

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Fourteenth meeting

Nairobi, 10-21 May 2010

Item 4.1.1 of the provisional agenda *

**AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY: FOLLOW-UP TO REQUESTS OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES IN DECISION IX/1**

Draft text submitted by the Co-Chairs of Working Group I

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *notes* the importance of agricultural biodiversity to the revised Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period beyond 2010 and *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to further contribute in these regards, including in relation to relevant proposed targets and indicators, within the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention;

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice *recommends* that the Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. [Welcomes] [Endorses] the joint work plan on biodiversity for food and agriculture between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, contained in the annex to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/12;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity;

3. *Notes* the importance of the joint work plan between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the opportunities to further enhance the joint work plan when it is revised and *requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in its revision of the joint work plan to pay particular attention to, *inter alia*:

- (a) Its extension, where feasible and if appropriate, to 2017;
- (b) The use of agricultural biodiversity, particularly underutilized crops, to improve human nutrition, to respond to climate change and contribute to food security;
- (c) “On-farm” and “*in situ*” conservation;
- (d) Relevant aspects of access and benefit sharing as developing under both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/1.

(e) Action to contribute to the restoration and maintenance of biodiversity-rich agricultural landscapes;

(f) Relevant matters arising from the revised Strategic Plan of the Convention for the post-2010 period, including consideration of matters in relation to targets and indicators of relevance to the programme of work;

(g) Potential actions to promote agricultural practices that enhance the carbon storage services provided by soils;

(h) Inter-linkages between the work of the Convention (as per decision XI/2 and any subsequent relevant decisions) and the Commission regarding biofuels, in particular in relation to food security;

(i) Ways and means for strengthened incorporation of the views of small-scale farmers and producers and the views of indigenous and local communities and their full and effective participation in all of the deliberations of the Commission and implementation of its Multi-Year Programme of Work;

(j) A strengthened process to identify, indicate and disseminate information to relevant focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission regarding matters of common interest; and

(k) Promoting the restoration and the sustainable management of biodiversity-rich agricultural landscapes and high nature value farmland;

4. *Urges* Parties to fully incorporate the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity into their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to strengthen collaboration with the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) to improve collaboration in the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and the Treaty including, *inter alia*, with regards to: facilitating *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation programmes; possibilities to remove barriers for the use of traditional varieties by farmers for commercial purposes; and dissemination of best practice linked to *in-situ* on-farm conservation, and raising public awareness of the importance of sustaining agricultural biodiversity;

6. *Invites* the national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to improve collaboration on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity;

7. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to provide an expanded progress report on the implementation of the international initiative on soil biodiversity (in addition to information already submitted in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/30) to the Executive Secretary for dissemination through the clearing-house mechanism;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of agricultural biodiversity to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and *re-emphasises* the lead role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity whilst also *recognizing* the important contributions and roles of other partners in this regard;

9. *Noting* the excellent progress made in collaboration between the Executive Secretary and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and that there is considerable benefit from further enhanced cooperation, *requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the Food and Agriculture

Organisation of the United Nations to strengthen their cooperation and *invites* Parties and other Governments to consider, as appropriate and feasible, providing further support to facilitate such enhanced cooperation;

10. Recognizing the continuing problems of nutrient loading caused by agricultural practices (as noted in the in-depth review of the programme of work on inland water ecosystems in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3), *invites* Parties, in accordance with paragraph 40 of decision IX/1, to further enhance action on reducing nutrient loading caused by agricultural practices and to provide further information to the Executive Secretary on the progress made, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to collate this information and to disseminate it through the clearing-house mechanism and other relevant means;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the information submitted in response to notification 2008-130 of 3 October 2008;

12. *Notes* the importance of the issue of sustainable use to the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and *invites* Parties and *requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure coherence between the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity and Article 10 of the Convention (sustainable use) and *further requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Bioversity International, together with other relevant partners, subject to available resources, to provide further information on the nature of sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and sustainable agriculture, including building upon information contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/34;

Agricultural biodiversity and rice-paddies

13. *Welcomes* Resolution X.31 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) on the subject “Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems” which notes, *inter alia*, the culture of rice in 114 countries worldwide and that rice paddies (flooded and irrigated fields in which rice is grown) have provided large areas of open water for centuries and support a high level of rice associated biodiversity important for sustaining rice-paddy ecosystems, human health, traditional culture and local communities, as well as providing many other ecosystem services;

14. *Invites* relevant Parties, as appropriate, to expand agricultural policies to conserve rice-associated biodiversity in rice paddies as a means to implement the programmes of work on agricultural biodiversity and the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems;

15. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, subject to resources, and in consultation with the Executive Secretary and other relevant partners, to undertake further studies on the valuation of the ecosystem services provided by rice-paddy systems in order to further support policy- relevant guidance to Parties.
