



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Terms of Reference for Consultant

Name:	
Job Title:	Expert on Plant Production and Protection
Division/Department:	CBDT/CBD, Secretariat of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
Programme/Project Number:	MTF/INT/017/MUL
Duty Station:	Rome, Italy
Expected Start Date of Assignment:	ASAP
Duration:	11 months
Reports to: Name:	Francisco Lopez
Title:	Technical Officer

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

The International Treaty is a legally binding international instrument with the objective to facilitate conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use. Providing a global governance framework for the exchange of plant genetic resources, the International Treaty has established an innovative system, the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (Multilateral System), which facilitates access to plant genetic resources for purposes of agricultural research and breeding, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use. The Treaty's genepool has already more than 1.8 million genetic samples available for being accessed. As of today, there have been 3.2 million exchanges of genetic material in support of agricultural development.

The objective of this assignment is to assist the Secretariat of the International Treaty in the operations of the Multilateral System, especially to increase the availability of plant genetic resources through the Multilateral System. It particularly contributes to the general review of the availability of material in the Multilateral System and the preparation of a document providing such information, as requested by the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

In order to achieve the above objectives, the incumbent is expected to have an advanced university degree in Crop Science, Agronomy, Plant Science with specialization in seeds, plant genetic resources, crop improvement or a related field. At least five years of relevant experience in one or more of the following areas: management of plant genetic resources, seed systems, data curation, agro-biodiversity or bioinformatics. Working knowledge of English.

Under the overall guidance of the Secretary of the Treaty and the direct supervision of the Technical Officer (Multilateral System), the expert will contribute to the operations of the Multilateral System of the International Treaty and will:

- Research and analyse technical, social, economic, environmental, institutional, and technology

related information, data and statistics and/or related policy issues to support the delivery of programme projects, products and services

- Produce a variety of technical information, data, statistics and reports as well as inputs for technical documents and web pages, in particular in relation Easy-SMTA
- Provide technical support and analysis to various assessments, studies and initiatives and provides technical backstopping to field projects, in particular on the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) of the International Treaty
- Collaborate in the development of improved/updated tools, systems, processes, and databases, in particular the tools for the notification of material available in the Multilateral System
- Participate in multi-disciplinary teams, and/or leads working groups in collaboration with other departments and agencies and promote best practices
- Provide technical backstopping to and ensure the quality and effectiveness of capacity development activities for member countries, such as policy support, organizational development and individual learning events, including preparation of related information, learning materials, on-line tools
- Promote knowledge sharing and best practices at international meetings and conferences and influence partners in stakeholder consultations

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Expected Outputs:

Required Completion Date:

- Detailed analysis report of the germplasm flow within the Multilateral System of the International Treaty containing statistical data, graphs and subject tables
- Presenting the report at various intersessional committees of the International Treaty and in other international technical conferences
- Information and assistance provided to at least 25 genebanks and national focal points for the notification of PGRFA material included in the Multilateral System
- A report with gaps and options for the improvement of capacity development activities and tools for developing countries on the use of the SMTA
- Provide advice to small and medium providers in Contracting Parties for the reporting of plant material transferred with the SMTA

End of assignment