



MEETING ON UNDER-UTILIZED AND ORPHAN COMMODITIES FAO, ROME, 19 July 2002

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 and at BMZ in Bonn on July 2, 2001. The present meeting was hosted by the Global Facilitation Unit on Under-utilized Species and organized by the GFAR Secretariat. The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The objectives of the meeting were to discuss recommendations and reach agreement on the (a) Governance of the Global Facilitation Unit (GFU), i.e. Steering Committee composition, chairmanship, mode of operation, Terms of Reference (TOR); and (b) Conceptual Framework for the Facilitation Unit and planning matrix.

3. MEETING AGENDA

- 9:00 - Welcome of the participants
- 9:05 - GFAR and the Global Facilitation Unit for UOC
Oliver Oliveros, GFAR Secretariat
- 9:20 - Governance issues of the GFU
Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon, GFU Facilitator
 - 1. Terms of reference of SC
 - 2. Confirmation of steering committee members
(FAO, ICUC, IFAD, IPGRI, BMZ: 1 member each)
 - 3. Nomination of chairperson and secretary of the SC
- 10:30 - Draft conceptual framework for the Facilitation Unit and Planning Matrix
Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon, GFU Facilitator
- 12:30 - Name and Logo of the Global Facilitation Mechanism
Irmgard Hoeschle-Zeledon GFU Facilitator
- 12:45 - Any other business

4. MAIN CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Governance issues of the GFU

- The draft TOR of the SC was endorsed by the participants (Annex 2)
- Membership to the Steering Committee will primarily consist of one principal and one alternate member from FAO, ICUC, IFAD, IPGRI and BMZ. Names will be formally submitted to the GFU and GFAR by 09 August 2002.
- FAO was elected as Chair of the Steering Committee with the GFU Facilitator acting as Secretary to the Committee
- Membership to the SC will be revisited after the activity on the “Inventory of Who is Doing What” with the view of inviting other relevant stakeholders in the Committee such as NARS or (Sub-) Regional Fora, NGOs, farmers’ organizations and private sector. Also, other organizations and/or stakeholders can be co-opted on a per activity basis

4.2 Draft conceptual framework for the Facilitation Unit and Planning Matrix

- A query was made on the status of the “Global Framework for Action on Under-utilized and Orphan Species and Commodities” prepared by Prof. Heywood. It was suggested that this issue be included in the agenda of the next GFAR Steering Committee meeting.
- The draft conceptual framework for the Facilitation Unit and Planning Matrix were approved with modifications as reflected in Annex 3 and 4.
- Development goal to be modified to read as
“An increasing number of donors, research institutions, extension services, policy and decision makers include under-utilized species in their development programs”
- Include “farmers themselves” in the list under the heading “UOC are neglected by” in Annex 3.
- Include the following in the criteria (see Annex 3):
 - *Suitable for organic production*
 - *With traditional, local and/or regional importance*
- It was underscored that the main activity of the GFU is in terms of the following:
 - Facilitating the improved access to information on under-utilized species
 - Provide platform for discussion on concepts, strategies and instruments to promote and facilitate the sustainable use of under-utilized species
 - Facilitate stakeholders’ access to financial resources
 - Identifying modalities of developing sustainable mechanism to support under-utilized species

Suggestions and recommendations on specific activities, output and indicators are reflected in Annex 3 and 4 mentioned above.

4.3 Name and Logo of the Global Facilitation Mechanism

- The discussion on the name of the Facilitation Unit also touched on the appropriateness of the term “commodities.” Participants were reminded of the decision made in January 2001 where there was a decision to use the term “commodities.” However, the group feels that the term “commodities” is already used in a very specific way and could be misleading in this context. Therefore, the term “species” is preferred. The term “orphan” will be dropped.

- The Facilitation Unit will be called “Global Facilitation Unit (GFU) on Under-utilized Species” and it will initially work on plant species only.
- Proposed logo was approved. It consists of several rays of a star representing the actors in the area of under-utilized species, which converge in the centre where there is the GFU. The green plant upside down represents a healthy vigorous plant but somewhat in a wrong position. This would like to indicate an under-utilized plant species whose potential can be further exploited. A circle around the logo can be imagined indicating the global importance of under-utilized species and the GFU.
- Letterheads and business cards for the GFU will be designed and printed using this logo.

4.4 Meeting of the Steering Committee

- The first meeting of the Global Facilitation Unit (GFU) Steering Committee was proposed to be held in October 2002 coinciding with GFAR Meetings in Manila, Philippines. It was recommended that during this meeting the relationship between GFAR and the GFU should be clarified with the GFAR Steering Committee, including GFAR’s representation in the GFU-SC (either through the Secretariat or through other GFAR stakeholder). It was also suggested that the document “Global Framework for Action on Under-utilized and Orphan Species and Commodities” should be included in the GFAR Steering Committee’s agenda for endorsement.

4.5 Any other business

- A planned International Workshop on Under-utilized Species in June or September 2003 in Germany was presented briefly. It will be a joint undertaking among BMZ-DSE-GTZ-GFU. A scientific advisory board with members of FAO, IFAD, ICUC, IPGRI, GFAR, GTZ, ZADI and GFU will be formed
- Some suggestions made by the participants include (a) to hold the workshop in a developing country, e.g. Bangalore, India; and (b) dovetail it to the GFAR 2003 Conference in Dakar in May 2003

Annex 1

MEETING ON UNDER-UTILIZED AND ORPHAN COMMODITIES

FAO, ROME, 19 July 2002

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| NAME | ORGANIZATION | E-mail Address |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|
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