

The International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol –

A tandem workshop for National Focal Points

Jointly organized by the

ABS Capacity Development Initiative and Bioversity International

and in cooperation with the Secretariats of the CBD and the ITPGRFA

3 to 6 June 2014, Bioversity International or FAO

Rome, Italy

Background

The adoption of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) in October 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 workshop¹, 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

¹ The expert workshop 'The International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol: Supporting mutual supportiveness in the implementation of both instruments at the national level' was organized by the ABS Initiative, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Secretariat of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and hosted by Bioversity International. See for the report <http://www.abs-initiative.info/629.html>.

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.

Methodology/Process

Notices will be circulated to national focal points for the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol (or CBD ABS if there is no NP focal point yet) inviting joint expressions of interest from both focal points for a single country to attend the meeting.

A very short survey will be sent to selected national teams (made up of the two focal points) concerning their perceptions regarding implementation of the ABS measures in their countries pursuant to the NP, CBD and ITPGRFA, challenges faced (with particular focus on interface issues), and options for cooperation between lead agencies and stakeholder to address those issues. 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.

Expert resource persons from different stakeholder groups will present, during the workshop, successes and challenges they face (or anticipate facing) at the interface of the two systems.

A few national focal points will make short presentations about how they are approaching cooperation/coordination to implement both agreements in a mutually supportive, coordinated manner.

Meeting participants will work through interface scenarios, identifying options for inter-agency, agency-stakeholder cooperation for mutually supportive implementation.

Synthesized results will be used to develop a series of short fact sheets for national policy actors to help make decisions when they are developing mutually supportive mechanisms to implement the Nagoya Protocol and ITPGRFA.

Participants

Up to 60 participants including National Focal Points of the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol from up to 25 countries (as national teams) and expert resource persons from relevant stakeholder groups, such as gene banks, private sector (e.g. breeders), research, civil society and indigenous and local communities.

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

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