



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Item 7 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

FIRST MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Rome, Italy, 8-9 November 2012

Farmers' Rights - Compilation of Submissions Received and Report of the Regional Workshop

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Fourth Session, the Governing Body, through Resolution 7/2011, *Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable use of plant genetic resources*, recognized the pivotal role of sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in addressing global challenges, including food security, biodiversity loss, climate change adaptation and poverty alleviation for small-holder farmers.¹
2. In addition, through Resolution 6/2011, *Implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights*, it emphasized the link between Farmers' Rights under Article 9 and the provisions on conservation and sustainable use under Articles 5 and 6 of the International Treaty.² The Governing Body recognized that the exchange of experiences and mutual assistance between Contracting Parties could significantly contribute to making progress in the implementation of Farmers' Rights under Article 9 of the International Treaty.
3. The Governing Body encouraged Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations to submit to the Secretariat of the International Treaty:
 - Views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, involving as appropriate, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders; and
 - Proposals for ways and means through which these views, experiences and best practices can be exchanged between and among Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholder groups.
4. The Governing Body also requested the Secretary of the International Treaty to convene regional workshops on Farmers' Rights, subject to the agreed priorities of the Work Programme

¹ IT/GB-4/11 Report, Resolution 7/2011

² IT/GB-4/11 Report, Resolution 6/2011

and Budget and to the availability of financial resources, with the aim of discussing national experiences on the implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, involving as appropriate farmers' organizations and other stakeholders.

5. It also requested the Secretary of the International Treaty to compile the submissions referred to in paragraph 3 above, and the reports of the regional workshops for consideration of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use, and to disseminate relevant information through the website of the International Treaty, where appropriate.

II. SUBMISSIONS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES AND RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS

6. On 21 September 2011 the Treaty Secretariat posted a notification letter inviting Contracting Parties, international relevant organizations and National Focal Points to submit views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights. A reminder notification letter was posted on the Treaty website on 25 July 2012, as by that time no submissions had been received in the Secretariat of the International Treaty.

7. All the submissions of views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights received by the Secretariat before 15 October 2012 have been compiled and made available in document IT/ACSU-1/12/Inf. 3, *Compilation of Views and Experiences on the Implementation of Farmers' Rights Submitted by Contracting Parties and Relevant Organizations*, and in IT/ACSU-1/12/Inf. 3 Add. 1.

IV. REGIONAL WORKSHOPS ON FARMERS' RIGHTS

8. The Secretary of the International Treaty received a formal letter from the Government of Ecuador informing of their intention to host a Latin American Regional Workshop on the implementation of Farmers' Rights. The workshop will be held, presumably, in July 2013 in Ecuador, with the participation of political and technical representatives of all countries in the Latin American Region. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, identifying gaps and possible solutions to be submitted to the Governing Body at its Fifth Session. The Treaty Secretariat is supporting the Government of Ecuador in the organization of the regional workshop.

V. OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

9. The Secretariat of the International Treaty organized side events on Farmers' Rights under the International Treaty on the margins of important international meetings, i.e., Twentieth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore – WIPO, Geneva, from 14 to 22 February 2012; Eleventh Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, New Delhi, India, from 8-19 October 2012; the Second Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD2), Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 26 October to 1 November 2012. The side events have been a space of discussion on the implementation of Farmers' Rights under Article 9 of the International Treaty.

II. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

10. Based on the submissions compiled by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights, contained in document IT/ACSU-1/12/Inf. 3 and in its addendum, the Committee is requested to:

- a) review the submissions compiled by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights;
- b) consider the inputs related to Farmers' Rights arising from the consultation process undertaken by the Treaty Secretary, to gather information to identify and elaborate elements for a Programme of Work, as requested by the Governing Body at its Fourth Session through its Resolution 7/2011; and
- c) identify and include elements in the draft work programme on sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, to closely relate the realization of Farmers' Rights, as appropriate and subject to national legislation, with the implementation of Articles 5 and 6, in particular the measures in Articles 5.1 (c and d) and 6.2 (c, d, e, f and g).