

SECTION I

Guidelines for Developing the Commonwealth Biological Diversity and Genetic Resources Project

To ensure that all member countries follow the same underlying methodology, guidelines were prepared for each component of the BDGR project. These were based on research work undertaken during the period 1975-85. They were discussed and accepted at the first International Workshop on Biological Diversity and Genetic Resources held in 1986, and have been used for developing national status reports and individual projects within the various components of the programme. These guidelines were developed in the form of a questionnaire, as given below:

A. Survey & Documentation of Potentially Valuable Plants

- (1) What sourcebooks or databases exist on the identification of plants of economic importance in the traditional economies of your country?
- (2) What attempts have been made since these sourcebooks or databases to collect and collate information on under-exploited plants of potential economic importance in your country?
- (3) What are the top ten or so indigenous species of potentially important under-exploited plants in your country?
- (4) Which of these species are used traditionally for the following proposed?
 - Food
 - Fodder
 - Fuel
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Soil Amelioration
 - Industrial Materials
 - Others (specify)
- (5) Which of these uses are of priority importance to social, economic and environmental development in your country?
- (6) Are the distribution and pockets of diversity of these species well documented? Elaborate.
- (7) What protected area systems (if any) exist in your country safeguarding pockets of diversity of each of these species?
- (8) What is the status of each of these protected areas (if any)?

- (9) What attempts have been made to make an inventory of the pockets of diversity of each of these species?
- (10) How do you propose surveying and documenting the diversity of these species in your country? Give a work plan for just one species as an example, indicating physical, human and financial requirements.
- (11) What infrastructure and financial resources are available in your country for surveying and documenting the diversity of these species or the pockets of diversity? Elaborate.
- (12) What kinds of training (and at what levels) are needed in your country to pursue the survey and documentation of potentially valuable plants?

B. Evaluation of Growth Characteristics of Target Key Plant Species

- (1) Which of these economically important under-exploited plants have been evaluated for their growth characteristics in your country? List.
- (2) What information is available on the growth rates of these plant species in your country, and under what conditions? Elaborate.
- (3) What information is available on the ecology and productivity of these plant species? Elaborate.
- (4) What information is available on the flowering, pollination and fruit set of these plant species? Elaborate.
- (5) What information is available on seedling germination, mortality and growth of these plant species? Elaborate.
- (6) What information is available on seed predation, herbivore and pathology of these plant species? Elaborate.
- (7) What experiments have been conducted to evaluate the growth characteristics of these plant species under different soil, hydrological, nutrient and cultural conditions? Elaborate.
- (8) How do you propose evaluating the growth characteristics of these plant species in your country? Give a work plan for just one species as an example, indicating physical, human and financial requirements.
- (9) What infrastructure and financial resources are available in your country for evaluating the growth characteristics of these species? Elaborate.
- (10) What kinds of training (and at what levels) are needed in your country to pursue evaluating the growth characteristics of potentially valuable target plant species?

C. Diversity of Genetic Expression of Target Species

- (1) Which of these economically important under-exploited plants have been the subject of studies on genetic expression? List.

- (2) What information is available on the genetic expression of these plant species?
- (3) How do you propose studying the genetic expression of these plant species in your country? Give a work plan for just one species as an example, indicating physical, human and financial requirements.
- (4) What infrastructure and financial resources are available in your country for conducting studies on the genetic expression of these species? Elaborate.
- (5) What kinds of training (and at what levels) are needed in your country to pursue studies on the genetic expression of potentially valuable target plant species?

D. Training

- (1) What training is available in your country in the areas of plant taxonomy, herbarium development, conservation biology and traditional use (ethnobotany, suggestion of class distinction)? Elaborate in terms of levels, courses, expertise and institutions.
- (2) What kinds of training (and at what levels) are needed in taxonomy, herbarium development, conservation biology and traditional use (ethnobotany, suggestion of class distinction) in your country, so that you may pursue work on the biological diversity of under-exploited plants?

E. Propagation and Cultivation of Plant Material

- (1) What propagation and cultivation techniques are currently used for plant material in your country? List.
- (2) In what groups of plants are these techniques used in your country? Specify in terms of palms, fruit trees, ornamental trees, herbs, etc.
- (3) What institutions (government, academic or industry) are actively propagating and cultivating plant materials in your country? Elaborate in terms of names, addresses and contact points (if any).
- (4) What propagation and cultivation techniques do you need to know in order to enhance the agronomic potential of economically important under-exploited plant species in your country?

F. Network of Contacts

- (1) What local or regional networks or associations exist, which may be useful for information flow on under-exploited plants? Specify with names, addresses and contact points (if any).
- (2) What local or regional newsletters or publications exist for potentially communicating information on under-exploited plants? Specify with names, addresses and contact points (if any).

- (3) What mechanisms or meetings are available nationally or regionally for potentially communicating information on under-exploited plants? Specify with names, addresses and contact points (if any).

G. Demonstration and Transfer

- (1) What experimental farms, gardens, plots, glasshouses or laboratories are available in your country for demonstrating and transferring potentially important under-exploited plant species? Specify details.
- (2) What regulations (especially quarantine) govern the demonstration and transfer of potentially important under-exploited plant species? Elaborate.
- (3) What events (e.g. exhibitions, field days) are conducive to the demonstration and transfer of potentially important under-exploited plant species? Elaborate.