

## **Inputs to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2025**

### **Inputs from functional commissions of ECOSOC, other intergovernmental bodies and forums to the 2025 HLPF**

Online submission via Forms: [Inputs to the 2025 HLPF form](#)

*Entries to all questions required*

#### **1.Entity/ Intergovernmental body or forum**

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

#### **2.Contact person**

Mr. Alwin Kopše, Chairperson of the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body

Mr. Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the Governing Body

#### **3.Contact details (Email and Phone number)**

Mr. Alwin Kopše, Head of International Affairs and Food Systems at the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), Switzerland

Mr. Kent Nnadozie, Secretariat of the ITPGRFA, FAO

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#### **4.Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17**

Conservation of biodiversity is essential for the sustainability of our planet, adapting to climate change, and ensuring global food security. A crucial aspect of these functions lies in safeguarding plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). Since the current food systems are one of the key drivers of biodiversity change, shifting toward more sustainable agriculture and food systems is a cornerstone for halting and reversing biodiversity loss, as sustainable agriculture contributes to improved biodiversity conservation and management.

Smallholder farmers and indigenous communities have been guardians of the world's plant genetic resources for millennia, and they continue to play a crucial role in maintaining the biodiversity of our food crops. As farmers, including female farmers, are custodians and developers of crop genetic diversity in the field, protecting and promoting their rights are critical if they are to continue to maintain this pivotal role in global food security. Recognizing their contributions and taking measures aimed at improving their livelihoods is essential to enable them to continue to maintain, develop and manage crop genetic resources in a sustainable way.

**5.Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.**

**Women as conservationists, food producers and knowledge holders of PGRFA (related to Goals 5, 8 and 17)**

Throughout history, women have played important roles as guardians of agrobiodiversity, contributing to sustainable agricultural systems and food security. However, women tend to be marginalized and their contributions to PGRFA management often go unrecognized. The Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) of the ITPGRFA works towards gender and social inclusion. Project implementing partners are encouraged to cultivate women's participation and leadership, such as in diagnosing and setting breeding objectives.

Women's roles and management practices for the conservation and improvement of PGRFA, as well as their intimate knowledge of household needs, are widely recognized and manifested in BSF projects. Women's perception of the importance and diverse use of crop varieties, including their nutritional value and as a source of income or medicine, make them important decision-makers in terms of PGRFA conservation and sustainable use.

Throughout the Fourth cycle, around 68 000 women farmers (29 percent of total direct beneficiaries) had the opportunity to work with government breeders, researchers, agricultural extension officers and project staff in conducting Participatory Varietal Selection, Participatory Plant Breeding and Participatory Varietal Enhancement.

**6.Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.**

**The implementation of the Fifth project cycle of the BSF has started**

BSF supports projects that leverage plant genetic resources to find solutions for complex challenges related to food and nutrition insecurity, biodiversity loss and climate change. It enables small-scale farmers, scientists and breeders to tap into the ITPGRFA's global genepool of millions of different genetic materials to undertake research and develop crop varieties that are more resilient, more productive and nutritious. Through multiple partnerships, the BSF benefits a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, genebank curators, breeders, researchers, students and academia.

**Engaging the food processing industry in global action for crop diversity**

As part of the implementation of the Food Processing Industry Engagement Strategy of the ITPGRFA, several initiatives are being undertaken to directly engage with diverse actors in the food processing sector, including through a special event, which was organized to highlight the essential relationship between crop diversity and the food processing industry. It provided insights into global trends in the food processing industry and markets, as well as examples or models of business practices and civil society initiatives based

on principles of promoting and sustaining crop diversity. Through dynamic dialogue, participants explored the links between the food processing industry and crop diversity, to help identify tangible areas for engagement and foster partnerships. Participants and panellists included private sector and food processing industry representatives, food scientists, market analysts, genebank managers, civil society and PGRFA experts.

### **7. Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

At its Tenth Session in November 2023, the Governing Body of ITPGRFA considered the linkages between the ITPGRFA and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and emphasized that the implementation of the ITPGRFA would make a significant contribution to the achievement of the GBF's Vision, Goals and Targets, particularly in relation to sustainable food systems.

Through Resolution 1/2023, the Governing Body of ITPGRFA invites Contracting Parties to mainstream the implementation of the ITPGRFA within National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other relevant policies, plans and programmes. By integrating the objectives of the ITPGRFA into the broader biodiversity agenda, conservation of crop diversity can be enhanced and sustainable development promoted, leading to a more food-secure and resilient future for both humanity and our planet.

Through Resolution 7/2023, the Governing Body of ITPGRFA invites Contracting Parties to promote sustainable biodiverse production systems and facilitate participatory approaches such as community seed banks, community biodiversity registries, participatory plant breeding and seed fairs, in the context of realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of ITPGRFA.

### **8. Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.**

Fully implement the ITPGRFA to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular Goals 2, 13, 15, and 17, through conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of PGRFA.

Effective management of PGRFA will contribute to global food security through crop diversity and improvement and sustainable and resilient agri-food systems in the context of climate change for present and future generations.

Full and effective implementation of ITPGRFA requires the cooperation of various stakeholders in partnerships, in particular farmers' organizations and private sector, to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.