Exercise 4. Understanding the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA)

(group work)

The aim of this exercise is to familiarize yourself with the contents of the SMTA.

1. Form four groups. Each group elects a rapporteur. (5 minutes)

2. As a group, you will analyse the hypothetical case below in 4 phases (two group work sessions and two reporting sessions) in two different roles (A and B), sequentially, as follows, using the worksheets (Handouts 26 and 27) to record your responses:

   - **Role A:** Pretend you are the Coordinator of the Genetic Resources Research Unit of the University of Venezilru.

   - **Role B:** Pretend you represent a national genebank in the African country Tanenyabia. Your genebank has many interesting accessions of chickpea and cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) and the breeding programme attached to your genebank is trying to develop new varieties of cassava for commercial exploitation.

Hypothetical case:

The Genetic Resources Research Unit of the University of Venezilru is interested in accessing the following materials from the national genebank of Tanenyabia under the multilateral system:

- 2 accessions of chickpea (TNGB-CP 101 and TNGB-CP 102)
- 2 accessions of cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) (TNGB-ME 201 and TNGB-ME 202)
- A breeding line (TNGB-BL-ME 2201) from which the national genebank of Tanenyabia is trying to develop a new variety of cassava for commercial exploitation (The breeding line has been developed from cassava accession TNGB-ME 201.)

This is the first time that the Research Unit has tried to access materials under the multilateral system and they need to understand the implications of accepting the SMTA.
Phase 1. Role A: Group Work: Posing questions on the SMTA (20 minutes)

Operating in groups, pretend that you are the Coordinator of the Genetic Resources Research Unit of the University of Venezuela.

Draw up a list of questions that you have on the meaning and functioning of the SMTA, using the worksheet (Handout 26) to record your questions.

Phase 2. Role A: Reporting on Role A (30 minutes)

Each group should report in turn to the plenary (5 minutes per group) on the questions it has chosen to pose. (20 minutes)

The trainer should distribute the Practical Considerations for Exercise 4. Role A (Handout 28) and add in any questions to this that have been raised in the discussions in plenary. (10 minutes)

Phase 3. Role B: Group Work: Responding to the questions on the SMTA (20 minutes)

Operating in groups, pretend you represent the national genebank of Tanenya and prepare your responses to the questions posed by the University of Venezuela, using the worksheet (Handout 27) to record your responses.

Phase 4. Role B: Reporting on Role B (30 minutes)

Each group should report in turn to the plenary (5 minutes per group) on its responses to the questions posed. (20 minutes)

The plenary will discuss the responses. The trainer should distribute the Practical Considerations for Exercise 4. Role B (Handout 29) and lead a discussion on any additional points not raised in the plenary. (10 minutes)

3. Closure (5 minutes)

The trainer asks if there are any other considerations and closes the session.