III

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACSAD	Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GURTs	Genetic Use Restriction Technologies
GTZ	German Agency for Technical Cooperation
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Center
IDRC	International Development Research Center
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
SEARICE	South East Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WTO	World trade Organization
