



NOTIFICATION
Proposal by the Government of Switzerland for the Amendment of Annex I to the
International Treaty

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to bring to your attention a proposal by the government of Switzerland for an amendment of Annex I to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the International Treaty), in accordance with Articles 23 and 24 of the International Treaty.

Switzerland proposes the following new paragraph to be added in Annex I, below the current list of crops contained in Annex I, for adoption by the Governing Body at its Seventh Session:

"In addition to the Food Crops and Forages listed above, and in furtherance of the objectives and scope of the International Treaty, the Multilateral System shall cover all other plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in accordance with Article 3 of the International Treaty."

The full proposal is attached to this Notification.

Pursuant to Article 23 of the International Treaty, amendments to the International Treaty may be proposed by any Contracting Party for adoption at a session of the Governing Body. The text of any proposed amendment shall be communicated to Contracting Parties by the Secretary at least six months before the session at which it is proposed for adoption. All amendments shall be made by consensus of the Contracting Parties present at the Governing Body session.

Under Article 24.2 of the International Treaty, these provisions shall apply to the amendment of Annexes to the International Treaty.

Accordingly, this proposal shall, following consultation with the Chairperson and Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, be put on the Agenda of the Governing Body for its consideration at the next Session.

../..



For any query or request for further information, please contact the Secretariat of the International Treaty at:

Dr. Kent Nnadozie
Secretary a.i.
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
00153 Rome, Italy
PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Dr Kent Nnadozie

Secretary *a.i.*
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA

Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG
The Director-General

CH-3003 Berne, FOAG, kop

Reference:

Your reference:

Our reference: kop

Contact person: Alwin Kopse

Berne, 6 April 2017

Amendment to Annex 1 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Dear Dr Nnadozie,

In accordance with the provisions of article 24.2 of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (herewith after the International Treaty), Switzerland presents a proposal for an amendment to Annex I of the International Treaty in order to expand the scope of its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS) contained in Part IV of the International Treaty.

Switzerland proposes that a new paragraph should be added below the current list of crops contained in Annex I. The new paragraph should read as follows:

"In addition to the Food Crops and Forages listed above, and in furtherance of the objectives and scope of the International Treaty, the Multilateral System shall cover all other plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in accordance with Article 3 of the International Treaty."

Switzerland requests the Secretary of the International Treaty to communicate this submission prior to the next ordinary session of the Governing Body to all Contracting Parties in accordance with Art. 23.2 of the International Treaty.

Dr Kent Nnadozie
Secretary *ad interim*
International Treaty on
Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
FAO Headquarters
Viale delle terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy

Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG
Alwin Kopse
Mattenhofstrasse 5, CH-3003 Berne
Tel. +41 58 465 17 00, Fax +41 31 322 26 34
alwin.kopse@blw.admin.ch
www.blw.admin.ch

In making this submission Switzerland was guided by the following considerations:

- a) Recalling the need to increase user-based payment and contributions to the Benefit-sharing Fund in a sustainable and predictable long-term manner, Resolution 01/2015 of the Governing Body includes the elaboration of adapting the coverage of the Multilateral System as part of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System (the Working Group).
- b) The Working Group considered at its 6th meeting the expansion of the MLS and stressed the need to identify the most effective, clear, simple and rapid modality to give effect to such expansion.
- c) In its Art. 23 and 24, the International Treaty sets out the procedures of adoption and entering into force of amendments. These procedures include amendments of its annexes.
- d) By following these procedures, the proposed amendment above, will enable the 7th session of the Governing Body to make a decision on the coverage of the Multilateral System as part of the enhanced functioning of the Multilateral System.

Yours sincerely
Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG



Prof Dr Bernard Lehmann
Director-General

Copy:

H.E.
Ambassador François Pythoud
Permanent Representative
Permanent Representation of Switzerland to FAO, IFAD and WFP
Via Aventina 32
00153 Rome, Italy