Practical Considerations for Exercise 4, Role A
(to be distributed after the groups have reported on the questions posed under Role A)

After doing this exercise, participants will be able to explain the terms and conditions of the SMTA.

Possible questions that could be raised by the Coordinator of the Genetic Resources Research Unit of the University of Venezilru

1. Why should they accept using the SMTA when they have already negotiated a number of bilateral agreements with ... for access to genetic resources in the past?

2. What obligations will the Research Unit be incurring if it signs the SMTA?

3. Will accepting the SMTA mean that the Research Unit cannot commercialize products developed from the material accessed from the multilateral system?

4. Will the Research Unit have to pay into the multilateral system if they take out plant varietal protection over products developed from material accessed under the SMTA?

5. Will the Research Unit have to make payments if they take out patent protection over such products? For how long will they have to pay?

6. The Research Unit is planning to access materials from a number of sources to use in its breeding programme. All of these will be under the multilateral system, although not necessarily all from your genebank. They are worried that if they do so, they might have to pay royalties for each of the materials accessed if they commercialize a product developed from those materials.

7. Who will have to accept the SMTA on behalf of the Research Unit?