

Regional Dialogues on the International Year of Pulses

Concept Note for discussion

Background

Following resolution 6/2013 of the 38th FAO Conference, the UN General Assembly, at its 68th session declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been nominated to facilitate the implementation of the Year in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations, non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders.

FAO is planning to hold a series of regional dialogues to enhance local and regional discussions on the important role of pulses. The regional dialogues aim at strengthening national, regional and local capacities to formulate and implement policies and programmes to improve nutritional status.

The outcomes of the IYP dialogues will provide regional overviews of the opportunities, challenges, existing policy environment supporting/hindering the promotion of pulses. In addition, the above-mentioned outcomes will be addressed in the IYP Global Dialogue to be held in FAO Hq at the end of 2016.

The Regional Dialogues have been endorsed by the IYP Steering Committee and are among the range of activities which constitute the IYP Action Plan <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl213e.pdf>

Overall objectives

The objectives of the RD are to:

- Understand/Document the “state-of-the-art” on pulses in each Region in terms of opportunities and challenges, including existing policy environment
- Agree on common priorities for advocacy and promotion of pulses in each region.
- Identify knowledge gaps and research needs

Deliverables

- Strengthened national, regional and local capacities to formulate and implement policies and programmes to improve nutritional status
- Documented and disseminated knowledge about pulses, their attributes, and their ability to provide solutions to nutrition, health, trade and environmental sustainability issues
- Recommendations and priority actions to be submitted to the IYP Global Dialogue

Proposed methodology

Two – day facilitated event bringing together a wide spectrum of stakeholders and representatives of different constituencies/sectors in each region (Africa, Near East, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean). The two days will be structured according to four major themes:

- Theme 1: Role of Pulses in the Region and its contribution to sustainable rural development and food security and nutrition, including issues related to market access
- Theme 2: Pulses actors: family farmers, producers, processors and traders
- Theme 3: Pulses good practices and innovations
- Theme 4: Awareness raising actions

Participants: Maximum of 40 participants depending on the number of participating countries in each Region.

In order to minimize costs it is recommended that the RD be held in conjunction with another international/regional event preferably on pulses or a closely related subject (grain legumes, nutrition, food security, agriculture and family farmers, etc.). The RD could either be part of the main event's programme or as a side event. A sample RD format is appended as Annex.

Estimated Budget: \$ 23,000

The budget should mostly be used for sponsoring the participation of a limited number of important pulses actors in the Region. Some funding is also allocated for on location support for the organization of the meeting, for documenting the discussions and for logistics. The recommended instrument for the organization of the RD is an LOA with a Partner Institution, which has the capacity to organize such event on a regional level. FAO decentralized offices could also be other options should they be in a position to do so.

The organizer of the RD will be responsible for the identification of four keynote speakers (according to the above themes), the selection of participants, the coordination of travel and accommodation arrangements, logistics and preparation of the report.

The IYP Secretariat will provide the funds for the organization of the RD. Technical support will be provided by FAO experts from AGP, ESN and EST.

Timeframe 2016 - May – October 2016



Annex - Proposed Format of the Regional Dialogue

DAY 1	
9.30-11.30	4 Keynote presentations on the main themes
11.30-13.00	3/4 Working groups to discuss, agree and draft proposals on main themes according to regions
13.00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16.00	Working groups, Cont.d
DAY 2	
9.30-11.30	Knowledge exchange sessions (World Café, Open Space, Market Space, Chat Show, Poster sessions, etc.)
11.00-12.30	Reports of working groups
12.30-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.00	Plenary Discussion
15.00-16.00	Recommendations