

## MINUTES OF THE GENETIC RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE (GRPC)

### 20<sup>th</sup> Session, IPGRI, Rome, 29-31 August 2006

- Members present: Carlos Correa (Chair)  
Emile Frison (Secretary)  
Mike Gale  
Tony Gregson  
Masa Iwanaga  
Leonardo Montemayor  
Maria José Sampaio  
Carl-Gustaf Thornström  
Juan Lucas Restrepo  
Orlando de Ponti  
José T. Esquinas-Alcázar (FAO Observer)
- Members of Secretariat: Victoria Henson-Apollonio, Michael Halewood, Isabel Lopez Noriega
- Additional participants: Peter Gardiner (Science Council Secretariat), Haruko Okusu (Science Council Secretariat)
- Invited speakers: Sebastian Derwisch (IPGRI), Gerald Moore (IPGRI)

### Tuesday 29 August 2006

Carlos Correa and Emile Frison provided welcoming messages and the agenda was adopted.

#### **Update on the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Contact Group to Develop the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA), May 1-5, 2006 and the First Meeting of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, June 12-16, 2006; Planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Governing Body**

José T. Esquinas-Alcázar, Secretary, FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), and Interim Secretary of the International Treaty provided a report focusing primarily on the First Meeting of the Governing Body.

The most important achievements of the Governing Body meeting were the:

- Adoption of the SMTA;
- Adoption of the financial strategy and a resolution to develop an advisory committee to develop annexes to the financial strategy;

- Approval of model agreements with the International Agriculture Research Centres (IARCs) of the CGIAR and other organizations holding materials;
- Recognition of the Global Crop Diversity Trust as an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, and the signing (during the meeting) of the Relationship Agreement between Governing Body and the Global Crop Diversity Trust;
- Approval of the terms of reference for the selection of the Secretary of the International Treaty and procedures for establishing a Secretariat;
- Adoption of the rules of procedure of the Governing Body and the financial rules and,
- Establishment of a Compliance Committee

The Second Meeting of the Governing Body will take place June 11-15, 2007, immediately after the 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the CGRFA, June 4-8, 2007, in Rome.

In subsequent discussion among the GRPC members, it was noted that the SMTA (without any modification or additional agreement) must be used for all transfers of materials under the multilateral system of access and benefit sharing (MLS). There is the possibility of adding other terms and conditions, through corollary agreements, only in the case of products under development. This possibility is recognized in the text of the SMTA itself.

It was further noted that the Agreements between the Centres and the Governing Body of the Treaty will be legally binding 90 days after signature. It is possible however, to specify that the Centres will start to use the SMTA at an earlier date, before 90 days has passed.

Finally, Orlando de Ponti noted that industry worked very hard during the Governing Body meeting to support the finalization of the SMTA, and that industry is pleased with the outcome of the meeting. Industry continues to be concerned with lack of progress in the development of the international regime on access and benefit sharing under the aegis of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

#### **Update on the Centres' draft Agreement with the Governing Body and Centres' statement upon signing**

Emile Frison reported that the Boards of the eleven Centres with *ex situ* collections of PGRFA approved in principle the text of the Agreement prior to the First Meeting of the Governing Body, and authorized the Director Generals of those Centres to sign the Agreements provided there were no substantive changes to the Agreement. The GRPC confirmed that no substantive changes were made to the Agreement by the Governing Body. The Committee welcomed plans for Centres to sign the Agreements during a ceremony scheduled to take place at FAO before the end of the year (preferably in October, on the occasion of World Food Day).

The GRPC considered and revised a draft statement that the Centres will issue upon signing the Agreements; it is included in *Appendix 1*. The revised statement will be

circulated to Centres through the Inter-Centre Working Group on Genetic Resources (ICWG-GR) and to Director Generals for comment and approval.

**Using the SMTA:**

**Developing a short explanatory document for Centres  
Vis-à-vis products of Centres' research**

*Explanatory document*

Gerald Moore reported that IPGRI, on behalf of the CGIAR's System-wide Genetic Resources Programme (SGRP), will develop a) a short explanatory note concerning the SMTA covering the main points of the SMTA, and b) an explanatory guide for the Centres to implement the Treaty.

The GRPC welcomed these developments. Both documents will be circulated in draft form to the GRPC for comment in November.

*Products of Centres' research*

Emile Frison provided a report concerning the products of Centres' research. He recalled that during the Joint Meeting of the Centre Board Chairs and the Centre Directors Committee of the CGIAR, in May 2004, the "CDC Chair received the endorsement of the CBC and CDC for [a] common policy proposal" to include the terms and conditions of the SMTA on benefit sharing in MTAs for such products.

In June 2006, the Governing Body of the Treaty adopted the SMTA to be used under the MLS. The SMTA allows for transfers of materials under development to be transferred between developers without triggering benefit sharing provisions until a final product has been commercialized. It also allows that further conditions, in addition to the SMTA, could be imposed when those materials are transferred. Ultimately, the SMTA has been developed in a way that it addresses the concerns the Centres originally had with respect to the products of their research. The Centres are required to use the SMTA for the products of their research on Annex 1 materials. The GRPC welcomed this development.

In March 2006, the GRPC 19 recommended that when the Centres make the products of their research on Annex 1 materials available to private sector companies, they would contractually bind those companies to make 'voluntary' payments even when those products were available for research. The Joint Meeting of the Alliance Board and Alliance Executive, in April 2006, considered the recommendation from the GRPC "for the inclusion – in the material transfer agreements (MTAs) for products of Centre research that are transferred to private companies – of clauses committing those private-sector recipients to "voluntarily" sharing financial benefits upon commercialization of the products developed using the received materials."<sup>1</sup> The Joint Meeting decided that the

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Meeting of the Alliance Board and Alliance Executive: Alliance of the CGIAR Centres, April 26-27, 2006, Cali, Colombia. Prepared by the Future Harvest Alliance Office, <[http://www.cgiar.org/corecollection/docs/ab\\_ae\\_jointmeeting\\_april2006\\_sop.pdf](http://www.cgiar.org/corecollection/docs/ab_ae_jointmeeting_april2006_sop.pdf)> at page 12

“recommendation of the GRPC to include the principle of voluntary benefit sharing by the private sector in MTAs was approved”<sup>2</sup>..

The GRPC considered the following potential revisions to the policy should be presented as a reflection of the contributions of the Centres and should not be confused with the payments under the SMTA. The GRPC also considered that the policy should apply:

- to all recipients who commercialize products (and not just private sector companies)
- in all cases, regardless of whether or not the commercialized product is freely available for research and breeding

A draft background note and revised policy are included in *Appendix 2*.

The revision of the policy should be addressed at the next meeting of the joint meeting of the Alliance Board and Alliance Executive in November/December 2006. If the revisions are adopted by the AB/AE, the final announcement of the revised policy should wait until after the Second Meeting of the Governing Body (which will decide what MTA the Centres will use for the distribution of non-Annex 1 materials).

[N.B.: In the period following the GRPC 20 meeting, some members of the GRPC thought that the issue needed further consideration. Consequently it has been decided to defer the issue to GRPC 21 for further consideration.]

#### **Article 15.4 germplasm acquisition policy/instrument for non-Annex 1 materials**

Michael Halewood recalled that GRPC 19 recommended adoption of a system-wide policy that, as a general principle, the Centres’ genebanks should not accept materials unless they can be internationally, publicly distributed. Since that time, the Governing Body of the Treaty adopted the SMTA which sets the terms and conditions under which Annex 1 materials will be distributed by the Centres. The Treaty states that the Governing Body at its Second Meeting will adopt the MTA to be used by the Centres when distributing non-Annex 1 materials. It would be premature to finalize a system-wide policy on an article 15.4-inspired germplasm acquisition agreement before that MTA is adopted. Meanwhile, the GRPC underscored the importance of emphasizing that this was a policy aimed at the Centres’ genebanks and not the breeding programmes. Breeders sometimes receive materials to be included in their improvement work that suppliers do not want further distributed in the form received. Breeders need to be allowed to continue to receive such materials as long as they are able to freely distribute the products that they develop using the received material.

The GRPC notes that the best outcome from the Centres’ perspective would be that the Governing Body decides that the SMTA will be used by the Centres when distributing non-Annex 1 materials. This issue will be further discussed at GRPC 21.

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<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

**Draft Commentary and Recommendations Arising from the Joint Science Council-Genetic Resources Policy Committee study: CGIAR Research Strategies for International Public Goods in a Context of Intellectual Property Rights.**

The GRPC agreed with the recommendations in the paper. The GRPC is prepared to develop “CGIAR Guidelines for Centres and Challenge Programs for Managing and Accessing Intellectual Property (IP)”. For GRPC 21, the Central Advisory Service on Intellectual Property (CAS-IP) will develop a paper that identifies the issues that need to be addressed in the IP guidelines. The GRPC noted that there is a need to increase resources in order to deal with these complex issues, and recommended that CAS-IP should be strengthened to provide central support to the AE, instead of diluting these crucial resources over the Centers.

The Joint Science Council-Genetic Resources Policy Committee paper will be presented at the next Science Council meeting (SC6) in Cali, Colombia in early September 2006.

**Wednesday August 30**

**Question and Answer session regarding update papers and oral presentations**

Members of the GRPC discussed the following background papers which are included as Appendixes to this report.

- Update on Monsanto v Argentina case (*Appendix 3*)
- Update Report on the Enola re-examination (*Appendix 4*)
- Update on World Intellectual Property Organization’s (WIPO) Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (*Appendix 5*)
- Update on Centres’ Interests in the Ongoing Negotiations Concerning the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (*Appendix 6*)
- Update on Access and Benefit Sharing Negotiations at Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 8) (*Appendix 7*)
- Update on the Global Crop Diversity Trust (*Appendix 8*)
- Update on Svalbard Long Term Storage Facility (*Appendix 9*)
- Update on the Development of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the CGRFA (*Appendix 10*)
- Update on efforts by the CG Centres to get their innovations included in patent offices’ prior art searches (*Appendix 11*)

In discussion of the workshop "Exploring hybrid intellectual property options for agricultural research" it was noted that there is a lack of coordination within the CG regarding addressing intellectual property issues. Six bodies are currently addressing IP issues system wide: GRPC, CAS-IP, Private Sector Committee, Science Council, IFPRI’s Public-Private Partnership Initiative and most recently, the CG Secretariat. The GRPC notes that more cooperation between these bodies is essential and that a ‘one desk’

approach to IP regulatory issues should be developed. CAS should be strengthened to perform this function.

In discussion of the update regarding the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB), the GRPC endorsed the proposal of dedicating a session during GRPC 21 to this issue. The GRPC reiterated its previous concern that there is a lack of system-wide coordination for representation of the Centres at the meetings of the CPB; it noted that efforts to develop this coordinated representation must be complemented with involvement of people with relevant expertise.

In discussion of the update concerning access and benefit sharing-related activities under the aegis of the CBD, GRPC members noted the positive statement made by the Executive Secretary of the CBD concerning the results of the First Meeting of the Governing Body. The GRPC requested the GRPC Secretariat to develop, for GRPC 21, a background paper looking into the possible significance to the Centres of ongoing work on certificates of origin/provenance/source.

In discussion of the update on the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the CGRFA, it was noted that there is a potential role for the GRPC to identify normative gaps to be addressed by the CGRFA in the future. A number of background papers are being commissioned by the CGRFA as part of the process of identifying issues to be addressed in the MYPOW. The GRPC recommended that it would be useful to provide opportunities to the CG Centres, with relevant expertise, to make inputs into the papers being developed.

In discussion of the update on the “Guiding Principles for the Development of Future Harvest Centres’ Policies to Address the Possibility of Unintentional Presence of Transgenes in *ex situ* Collections”, it was noted that the GRPC’s request for financial support for a meeting focusing on developing the database on the state of development/testing/release of Genetically Modified (GM) technologies had been declined. The GRPC requested the Secretary of the GRPC to contact the CGIAR Secretariat to insist on the importance of such a meeting.

It was noted that an update paper on ethics and agriculture should be provided for GRPC 21.

#### **Draft Guidelines for Centres concerning working with traditional knowledge holders and or obtaining and using information provided by them**

Sebastian Derwisch presented a study conducted by CAS-IP concerning uses of TK by the Centres. His powerpoint presentation is attached as *Appendix 12*. The GRPC welcomed the study and recommended that it be deepened to include more scientists and Centres. A draft of a paper based on the expanded study will be presented to GRPC 21. In addition, CAS-IP will draft recommendations for the consideration of GRPC 21 concerning use by the Centres of TK.

#### **Revised version of paper entitled “Genebanks and Public Goods”**

Michael Halewood introduced the draft paper on “Genebanks and Public Goods: Political and Legal Challenges to Building Collections for the International Community” by M. Halewood and R. Sood. The GRPC recommended that some final revisions be made, and that the paper be circulated to the GRPC for comments on a no objections basis and then published.

**Microbial genetic resources: consideration of paper by John Howieson**

Michael Halewood introduced the comments received from Professor John Howieson on the GRPC 19 recommendations for follow up his paper on “Technical Issues Related to Developing Harmonized Management Policies, Guidelines and Practices Concerning Acquisitions, Use and Distribution of Agricultural Microbial Genetic Resources (AMGR)”. The comments are included in a document entitled “Follow-up issues: Strategies for the global preservation and exchange of AMGR.” That document is included as *Appendix 13*.

The GRPC recommended that the new text from Prof Howieson be inserted into the paper and a review of policy significance be added and submitted for approval to GRPC 21.

**Standardizing rules to frame negotiations and licensing agreements by the Centres**

Maria José Sampaio’s powerpoint presentation is included as *Appendix 14*.

It was noted by members of the GRPC that in some exceptional situations, it is necessary to exclusively license products to single entities to ensure that they are widely distributed. It also occurs that material from Centres to National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) is exclusively licensed by NARS to individual companies as part of their multiplication/distribution strategy. The GRPC recommends development of criteria and a decision making tool to assist Centres determine when it is appropriate to rely upon exclusive licenses as part of their product delivery strategies.

CAS-IP will develop a draft for consideration by GRPC 21.

**Discussion on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regulations, Traditional Knowledge and Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

Maria José Sampaio introduced comments on how the present ABS regulations in some countries are preventing NARS from developing their activities for the benefit of the resource poor. She gave as an example the problems faced by Embrapa, in Brazil, to provide access to cassava germplasm for the Generation Challenge Programme projects. She also made a presentation concerning a draft agrobiodiversity law that was presented for consideration to the Brazilian government in June 2006 as an attempt to solve these problems.

It was noted in the subsequent discussion that it is within the mandate of the GRPC to address members of the CGIAR (64 in total) about policy issues. The GRPC recommended developing a background paper on sectoral approaches to ABS regulation

to submit to the CGIAR. The GRPC Secretariat will commence efforts to develop such a paper in the period between GRPC 20 and 21.

## **GRPC at AGM**

### ***Side Event***

The side event at AGM06 is booked for Tuesday, December 5. Colombia and Sweden have been invited to sponsor the event. The objective of the side event is to raise awareness of the policy issues that are relevant for the system as a whole. The first presentation will set the stage with a description of the changing atmosphere which makes the work of the GRPC relevant. This will be followed by three presentations on: a) the “Guiding Principles for the Development of Future Harvest Centres’ Policies to Address the Possibility of Unintentional Presence of Transgenes in *ex situ* Collections”, b) the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and Agreements with the Governing Body, and c) intellectual property rights. In each, the problem faced and the solution contributed to by the GRPC will be described. Future priority issues to be addressed by the GRPC will be presented.

### ***Business Meeting presentation***

The GRPC Chair has written to the Secretariat requesting additional time to make a presentation on behalf of the GRPC.

### ***GRPC booth***

The Secretariat of the GRPC will investigate the possibility of getting a booth and recommended that a few posters be prepared on the themes of the presentations to be addressed at the side event.

The GRPC also endorsed the idea of getting an article from the GRPC in the November edition of E-news which gets distributed at AGM.

### ***GRPC fact sheet***

The GRPC suggested revisions to the fact sheet before it is posted/published. It needs to be ready for distribution at AGM06.

### **GRPC website**

The GRPC felt that the visibility of the GRPC pages on the CGIAR website should be improved. It recommended that there should be a green tab on the CGIAR home page for ‘Committees’ under which GRPC would be placed.

### **Policy issues that the GRPC should be focusing on in the future**

The GRPC identified the following issues to focus on in the near future:

a) Developing guidelines on intellectual property

-The GRPC will commission a policy issues paper for the next GRPC to set out the issues that need to be addressed. It was noted in this context that an announcement should be

made to a number of constituencies within the CG that we are dealing with this issue and will be seeking inputs.

b) Developing guidelines for the acquisition of traditional knowledge

-CAS-IP will develop draft guidelines to present to GRPC 21.

c) Implementation of the International Treaty within the Centres

-IPGRI, on behalf of the SGRP, will draft guidelines to present at GRPC 21.

d) Product release policy

-The Secretariat of the GRPC will explore who should be involved in developing this policy.

e) Addressing gaps in fish and animal genetic resources policies.

-The GRPC recommended developing a paper that identified gaps and the constraints faced by the Centres that could possibly be addressed through policy interventions. This paper should take into consideration the Framework Plans being developed for/by the Science Council on strategic priorities 1C (conservation of indigenous livestock) and 1D (conservation of aquatic animal genetic resources), the Science Council's report entitled "Conservation of Livestock and Fish Genetic Resources," which includes papers by John Gibson and Roger Pullin, and the outcomes of the international workshop on "Options and Strategies for the Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources", 7-10 November, Montpellier, France.

The GRPC recognizes that there is a need for further public awareness of the importance of work of the Centres in the area of genetic resources conservation and improvement. The paper on Centres' contributions to technology transfers and farmers rights will help raise awareness of the importance of the Centres' contributions. Public awareness-raising is, however, generally beyond the scope of the GRPC.

## **Thursday August 31**

### **Review/update of the GRPC work plan**

The revised workplan based on the outcomes of the meeting is included in *Appendix 15*.

### **Renewal of the Committee members**

The Chair of GRPC will address the Executive Council concerning the process for both a) the extension of the mandate of the GRPC and b) the membership of the GRPC.

It was noted that it is extremely important to fill the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) position on the GRPC. Members of the GRPC will send names and profiles of candidates to the Chair and Secretary of the Committee.

### **AOB and next meeting**

The GRPC noted the importance of organizing side events during GRPC meetings at Centres to increase contacts with those Centres' staff.

The next meeting will be held 26 February – 2 March, 2007. The location was not finally decided upon.

Carl-Gustaf Thornström highlighted that there is a new publication by the Swiss Academy of Sciences entitled *Access and Benefit Sharing, Good Practice for Academic Research on Genetic Resources* available at <http://www.scnat.ch/abs>

*Appendix 15: GRPC workplan*

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Activity/Input</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Guiding principles for the development of Future Harvest Centres' policies to address the possibility of unintentional presence of transgenes in <i>ex situ</i> collections	Emile Frison to send a letter to the World Bank urging reconsideration of the funding for the GMO workshop	Letter from Emile Frison	September 2006
	CIMMYT will coordinate development of crop specific guidelines, through SGRP, in context of GPG 2	Crop-specific guidelines Report to GRPC by SGRP	2007-8 GRPC 21
Implementation of the International Treaty	IPGRI will draft a) 1-2 page document explaining the SMTA, and b) draft guidelines for Centres re: implementation of Treaty	Draft document	November 2006
	Drafts circulated to GRPC members		November 2006
	Revised version sent to Centres	Guidelines Update to GRPC by Secretariat	December 2006 GRPC 21
Agreement between Centres and Governing Body of the IT  (and statement to be issued by Centres upon signing)	Emile Frison will circulate the statement to the Centres for approval	Message to Centres	September 2006
	Possible revisions	Approved statement	October 2006
MTA for products of Centre research	Emile Frison and Masa Iwanaga will present proposed revised policy to Alliance Executive, November 30 – December 1, 2006	Revised policy Update to GRPC 21	December 2006 GRPC 21

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Activity/Input</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Guidelines for Centres use of traditional knowledge	CAS will finalize research conducted on Centres' use of TK  CAS will develop draft suggested guidelines	Final draft paper summarizing findings  Draft suggested guidelines	GRPC 21
Licensing agreements	Draft decision making tool and criteria to be developed by CAS-IP	Draft tool, including criteria	GRPC 21
Svalbard long term storage facility	GRPC will monitor developments	Update to GRPC by Secretariat	GRPC 21
Operationalization of Article 15.4 of IT	GRPC will monitor second meeting of Governing Body and the MTA amended for non-Annex 1 materials by the Centres  Secretariat will draft germplasm acquisition agreement (GAA) for Centres that is consistent with the MTA adopted by the GB  Present policy to GRPC 22	Draft GAA  Revised GAA and report to GRPC 22	June 2007  After June 2007 meeting of the GB  GRPC 22
System-wide IPR guidelines	With input from the Centres and others, CAS will draft paper setting out issues that need to be addressed in "CGIAR Guidelines for Centres and Challenge Programs for Managing and Accessing Intellectual Property"	Issues paper	GRPC 21
Assessment of Centres' impact concerning:  1. technology transfers as benefit-sharing, and 2. contributions to Farmers' Rights	CAS will draft paper	Draft paper	GRPC 21

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Activity/Input</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Agricultural microorganisms and exchange policies	Final revision of paper with final inputs from J. Howieson and Secretariat (or policy consultant hired by Secretariat).	Revised paper	GRPC 21
Statements on ethics and agriculture	Secretariat will send amended CGIAR Ethical Principles to WIPO	Revised Ethical Principles	When approved
	FAO will provide update to GRPC 21	Update paper	GRPC 21
Demand driven GRPC agenda setting process	Secretariat will continue to monitor across the FH Centres for demands	Update GRPC by Secretariat	GRPC 21
Decline in rates of acquisition of new materials by gene banks	Final revisions to paper "Genebanks and Public Goods" circulated to GRPC by Secretariat for approval	Final draft of paper	October 2006
Developments at CBD, WIPO, WTO, other bodies	Secretariat will prepare short update paper(s) summarizing relevant developments	Update papers	GRPC 21
	CGIAR Centres will be represented as observers as these meetings		
	GRPC secretariat will prepare background paper identifying significance of ongoing work on certificates of origin/source/provenance	Issues paper on certificates of origin/source/provenance	GRPC 21

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Activity/Input</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Animals, fisheries & forestry	Secretariat will commission issues paper identifying gaps in policy frameworks affecting conservation and use of FiGR and FAnGR, including challenges facing Centres	Draft paper	GRPC 21
	Secretariat will explore development of a background paper analyzing the need for sectoral approaches to ABS regulation to be submitted to the CGIAR	Draft paper	GRPC 21
	The Secretariat will explore collaboration with FAO on these issues, particularly with respect to the development of the CGRFA MYPOW (Multi Year Programme of Work)		
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	Secretariat will organize special session on CPB to be held during GRPC 21  Secretariat will develop background paper for that session	Background paper, dedicated session of GRPC with guests invited from some other Centres	GRPC 21
Global Crop Diversity Trust	GRPC will monitor progress	Update to the GRPC by the Secretariat	GRPC 21
GRPC website	Secretariat will request revisions of CGIAR home page to make GRPC more visible.	Request sent	September 2006
	Development of website to continue	website	September – December 2006
MYPOW of the CGRFA	Centres invited to comment on papers commissioned by CGRFA for development of MYPOW	Comments from Centres on papers	October-December 2006
	FAO Secretariat will prepare a short information paper summarizing relevant developments	Update paper	GRPC 21

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Activity/Input</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
Patents	Secretariat or Chair will write message to CIAT recommending publicizing the outcome and offering to assist (and CAS's assistance in particular) in developing reports to drive home lessons learned from the experience	Message Chair or Secretary of GRPC	October 2006
System wide products release policy	Secretariat will explore who should be involved in developing such a policy	Report to GRPC	GRPC 21
GRPC at AGM	Secretariat will request booth, develop posters, finalize fact sheet in preparation for AGM	Booth, fact sheet, posters	AGM, December 2006
GRPC membership	GRPC Chair will address Ex Council regarding extending the mandate of the GRPC and about membership on the committee.	Message to Ex Council	October 2006
	GRPC members will send the GRPC Secretary and Chair names and profiles of candidates to fill the position for NGOs on the Committee	Nominations sent	October 2006