

Country Report on the implementation of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic
Resources for Food and Agriculture
(ITPGRFA)

GUYANA

16/11/2018

FIRST COUNTRY REPORT ON COMPLIANCE - ITPGRFA

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ANNEX 2

***STANDARD REPORTING FORMAT PURSUANT TO SECTION V.1 OF THE
PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE AND
ADDRESS ISSUES OF NON-COMPLIANCE***

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Draft

Standard Voluntary Reporting Format

Introduction

1. Pursuant to Article 21 of the Treaty, the Governing Body has adopted a resolution that includes, amongst others, provisions on monitoring and reporting (Resolution 2/2011). Pursuant to this Resolution, each Contracting Party is to submit to the Compliance Committee, through the Secretary, a report on the measures it has taken to implement its obligations under the Treaty in one of the six languages of the United Nations (Section V.1).
2. The first report is to be submitted within three years from the approval of this standard format. The Governing Body approved this standard format at its Fifth Session.
3. This standard format has been developed to facilitate reporting and monitoring of the implementation of the Treaty. The use of this standard format is voluntary. A Contracting Party may use another reporting format if it so wishes.

Article 4: General Obligations

1. Are there any laws, regulations procedures or policies in place in your country that implement the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

There are no specific legislative measures that directly support the implementation of the treaty in Guyana. But as the treaty was being assembled Guyana had independently sought to lay the framework for ABS legislation through documentation of 'The National Policy on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilisation' in 2007. This documentation can be accessed online at the EPA (Guyana) website at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/measures/abs/msr-abs-gy3-en.pdf>. There are other snippets of clauses in other laws and regulations, akin to Article 36 of the Constitution of Guyana that speaks in

principle in support to the treaty. The national 'Seeds Act 2011' and the national 'Plant Protection Act 2011' does cover important elements in crop germplasm exchange but not in significant aspects in support of the implementation of the treaty.

2. Are there any other laws, regulations, procedures or policies in place in your country that apply to plant genetic resources?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

The Guyana 'Seeds Act 2011' and the The national 'Plant Protection Act 2011' are the two pieces of legislation that directly applies to plant genetic resources.

3. Is there any law, regulation, procedure or policy in place in your country that needs to be adjusted / harmonized¹ to ensure conformity with the obligations as provided in the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such adjustments and any plans to make those adjustments:

An updated version of the national 'ABS Policy' in direct support of the implementation of the treaty is overdue. Although an enabling Policy focus could be obtained from updating seed legislation with elements for the implementation of the treaty, more pressing issues such as those dealing with GE crops may gain more traction from a political perspective. For this reason, updated procedures with content to address the implementation of the treaty could at best be relegated to accompanying regulations of the 'Seed' and 'Plant Protection' Acts 2011.

Article 5: Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterisation, Evaluation and Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

4. Has an integrated approach to the exploration, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) been promoted in your country?

¹ For the purpose of this report, a Contracting Party may choose whichever term (adjusted or harmonized) is appropriate in relation to their legal systems.

Yes

No

5. Have PGRFA been surveyed and inventoried in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of your findings, specifying species, sub-species and/or varieties, including those that are of potential use:

Through the NISM updated in 2012 and updated status on the implementation of the Second GPA for PGRFA, Guyana has met its reporting obligations as per the relevant FAO data archives and the latest country report of 2014 accessible online at:
<http://www.fao.org/pgrfa/commontables/>

If your answer is 'no', please indicate:

- Any difficulties encountered in surveying or inventorying PGRFA;
- Any action plans to survey and inventory PGRFA;
- The most important PGRFA that should be surveyed and inventoried:

6. Has any threat to PGRFA in your country been identified?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- The species, subspecies and/or varieties subject to such threats;
- The sources (causes) of these threats;
- Any steps taken to minimise or eliminate these threats;
- Any difficulties encountered in implementing such steps:

7. Has the collection of PGRFA and relevant associated information on those plant genetic resources that are under threat or are of potential use been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

During continuous monitoring and surveys of PGRFA in the country several under-utilized species have been identified. One of these major species is cassava; a species that is a crucial source of food in poor indigenous hinterland communities. Recent weather uncertainties that act against sustainably managing this cassava food security resource has prompted NAREI to implement a programme to sustain cassava landrace diversity through the establishment of Community Seed Banks (CSBs) and to engage in collecting cassava diversity to be conserved in *ex situ* field germplasm banks. With 105 accessions to date (the extended target is for 1000) of these accessions conserved in duplicate on-station field safety depositories and establishment of three CSBs, progress has been satisfactory. Moreover, continuing characterization of the 105 accessions in a growing core collection has recorded data to support more targeted collecting and generation of speciality subset collections (for drought tolerance, yields, grow vigour, maturation period, etc.) on-station.

8. Have farmers and local communities' efforts to manage and conserve PGRFA on-farm been promoted or supported in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

The efforts has not only been on-farm. By estimates, more than 80% of PGRFA used for foods and medicines can be found in homesteads and it is sustainably managed. Moreover most farms in hinterland communities are an extension to these hmesteads. In partial

recognition of this unique tradition of Guyanese, the country has come to observed an annual ritual for the Day of Villages' each November 07.

9. Has *in situ* conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether any measures have been taken to:

- Promote *in situ* conservation in protected areas;
- Support the efforts of indigenous and local communities.

If such measures have been taken, please provide details of the measures taken:

An effort to conserve *in situ* an assortment of wild plants used for food was promoted by the local Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs. To date NAREI, with help of resources from the local office of the Guyana Shield Initiative is shaping a Agro-forestry policies and a programme to address this 'green state' initiative.

10. Are there any *ex situ* collections of PGRFA in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide information on the holder and content of such collections:

The Guyana Rice Development Board through its Burma Rice Research Station (BRRS), and the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) through its GUYSUCO Agricultural Research Center (GARC) holds *ex situ* collections of parental breeding lines of rice and clones of sugarcane. The forerunner of GARC was established way back in the 1880's and that for rice around the 1960s. NAREI. The focal point for plant science research in the country is the only other designated agency for conserving *ex situ* PGRFAs. The status and composition of the more than 25 gene banks under NAREI's responsibilities are detailed in the common tables at: <http://www.fao.org/pgrfa/commontables/>

Ex situ collections are also held *in vitro* for cassava, *Musa* spp., pineapple and efforts are continuing with some success for breadfruit, irish potatoes and coconut..

11. Has the development of an efficient and sustainable system of *ex situ* conservation of PGRFA been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the measures taken to promote *ex situ* conservation, in particular any measures to promote the development and transfer of technologies for this purpose:

The most effective management and conservation practices are being conducted by BRRS and GARC; their motives being of commercial interests of the huge agricultural industry in the country. The NISM adopted in 2012 following the report on the status of PGRFA in Guyana continues to serve its purpose from its NAREI focal point. The systems users being mostly disproportionately students of higher educational institutions and plant science researchers. All departments at NAREI are involved in a decentralized research system for the sustainable use of PGRFA in the country. And as part of on-station field gene banks NAREI in addition also promotes on-farm conservation for coconuts and an assortment of important orchard species inclusive of citrus, mangoes, cocoa, pineapple, etc. With cassava, CSBs are being established in more poor hinterland indigenous communities that depend upon cassava as a food security staple. Under CSBs there is an interacting dynamic for the exchange of genebank management expertise and indigenous knowledge about the cassava crop. In situ conservation has been promoted in the country and the University of Guyana has been able to buy in to some extent. But to date, NAREI remained the only entity that has such substantive capabilities in this field of conservation.

12. Has the maintenance of the viability, degree of variation, and the genetic integrity of *ex situ* collections of PGRFA been monitored in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the main conclusions of these monitoring activities:

Over the years NAREI continues the struggle to maintain a sustainable system for the conservation of orthodox seeds. Failure to improve its seed storage infrastructure and upgrading of technical competencies of its technical staff have been debilitating to efforts aimed at PGRFA conservation for the country's land race species. Significant gains were

made much earlier for hot pepper and sweet potato. But efforts to sustain these crop ex situ have been neutralized for lack of management capacities. Cassava has however regained a formidable footing in conservation and research through characterization of diversity and formation of specialty subset collections. In this latter regard, the dynamic generator of genetic diversity in stand of cultivated cassava has dispelled all notions of possible genetic drift among landrace cultivated complexes.

Over the several years that the NAREI has distributed pineapple, plantain and banana plantlets from its tissue culture labs, somaclonal variations were observed. Progress in banana plants were most prominent, while those for plantain and pineapple seems to have decline to absence.

13. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation or documentation of PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the other Contracting Parties with whom the cooperation was undertaken (where additional to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms) and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

Both BRRS and GARC have a long history of collaboration with other institutions on a shuttle breeding strategy. The two institutions are wholly dependent on infusions of exotic breeding lines and clones; rice and sugarcane not being endemic to Guyana. In return, through collaborative breeding schemes Guyana has help to contribute, in a significant way, towards regional and international crop improvement efforts for these two crops. On the other hand, Guyana's crop diversity is poorly represented in regional and international genebanks; an artifact of not being able to sustainably conserve in ex situ gene banks. Guyana has an informal arrangement with CIAT for the exchange of cassava germplasm. Guyana has received one consignment of cassava germplasm from CIAT but to date Guyana has not been able to export a single accession to CIAT. Sporadic records of several imports of different crops inclusive of sweet potato, coconuts, Irish potato, breadfruit from several donors, and specifically legume species from INCRISAT and other species regional and international donors have not been properly documented to accurately comment on.

Article 6: Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

14. Are there any policy and legal measures² in place in your country that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA?

² For the purpose of this report, legal measures may include regulations.

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such policy and legal measures include:

- Pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources;
- Strengthening research that enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers;
- Promoting plant breeding efforts, with the participation of farmers, that strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;
- Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers;
- Promoting the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilised species;
- Supporting the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to plant breeding and agricultural development;
- Reviewing and adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution.

If such policy and legal measures are in place, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

Pursuing fair agricultural policies... Guyana is not noted to impose undue restrictions on practices of crop cultivation for food and agriculture. The local policy encourages all forms of farming in all parts of the country. The effect is an assorted preponderance of practices with a diversity of results that has generated both diversity in farming ecologies and varying successes in deploying local varieties in both commercial and subsistence farming practices.

Strengthening research that enhances and conserves... This policy is not very applicable to rice and sugarcane. However, except for cassava, coconut, pineapple and eddoes, insufficient efforts have gone into enhancement of local genetic diversity. The paradox, however, that lacking this effort has it inadvertently encouraged farmers to use more and more landrace varietal diversity in an effort to find the optimal combination with adaptable ecologies to increase expectations of improve yields.

Promoting plant breeding efforts... Only GARC and BRRS has recorded rewards from their efforts here. NAREI has no dedicated plant breeding programme.

Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing ... This strategy is the basis for the successes of GARC and BRRS. The only significant efforts made by NAREI over the last 20 years has been recently with cassava. Coconut and breadfruit are two of NAREI's latest efforts

but progress has been slow to negligible. Efforts over the years with vegetables have not been very commercially fruitful.

Supporting the wider use of diversity of varieties... NAREI has not been steadfast in supporting a strategy of on-farm conservation. Several efforts with hot pepper and sweet potato were not successful. Effort with cassava has however, been placed on a formidable footing.

Reviewing and adjusting breeding strategies... Generally the agri-research community may not be obligated to observed regulations on varietal release and seed distribution. And the collaborative nature of the breeding efforts of GARC and BRRS may not warrant changes in regulations or policies for commercial release of new varieties. NAREI on the other hand, has not officially documented an official release of a new variety more than two decades. And neither the lack of a functional seed storage facility will be able to do justice to a seed distribution system even if a formal policy exists.

Article 7: National Commitments and International Cooperation

15. Has the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, documentation and sustainable use of PGRFA been integrated into your country's agriculture and rural development programmes and policies?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the integration of such activities into the agriculture and rural development programmes and policies:

Under the specific narrative of PGRFA there may not be any deliberate rural programmes and policies on these themes of PGRFA because constant proposals for a national and regional seed storage system have not been pursued. While a programmed effort for characterization, documentation and sustainable may not be the subject of policy, there is an inherent system among the populace that ensures the traditions and cultural customs of homestead cultivations maintain a wide assortment of cultivated species used for food, herbals and medicines, and for agriculture.

16. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the aim of such cooperation is to:

Strengthen the capability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with respect to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

- Enhance international activities to promote conservation, evaluation, documentation, genetic enhancement, plant breeding, seed multiplication, and sharing, providing access to and exchanging PGRFA and appropriate information and technology, in conformity with the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing under the Treaty.

If, in addition to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms, your country has cooperated with other Contracting Parties directly or through FAO and other relevant international organizations, please indicate such other Contracting Parties and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

Guyana as part of CARDI-GCDT project entered into an arrangement for the regional field regeneration of seeds of crop species. Guyana was designated the site for cassava. Towards the end of the project for cassava Guyana had amassed 34 accessions. This number has to date expanded to more than 100 accessions. In 2014, Guyana initiated a project on cassava commodity improvement (processing) with CAYUGA (Columbia) and cassava germplasm exchange with CIAT. The records on this project has not been updated over several years such that further details cannot be shared at this time.

Article 8: Technical Assistance

17. Has your country promoted the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

18. Has your country received technical assistance with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such technical assistance:

The lack of capacity may have denied technical assistance to Guyana. But the country is ever grateful for the three FAO sponsorships to attend regional training workshops and international conferences that has enable us to fullfil Guyana’s commitments to reporting to FAO on the progress on the Implementation of the Second GPA and on the compliance with the implementation of the treaty.

Article 9: Farmers’ Rights

19. Subject to national law, as appropriate, have any measures been taken to protect and promote farmers rights in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

Recognition of the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources;

The protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA;

The right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilisation of PGRFA;

The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

Any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange, and sell farm-saved seed / propagating material.

If such measures were taken, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

Having signed on to several treaties and protcals (The CBD, Kyto Protocal on ABS, Cartagena Protocal on Biosafety, the ITPGRFA, etc) Guyana has committed itself with support through local legislation in support of farmers rights. Apart from those already mentioned above are the staunch ‘Amerintian Act 2006’ and the ‘ABS Policy 2007’. Guyana crop diversity is poorly represented on overseas gene banks. This status asa donor of PGRFA has no doubt prevented the usuel controversies envisioned.

Article 11: Coverage of the Multilateral System

20. Has your country included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS) all PGRFA listed in Annex I to the Treaty that are under the management and control of your Government and in the public domain?

- All
- Partially
- None

If your answer is 'all', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

If your answer is 'partially', please provide details of:

- The extent to which Annex I PGRFA have been included in the MLS;
- The crops that have been included in the MLS; and
- The difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

While sugarcane and rice have obligatedly entered the MLS, NAREI has not to date recorded and PGRFA accession formally entering the MLS. Nor has any country expressed any issues with accessing Guyana's PGRFRA. Our concern however is not being able to abide by established protocols to transition local PGRFA into the MLS.

If your answer is 'none', please provide details of the difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

21. Has your country taken measures to encourage natural and legal persons within your jurisdiction who hold Annex I PGRFA to include those resources in the MLS?

- Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of:

- The natural or legal persons within your jurisdiction that included Annex I PGRFA in the MLS;
- The crops that have been included in the MLS by these persons; and
- Any difficulties these persons encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

If your answer is 'no' please provide details, in particular details of any difficulties encountered in encouraging these persons to include Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

No measures are needed for interactions with GARC and BRRS. NAREI however, may be limiting in its ability to comply with standard PGRFA transfer protocols. And here NAREI is itself the encourager.

Article 12: Facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Multilateral System

22. Has your country taken measures to provide facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 12.4 of the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such measures:

Access to rice and sugarcane accessions of PGRFA is open without any barriers. NAREI is open to facilitate access to its PGRFA; having responsibility for all PGRFAs except sugarcane and rice.. As a requisite however, it must be remembered that Guyana acceded to the treaty only in March 2016. Ever since, the focal point for the treaty has been at GRDB's GARC. It is possible that requests to NAREI for facilitated access has not formally arrived there as yet.

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA:

23. Has facilitated access been provided in your country to Annex I PGRFA pursuant to the standard material transfer agreement (SMTA)?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide the number of SMTAs entered into:

The PGRFA used by GARC and BRRS are of open-access type in their cross country collaborative breeding programme and SMTAs would not be necessary there. NAREI has recorded in its reports coconut tissue samples sent for testing to the CIB in Jamaica in 2008; and one consignment of tissue-cultured cassava plantlets for 24 landrace varieties sent to CIAT in 2011.

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA pursuant to the SMTA:

24. Has the SMTA been used voluntarily in your country to provide access to non-Annex I PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the number of such SMTAs entered into:

There are only two SMTA records formally documented at NAREI. The open system with GARC and BRRS donot use SMTAs.

25. Does the legal system of your country provide an opportunity for parties to material transfer agreements (MTAs) to seek recourse in case of contractual disputes arising under such agreements?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

Only a limited level of recourse may be resolved by consensus or diplomatic interventions. Other dissolution of disputes may very well involve a third conciliatory party.

26. Does the legal system of your country provide for the enforcement of arbitral decisions related to disputes arising under the SMTA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

Only a limited level of recourse may be resolved by arbitration and here the experience of the local legal system is may be limited. Dissolution f disputes by arbitration may very well involve a third concillatory party.

27. Have there been any emergency disaster situations in respect of which your country has provided facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA for the purpose of contributing to the re-establishment of agricultural systems?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such emergency disaster situations and the Annex I PGRFA to which access was provided:

Article 13: Benefit-sharing in the Multilateral System

28. Has your country made any information available regarding Annex I PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of any information made available regarding Annex I PGRFA (e.g. catalogues and inventories, information on technologies, results of scientific and socio-economic research, including characterisation, evaluation and utilisation):

The relevant records can be gleaned from the cultivar list online at:
<http://www.fao.org/pgrfa/commontables/> ; characterization, evaluation data and ther technical and sociological information are not supplied in this table.

29. Has your country provided or facilitated access to technologies for the conservation, characterisation, evaluation and use of Annex I PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether your country:

- Has established or participated in crop-based thematic groups on utilisation of PGRFA;
- Is aware of any partnerships in your country in research and development and in commercial joint ventures relating to the material received through the MLS, human resource development and effective access to research facilities.

If access to technologies was provided, please provide details of the access provided:

30. Has your country provided for and/or benefitted from capacity building measures in respect of Annex I PGRFA?³

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

- Establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- Developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- Carrying out scientific research and developing capacity for such research.

If your country provided for and/or benefitted from such measures, please provide details:

Substantive physical infrastructure and enhancement of technical of personel at NAREI were received in a NAREI-USDA collaborative project between 2002 and 2010. The projecting involved training of NAREI pesonnel in PGRFA conservation conservation and use inclusive of the use of DA molecular technology and assistance to establish NAREI Biotechnology Laboratory.

Article 14: Global Plan of Action

31. Has your country promoted the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

Yes

³ Please note that this question differs from question 15 as it only concerns Annex I PGRFA and is more specific.

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the implementation of the plan was promoted through:

National actions;

International cooperation;

If the implementation of the plan was promoted, please provide details:

As per Guyana's commitment to the FAO, details on Guyana's implementation of the second GPA can be found online at: <http://www.fao.org/pgdfa/>

Article 15: Ex Situ Collections of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other International Institutions

32. Has facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (IARCs) or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- To which IARCs or other international institutions facilitated access was provided;
- The number of SMTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

GARC and BRRS have an ongoing policy for impeded transfer of PGRFA to WISCBS, IRRI, CIAT, ADRON (Suriname) and other national and regional programmes. The NISM on PRFA based at NAREI has one record of an SMTA of a tissue-cultured consignment for 24 cassava landrace varieties sent to CIAT in 2011. There are no other records in the NISM data base for other transfers of PGRFA from Guyana.

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

33. Has access to non-Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to IARCs or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- To which IARCs or other international institutions access was provided;
- The number of MTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing access to non-Annex I PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

NAREI's NISM on PGRFA has no record of requests nor transfers for non-Annex I PGRFA.

Article 16: International Plant Genetic Resources Networks

34. Has your country undertaken any activities to encourage government, private, non-governmental, research, breeding and other institutions to participate in the international plant genetic resources networks?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such activities:

Guyana's accession to the ITPGRFA was entered into force in 30 March 2016. Besides, BRRS and GARC have long standing collaborations with international and regional networks the likes of WISCBS, IRRI, CIAT, ADRON (Suriname), USDA and the national rice networks of India. NAREI, on the otherhand, do not have a dedicated policy to engage international plant genetic resources networks on a medium or long term basis. The engagement of the ITPGRFA is still new to NAREI.

Article 18: Financial Resources

35. Has your country provided and/or received financial resources for the implementation of the Treaty through bilateral, regional or multilateral channels?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', , where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved:

36. Has your country provided financial resources for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such national activities and the amount of the financial resources involved:

Some activity on these PGRFA thematics do take place in the Department of Agriculture at the University of Guyana and specifically so for sweet potato and the financial outlay on these UG projects are not immediately available. NAREI, on the otherhand, is the dedicated focal point for almost all activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. NAREI's combined financial for all these activities is around G\$2,000,000. GARC and BRRS are more into sustainable use of rice and sugarcane genetic resources and their budget is less than 20% of the networks they are a part of.

About this reporting format

37. Have you encountered any difficulties in completing this reporting format?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details on such difficulties:

If you have suggestions for improvement of this reporting format, please share them:

General remarks on the implementation of the ITPGRFA

38. You may use this box to share any advice you may have arising from your country's experience with implementation of the Treaty:

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39. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of difficulties in implementation of the Treaty:

kkjjgjb

40. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of measures that could help to promote compliance:

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