



GFAR

GLOBAL FORUM ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
FORUM MONDIAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRICOLE
FORO GLOBAL DE INVESTIGACION AGROPECUARIA

MEETING ON UNDER-UTILIZED AND ORPHAN COMMODITIES BMZ, Bonn, July 2, 2001

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. BACKGROUND

The meeting was a follow up to the informal meeting held at FAO ROME on January 22, 2001. The meeting was hosted by BMZ and organized by GFAR. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Review the progress made by the different institutions in the field of UOC since the Rome meeting of January 2001.
- Discuss the Terms of Reference for a "Global Facilitation Mechanism" for UOC.

3. AGENDA

Welcome by Jochen de Haas, BMZ

Presentation and finalization of the document "Under-utilized and orphan species and commodities - A Global Framework for Action"
by Vernon Heywood

Update on Activities by IPGRI, FAO, IFAD, BMZ, GFAR, ICUC
(15 min. each)

Lunch

Global Facilitating Mechanism
(Steering Committee, ToR Coordinator, Location, Programme of work)

The meeting was opened at 10.30 and adjourned at 16.00.

4. SUMMARY OF THE MEETING AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1. The paper "Under-utilized and orphan species and commodities - A Global Framework for Action" was discussed and Prof. Vernon Heywood agreed to incorporate the suggested changes in the final version to be distributed by mid July. A short discussion took place on the future role of this document. The participants decided that this document would have to be endorsed by the GFAR Steering Committee and then widely disseminate. They wanted to emphasize that this Framework for Action is clearly a follow-up to the Dresden Declaration.

4.2. Stefano Padulosi reported on IPGRI's activities, with particular emphasis on the IFAD funded project and public awareness activities

4.3. Peter Griffee gave a demonstration of 'ecoport' and other information activities of FAO.

4.4. Shantanu Mathur re-emphasized IFAD's support for UOC.

4.5. Elke Wolff reported on the funding for a coordinator position for UOC, the planned activities in Africa as a follow-up to the GFAR conference in Dresden (studies on the status and priorities of UOC to be commissioned to SACCAR, ASARECA and CORAF. Also mentioned were the BMZ-funded home-gardens project (IPGRI) and the agrobiodiversity project (GTZ).

4.6. Christian Hoste briefly reviewed progress made since the January meeting and expressed the satisfaction of the GFAR Secretariat for the significant achievements made in such a short period of time

4.7. Nazmul Haq presented plans for new staff at ICUC and additional regional centres. He also mentioned the organization by ICUC of three regional priority setting workshops scheduled before the end of 2001 in Asia, Africa and Europe. .

4.7. Global Facilitating Mechanism:

There was a general agreement that a global program on UOC was urgently needed, and that establishing a Global Facilitating Mechanism would be a suitable first step. The objective of the Global Facilitating Mechanism is to provide a platform for discussion of concepts and policies and to mobilise support and facilitate the work of all stakeholders involved in research and development of UOC at different levels (national, regional, global) under the umbrella of GFAR.

4.7.1. Steering Committee

The group decided to establish a small Steering Committee, consisting of representatives of FAO, ICUC, IPGRI, IFAD and BMZ. This committee will report to the GFAR Steering Committee to make sure that all categories of stakeholders are fully involved and committed to support this initiative. Advice on scientific and regional matters will be sought as needed.

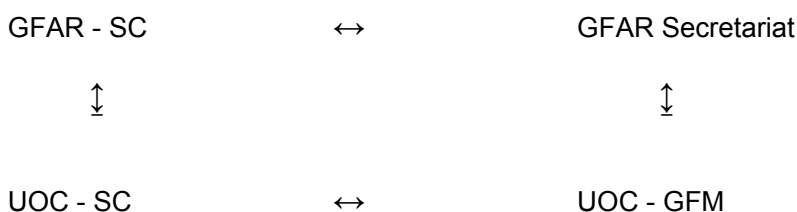
4.7.2. ToR Global Facilitating Mechanism

The ToR were discussed in great detail and the group agreed on the following:

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- Establish a specialized information system on UOCs, providing a gateway function to major information resources on UOC
- provide a clearing house mechanism for activities related to research and development of UOC
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- (I thought that we have agreed to move it as an “objective”... but I have no problem to keep it in the TORs)
- Facilitate coordination between the different networks and stakeholders involved in UOCs
- increase awareness of the importance of UOC among the general public and all stakeholders
- identify and document ‘best practices’ and ‘success stories’ to assist in scaling up the lessons learned
- encourage and facilitate regional priority setting
- advise stakeholders on the formulation and implementation of pilot projects based on national and regional priorities
- liase with the Global Facilitating Unit on Market and Cash Crops based in Montpellier
- monitor activities on UOCs
- report to the GFAR-Steering Committee on UOCs and UOC-related matters

Reporting lines are envisaged as follows:



4.7.3. Location of the Global Facilitating Mechanism

The group decided to follow the German proposal to attach the mechanism to BEAF in Bonn. With regard to the selection of the coordinator, BMZ/GTZ will soon send suggestions to the Steering Committee.

4.8. Ingrid Müller-Neuhof presented examples of GTZ’s activities with the private sector, such as a project to support the sustainable use of devil’s claw. She informed the group that the project has just been extended for another 3 years.

Next Meeting...

The participants agreed to circulate as soon as possible the final version of the Framework for Action to the GFAR Steering Committee so that they can formally endorse it during their next meeting in October 2001. The participants also supported the idea of organizing a special meeting or session on UOCs during the GFAR and CGIAR October meetings in Washington..

Annex 1:

List of participants: (could be in alphabetic order)

Christian Hoste, GFAR Secretariat
Peter Griffee, FAO
Nazmul Haq, ICUC
Vernon Heywood, Reading University
Shantanu Mathur, IFAD
Stefano Padulosi, IPGRI
Kirsten Probst, Hohenheim University
Beate Weiskopf, GTZ
Ingrid Müller-Neuhof, GTZ
Hans Schoeneberger, GTZ
Andrea Böttcher, GTZ
Frank Begemann, ZADI
Jochen de Haas, BMZ
Elke Wolff, BMZ
Marlene Diekmann, BEAF-GTZ

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(Germany)