

Update on Social & Economic Impact Assessment of RCA Programme

Background:

The RCA endorsed the work plan on conducting social and economic impact assessment of RCA programme in service of the 50th Anniversary of the RCA in 2022.

A pilot social and economic impact assessment is being applied for RCA projects in mutation breeding. Main activities and results related to this duty can be summarized as follows:

- The first expert meeting was held in Vienna, Austria from 1-4 July 2019 to discuss, identify and agree on a suitable methodology for case studies of social and economic impact of the RCA programme. A systematic methodology was developed, which consists of eight steps: 1) understanding the theory of change for the programme or project; 2) developing performance criteria; 3) developing performance standards for each performance criterion; 4) identifying and selecting the evidence needed; 5) gathering evidence; 6) analysing the evidence; 7) synthesising and judging the evidence; and 8) reporting. This methodology is first piloted to assess social and economic impact of RCA mutation breeding projects, then will be developed for other fields of activities in the future.
- As a follow-up, the second expert meeting was held in Vienna, Austria from 18-22 November 2019. The meeting developed 1) performance criteria; 2) standards under each performance criterion; and 3) a draft data collection tool for RCA mutation breeding projects.
- An online data collection tool was finalized on 20 February 2020.
- The online data collection tool was sent to NRs on 22 February 2020 for national coordination to collect relevant data from each GP. GPs are requested to try their best to provide data/information as much as possible by 30 March 2020.

The next steps include: survey analysis and integration of internal data (April 2020); economic analysis (May 2020); case examples of mutation breeding success (May 2020); preparation of draft report (by 30 May 2020), workshop to develop final evaluative judgements (Vienna, 8-12 June 2020); and 8) completion of final report (by 30 July 2020)

Proposed Action:

NRs are requested to designate most appropriate experts to reply the questionnaire. NR are also requested to work closely with the designated experts to ensure all the questions in the questionnaire are answered in the best possible manner by 30 March 2020.