

VIETNAM AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE  
**PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES CENTER**

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**Technical Report on the First Workshop  
on National Information Sharing  
Mechanism of the Global Plan of Action  
for PGRFA in Vietnam**

**Hanoi, June 2004**

## 1. GENERALITY

- 1.1. The first stakeholder (SH) workshop on consultation with SHs involved in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA establishment of National Information Sharing Mechanism (GPR-IFS) on monitoring the implementation of GPA in Vietnam, was held at PGRC-VASI, Ankhanh, Hoaiduc, Hatay, Vietnam during 7-8 June, 2004.
- 1.2. Dr. Ta Minh Son, GD of VASI, had the opening ceremony speech spoken. Dr. Nguyen Van Viet, Head of Dept. of Research Planning and International Cooperation Introduced to the workshop participants. Then, Dr. Trinh, Director of PGRC, Project Focal Point of Vietnam, introduced in briefly the workshop goals.
- 1.3. Dr. Luu Ngoc Trinh, in his speech, spoke of the reasoning basis of the formation of National Information Sharing Mechanism on implementation and monitoring of GPA.

Based on the experiences of preparing national reports of the Fourth International Technical Conference in 1996 and on the implementation and monitoring of GPA in 1998, 2000, FAO with the ratification through the medium of the International Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GPAFA), National Focal Points (NFPs) of countries and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, drafted the establishment of GPAFA-IFS. Through experiment, GPAFA-IFS reformatted and supplemented, is unitedly implemented by regional countries, concluded Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

- 1.4. Dr. Luu Ngoc Trinh also referred to the major objectives of the workshop and GPA-IFS concluding the institutions and national capacity building; as well as the collaboration of SHs on management of national PGRFA; strengthening the SHs' awareness

on their PGRFA status; Dr. Trinh spoke of the improvement of the information quality on the status and motive force can do change the PGRFA; improving the assessment and information sharing of PGRFA in national, regional and global level; and the enhancement of the national capacity to meet the international reporting obligation (eg GPA, the 2<sup>nd</sup> report on PGRFA at national level, CBD, etc...)

- 1.5. Building the model on the ability to monitor the implementation of GPA, in which, the mechanism has the core elements as the indicators list for monitoring the implementation on all priority areas of PGA at national level; a question table based on those indicators; and an application of computer which is facilitated and simplified to record data, and treat, analyze and share the information identified by the questionable.

## **2. THE 20 PRIORITY ACTIVITIES OF THE GPA FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA, AND THE FAO / GOVERNMENT PROJECT (GCP / RAS / 186 / JPN) ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GPA IN ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION.**

- 2.1. Dr. Luu Ngoc Trinh, Vietnam National Focal Point of the Project, delivered the global importance of PGRFA. He briefly presented the background of PGR in Vietnam and Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA, and the Leipzig Declaration, Leipzig, Germany in 1996. He especially laid stress on 20 priority activities under four major activities as follow:

- Insitu Conservation and Development
  - + Surveying and inventorying PGRFA
  - + Supporting on-farm management and improvement of PGRFA
  - + Assisting farmers in disaster situations to restore agricultural systems.
  - + Promoting in-situ conservation of crop relatives and wild plants for food production.
- Ex-situ Conservation

- + Sustaining existing ex-situ collections
- + Regenerating threatened ex-situ accessions
- + Supporting planned and targeted collecting of PGRFA
- + Expanding ex-situ conservation activities
- Utilization of PGR
  - + Expanding the characterization, evaluation and number of core collections to facilitate use
  - + Increasing genetic enhancement and base-broadening efforts
  - + Promoting development and commercialization of under-utilized crops and species
  - + Supporting seed production and distribution
  - + Developing new markets for local varieties and “diversity-rich” products.
- Institutions and Capacity Building
  - + Building strong national programs
  - + Promoting networks for PGRFA
  - + Constructing comprehensive information systems for PGRFA
  - + Developing monitoring and warning systems for loss of PGRFA
  - + Expanding and improving education and training
  - + Promoting public awareness of the value of PGRFA conservation and use.

### **3. THE NATIONAL INFORMATION SHARING MECHANISM FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PGA IN VIETNAM (PGAFA-IFS).**

- 3.1. Dr. Luu Ngoc Trinh continued his presentation about the major parts of GPAFA-IFS, concluding indicators, reporting format and computer application for monitoring the implementation of GPA on establishment of the International Information Sharing Mechanism. He continuously presented about steps of establishment of GPAFA-IFS under 3 major stages: Preparing phase, Implementation phase and Reporting phase. In that, the report should include sections on: achievements and constraints encountered during the GPA

monitoring process and the establishment of the IFS; usefulness of the Indicators and Reporting format for Monitoring GPA, and the computer software, as well as suggestion for improvement; usefulness of the guide, for establishing and operating a national information sharing mechanism, the users manual for the computer application and guidelines for SH involved in the implementation and monitoring of the GPA; strength and weakness of the technical assistance received; plans by the NFP and SHs for the maintenance and/or improvement of information sharing mechanism established through this project, including expected obstacles and national plans for over-coming the problems.

Dr. Luu Ngoc Trinh also spoke of how to operate the GPAFA-IFS. The monitoring and operating on GPAFA-IFS is participated by nations through the co-ordination between the NFPs and SHs. There're 3 elements related to GPA-IFS: standardized table systems of data management; GPA-IFS minimally shortened the works related to information gathering; and making contributions and returning on PRRFA of SHs.

3.2 Dr. N. Quat Ng. introduced to the workshop participants the GPA for Conservation and Sustainable utilization of PGRFA. The PGA is designed to contribute to the implementation of the Conservation Biological Diversity (CBD), aims to promote the conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits of PGR. The four major activities of GPA are: in-situ conservation and development; ex-situ conservation; sustainable use; institutions and capacity building.

Dr. Quat also referred to current project activities: establishing the National Information Sharing Mechanism for the Implementation and Monitoring of GPA (GPA-IFS) assessing the current status of PGR for identification of needs and setting of priority for the implementation of the GPA; studying and sharing successful experiences in in-situ conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA; and promoting the implementation of the GPA.

The core elements for monitoring the GPA implementation are an agreed list of indicators (including 83 core and 68 complementary), a questionnaire software to facilitate and simplify data recording, analysis and sharing the information; and SHs involved.

Dr. Quat also touched upon the contribution of the Project/including a centralized national GPA-IFS for monitoring the GPA implementation established, current status on PGRFA activities assessed, and their needs identified and prioritized, national capacity in carrying out in-situ conservation and on-farm management improved, contributed to the reports of the 2<sup>nd</sup> State of the world PGRFA, stimulated interest in PGRFA and promoted the implementation of GPA, National capacity in monitoring the PGR implementation enhanced, GPA activities publicized, partnership among SHs enhanced, and national, regional and international collaboration enhanced.

3.3 Dr. N. Quat Ng., Chief Technical Advisor, FAO/ RAS, presented the objectives of GCP/RAS/186/JPN project under 2 phases:

Longterm objectives of the project is to contribute to enhanced world food security and socio-economic development, reduced poverty, and sustainable agricultural systems through the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

And the immediate objectives of the project is the 20 GPA activities; to improve national capacity in monitoring the implementation of the 20 GPA activities; to share within the region successful experiences in in-situ conservation and on-farm management; and to improve national capacity in carrying out these activities.

3.4 Dr. Luu Ngoc Trinh had a presentation on the roles, duties and benefits from GPA-IFS of NFP and SHs. He identified the persons who had principal roles in GPA-IFS, they are NFP, SHs, FAO and IPGRI.

NFP is nominated by Government to report the implementation of GPA to Commission on PGR (CGPRFA). NFP must collaborate and

facilitate the national information exchange activities, present the reports at national; regional and international level. They have to instigate, organize and guide the SHs' relation, detailed in: repairing and completing "common tables", holding SH workshops in their nations, guiding SH to participate the information sharing mechanism, supporting computer application and all data related for SHs, and combining informations received from SHs. State holders (SHs) are institutions, organizations, or individuals directly or indirectly (related) involved in identification and implementation the National Programme PGRFA. SHs are the foundation basic of GPA-IFS, they have the duties of broadening basic awareness on conservation and utilization of PGRFA, effectively improving and developing to high degree in information gathering, making the supports from organizations and social, and ensuring the real property rights on establishment and development of National Information Sharing Mechanism (GPA-IFS) and national awareness building.

#### **4. DEMONSTRATION OF SOFTWARE AND COMMON TABLE**

4.1. Mr. Nguyen Tien Hung, Head of PGR Data Management and Information Department, PGRC, presented the indicators and reporting format on monitoring the implementation of GPA for conservation and utilization of PGR (GPAFA).

One in major parts of GPAFA-IFS is a set of indicators including 83 core and 68 complementary indicators for monitoring the implementation process and progress evaluation of each of 20 priority activities of GPA. The core indicators are information basic for international reporting of participated countries.

4.2. Mr. Dinh Van Dao, PGR Data management and Information Department, PGRC, introduced to the contents and roles of common tables in GPAFA-IFS software. Common tables are very important parts of the structure of the GPAFA-IFS software, including 9 different common tables to record in the details of information about

institutions, organization, relation persons, program activities, references and agreements, which are referred to private tables in reporting format.

Mr. Dao also referred to collective information requirement and information exchange forms can be excepted.

- 4.3. Msc. Pham Hung Cuong, PGR Data management and Information Department, PGRC, had a presentation on the determination of needs, limitations of computer of SHs; and the solution ensuring to gather, combine and manage information of GPA-IFS in Vietnam. He also prepared a form including questions in order to surveying about capacity and available facility of SHs for GPA-IFS database storage. Base on survey data to determine the solution for each SH how to collect data, how to input them into computer software, and export them into electronic copy or spread sheet.

## **5. DISCUSSION**

- 5.1. Under chairing the workshop of Dr. Luu Ngoc Trinh and Dr. Nyat Quat, there were ebullient discussions about presentations to understand more and more their contents, as well as about participatory capacity in GPA-IFS of SHs; organization mechanism; rights and obligations of NFP and SHs; and about member of steering committee.
- 5.2. In order to achieve the best effects of GPAFA implementation, it is necessary to establish some form of collective coordination. In order to sustain dynamic work and avoid any becurocracia during the process of implementing the Project, several participants proposed the most available form is formulated a Project Working Group. In other side, in-favor of keeping the formality of the Project, some opinions proposed to establish a Project Steering Committee. At the end, it was agreed to follow the requirement of Dr. Ng. Nyat Quat on establish Steering Committee. Proposal of composition and members is as followed:
  - Associate Prof. Dr. Ta Minh Son, DG of VASI, Chairman

- Associate Prof. Dr. Luu Ngoc Trinh Director of PGRC and NFP, Deputy Chairman
- Dr. Trinh Khac Quang, Deputy Head of Department of Science and Technology, MARD, member
- A representative from Department of Agriculture, MARD, member
- Dr. Le Minh Sat, Deputy Director, Department of Science and Technology Management from Economic and Technical Branches, Ministry of Science and Technology, member.
- A representative from Ministry of Environmental and Resources, member
- A representative from Ministry of Finance, member
- A representative from Ministry of Public Health, member
- A representative from Ministry of Marine Resources, member
- A representative from Ministry of Industry, member
- Eng. Nguyen Tien Hung, Head of PGR Data Management and Information, Plant Genetic Resources Center, Secretary.

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#### 5.4 Summary of opinions contributed from the discussion

- The establishment of National GPA-IFS is essential to process united and concentrated information on PGRFA conservation and sustainable use; through the National GPAFA-IFS, stakeholders are exchanging easily the information to develop the programmes on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.
- Participants are aware of the benefits when take apart in GPA-IFS; however, it must be agreed and approved by their institutions, this will be solved by official contracts between NFP and Head SH institutions.
- GPA-IFS is required to be stably maintained by long term, so it must have continuous funds to operate effectively; capital can be mobilized from FAO and other international organizations, as well as from Government through projects.

## 6. CONCLUSION

- Stakeholders agreed to establish GPA-IFS;
- Definition of the role and responsibilities of Stakeholders and National Focal Point;
- Agreed on workplan for establishing the GPA-IFS and training;
- Result on demonstration of use of the GPA computer application and update information (“Common Tables” of the Reporting Format for the implementation and monitoring of GPA);
- Agreed on collaboration among stakeholders and organizations on implementation of GPA for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA

- Development of a drafted work plan and timetable for future workshops. The second SHs workshop is proposed to be held in second half of November 2004;

- Unanimously agreed on the role and responsibility of Dr. Luu Ngoc Trinh. Director of PGR Center and GPA National Focal Point of Vietnam, as NFP of this Vietnam Project Component.

- Proposal of a Steering Committee to coordinate and advise/oversee the activities on the establishment of GPA-IFS established.

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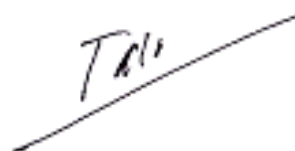
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