PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF SURVEY RESULTS ON IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON TREATY IMPLEMENTATION

ON-LINE EXPERT PANEL
15 September 2020
General information

Purpose of the survey: to assess the impact of COVID-19 on implementation of the Treaty by Contracting Parties

Timing: 24 June – 23 August (notification to National Focal Points)

Average reporting period: 3,5 months approx.
Responses

41 countries

Near East: Egypt, Kuwait, Iraq, Jordan, Sudan, Syria

North America: United States, Canada

Africa: Cameroon, Congo, Eswatini, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Togo, Zimbabwe

Asia: Bangladesh, Lao, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines

Europe: Austria, Belgium, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom

GRULAC: Argentina, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru

South West Pacific: Cook Islands, Fiji
Has the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the maintenance or operations of your national genebank and/or other national ex situ collections of germplasm?

- **TOTAL**: 80% Yes, 20% No
- **South West Pacific**: 85% Yes, 15% No
- **North America**: 100% Yes
- **Near East**: 80% Yes, 20% No
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**: 85% Yes, 15% No
- **Europe**: 70% Yes, 30% No
- **Asia**: 80% Yes, 20% No
- **Africa**: 75% Yes, 25% No

**Yes** | **No**
How would you rate the impact of COVID-19 on ex situ conservation of PGRFA in your country?

1. National Genebanks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Very High</th>
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<td>Africa</td>
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</table>
How would you rate the impact of COVID-19 on the distribution of material in your country?

1. National Genebanks
2. Research and breeding programs

Has the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted research and breeding programs in your country?

- TOTAL
- South West Pacific
- North America
- Near East
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe
- Asia
- Africa

Yes | No
--- | ---
80% | 20%
75% | 25%
70% | 30%
85% | 15%
75% | 25%
85% | 15%
85% | 15%
80% | 20%
2. Research and breeding programs

How would you rate the negative impact of COVID-19 on research and breeding in your country?

TOTAL
South West Pacific
North America
Near East
Latin America and the Caribbean
Europe
Asia
Africa

- LOW
- MEDIUM
- HIGH
- VERY HIGH
3. *In situ* conservation and on farm management

Has COVID-19 negatively impacted *in situ* conservation and on-farm management of PGRFA in your country?

- TOTAL
- South West Pacific
- North America
- Near East
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe
- Asia
- Africa

Yes  No

[Bar chart showing the percentage of countries where COVID-19 has impacted in situ conservation and on-farm management]
3. *In situ* conservation and on farm management

On-farm and *in situ* activities

- TOTAL
- South West Pacific
- North America
- Near East
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe
- Asia
- Africa

![Diagram showing on-farm and in situ activities across different regions with a color-coded legend for LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH, and VERY HIGH.]
3. *In situ* conservation and on farm management

Operation of local, community-based seed supply systems (e.g. seed houses, seed lots, community seed bank, community biobanks, etc.)

- **TOTAL**
- **South West Pacific**
- **North America**
- **Near East**
- **Latin America and the Caribbean**
- **Europe**
- **Asia**
- **Africa**
Has COVID-19 negatively impacted the availability, supply and distribution of quality seeds in your country?

4. Seed systems

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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<td>Africa</td>
<td>60</td>
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4. Seed systems

How would you rate the potential impact of COVID-19 on availability, supply and distribution of quality seeds in your country?

- TOTAL
- South and West Pacific
- North America
- Near East
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe
- Asia
- Africa

Scale:
- LOW
- MEDIUM
- HIGH
- VERY HIGH
4. Seed systems

Do you expect that, as of next cropping season, COVID-19 will negatively impact the availability, supply and distribution of quality seeds in your country?

Yes  No
5. Training, capacity building, technical cooperation

Has COVID-19 negatively impacted the on-going training, capacity building and technical cooperation on PGRFA in your country?

- **TOTAL**
  - Yes
  - No

- **South West Pacific**
  - Yes
  - No

- **North America**
  - Yes
  - No

- **Near East**
  - Yes
  - No

- **Latin America and the Caribbean**
  - Yes
  - No

- **Europe**
  - Yes
  - No

- **Asia**
  - Yes
  - No

- **Africa**
  - Yes
  - No
5. Training, capacity building, technical cooperation

How would you rate the impact of COVID-19 on training, capacity building and technical cooperation on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in your country?
Contingency plans

Contingency Plans

- Ex situ collections
- Research and breeding programmes
- In situ conservation and on-farm management
- Availability, supply and distribution of quality seeds
- On-going training, capacity building and technical cooperation

Yes

No
Impact on active projects of the Benefit-Sharing Fund

Respondents: 27
11 (Africa), 5 (Asia), 2 (Europe), 4 (GRULAC), 2 (Near East), 3 (South West Pacific)

What have been the immediate effects of the lockdown on the project activities?

- Cancellation
- Suspension
- Performance of minimum set of activities

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Cancellation</th>
<th>Suspension</th>
<th>Performance of minimum set of activities</th>
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<tbody>
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Impact on active projects of the Benefit-Sharing Fund (cont.)

Do you foresee the need to re-plan initial project targets and planned outcomes as a consequence of COVID emergency?

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Yes
No
Impact on active projects of the Benefit-Sharing Fund (cont.)

Do you plan to ask for a non-cost extension of the duration of the project?

- TOTAL
- South West Pacific
- Near East
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Europe
- Asia
- Africa

<table>
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Impact on active projects of the Benefit-Sharing Fund (cont.)

How many additional months?

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Near East
- South West Pacific
- Average
Do you envisage any future budgetary re-allocations (both increase and decrease among budget categories) due to COVID emergency to the originally approved budget?

Impact on active projects of the Benefit-Sharing Fund (cont.)
Analysis

✓ A level of resilience of the national PGR systems is detectable, at least in the short term
✓ Highest level of resilience so far is within seed systems
✓ Highest impact is at the level of collaborative activities (e.g. technical cooperation)
✓ Diversified impact (geographies, technical areas) requires a diversified response
✓ BSF project implementation appears to be relatively stable in the short term but some project transaction costs will have to be borne
✓ First general outlook; more measurable and aggregate data will be needed in the medium term
Thanks to all the NFPs and BSF project partners who replied to the surveys!