



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



E

Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda

FOURTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Bali, Indonesia, 14 – 18 March 2011

COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS BY PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES, AND OTHER NATURAL AND LEGAL PERSONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

1. By Resolution 4/2010, the Governing Body

Request[ed] the Secretary to prepare a comprehensive report to its Fourth Session on the status of non-monetary and monetary benefit-sharing, as provided for in Articles 13.2a, b, c and d of the International Treaty, and for this purpose to request information from Contracting Parties, international institutions having signed agreements under Article 15, and private sector entities.

2. Pursuant to the decision and request of the Governing Body, the Secretariat has received a submission from the *Union Française des Semenciers* (the French plant breeding companies) on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

3. The report, *inter alia*, refers to the notification of a collection of 533 maize accessions by *Promais* and *INRA* included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, and is contained in the *Appendix* to this document, in the language received from the entities, for the information of the Governing Body.

Appendix

**Contribution of French Plant Breeding companies
to the conservation and sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources**

The French plant breeding companies are closely cooperating with public authorities and research facilities to support and promote the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. These activities are conducted with the following seed organizations: the French seed union (UFS), the SICASOV Group, ACVNPT, Promaïs and the French organization for seeds and seedlings (GNIS).

Plant breeding

Starting from existing varieties and landraces or wild relatives' plants, plant breeders produce new crossbreeds. Using the latest technology, notably biotechnology, they rear improved varieties with new interesting traits.

Every year numerous new varieties are obtained - more resistant to diseases and / or pests, better adapted to soil and climatic conditions, more productive, with specific characteristics interesting for industry and for food quality. The benefits have been impressive: wheat yield has tripled in France in the last forty years; maize, originally a tropical plant, is constantly moving north; the composition of rapeseed has been transformed to produce very high quality oil. For that purpose, French plant breeders are conserving the diversity of cultivated crops and wild relatives' species for more than 150 years.

Union Française des semenciers / French seed Union (UFS)

17 rue du Louvre 75001 Paris - France • Tel : +33 (0)1 53 00 99 30 • Fax : +33 (0)1 53 40 74 10
- info@ufs-asso.com

The 140 French seed corporations had created a new organisation in 2009 by unifying the activities of 7 former professional seed associations (AFSA, SEPRONA, OLEOSEM, SPFGB, FFSFG, SOVF and FNPSP). They had decided to get together in a consistent and efficient manner to develop new synergies and global technical expertise at the French, European and international level regarding transversal topics, social debates and business challenges such as: intellectual property, R&D, biodiversity and genetic resources, quality, environment and sustainable development.

UFS comprises 140 firms: international groups, cooperatives and family-owned businesses. It covers:

- ⇒ all species : corn, protein and oil seeds, cereals, beets, vegetable and flowers and grass seeds;
- ⇒ all seed activities : breeding, production and sales.

Brassica GR networks (www.brassica.fr)

Plant breeders from OLEOSEM and FNPSP have been active members of Brassica networks with INRA and GEVES. Based on this work, different national collections have been created for rapeseeds (90 varieties), for vegetable Brassica (300 cauliflower populations, 350 fodder kale populations, 100 cabbage populations and 150 other types). The coordination of the networks is realised by INRA.

Sunflower GR network

This network gathered INRA, GEVES, around 15 private seed companies. The collection includes 380 populations and 600 wild relatives' ecotypes. The coordination of the network is realised by INRA.

Protein GR <http://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/siregal/siregal/welcome.do>

The national collection includes 240 pea varieties, faba bean and medicago truncatula accessions. The management of the GR is realised by INRA.

Solanaceae and melon GR net works

(http://w3.avignon.inra.fr/rg_tomate/presentation_reseau.html)

(http://w3.avignon.inra.fr/rg_melon/public/index.html)

Vegetable plant breeders from FNPSP have been active in the Tomato genetic resources network initiated in 1989 and the solanaceae GR network and melon GR network initiated in 1996-97 under the BRG umbrella. These networks gathered INRA, GEVES, CIRAD, 11 private seed companies and 2 associations. Different national collections have been created in particular for tomato (56 accessions), for melon (104 accessions). The coordination of the networks is realised by INRA.

SICASOV

7 rue Coq Héron, 75030 Paris Cedex 01, France – Ph. +33(0)1 44 76 88 20,
Fax :+33(0)1.42.36.57.34, info@sicasov.com

In 1976, French breeders' right owners from the public and private sectors created an organization intended to protect and to manage cost-effectively plant variety rights, SICASOV.

Nowadays, the SICASOV Group manages on French territory the majority of protected plant varieties meant for large-scale cultivation, produced under license. SICASOV controls as well the rights of horticultural, fruit-growing, forest and flower species. **SICASOV manage also activities in research and development field through various associations:**

- ⇒ **GIE Vigibio:** works on economic intelligence in biotechnology and life sciences.
- ⇒ **GIE " blé dur " (durum wheat):** carries out fundamental researches on durum wheat variety. 5 private breeding companies collaborate on this project in partnership with Comité Français de la Semoulerie Industrielle (C.F.S.I.), Syndicat des Industriels Fabricants de Pâtes Alimentaires de France (SIFPAF), ARVALIS - Institut du Végétal, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (I.N.R.A.)
- ⇒ *GIE Triticales carries out fundamental researches on triticale varieties, a crossbreed between wheat and rye. Public (INRA) and private researchers collaborate on this project.*

Wheat and other small cereal genetic resources network

<http://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/siregal/siregal/welcome.do>

In the past 30 years, SICASOV and ASFA (autogamous plant breeders) have been active members of wheat and other cereal (rye, secale, barley and triticale and wild relatives' species) genetic resources network in partnership with GEVES and INRA in order to manage the GR on long term perspectives. A dynamic management GR program is also in place since 1984.

Based on this work, in 2009, INRA and AFSA have notified a collection of 1784 accessions of wheat PGRFA to the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The coordination of the network is now realised by INRA.

- ⇒ **Association des créateurs de variétés fourragères (ACVF)** carries out fundamental researches on grass and fodders' varieties. 10 private breeding companies collaborate on 7 groups in partnership with the French Institute for agronomical Research (INRA).

Evaluation of grasses genetic resources and fodder crop GR network

Various fodder grasses have been successfully collected / evaluated in co-operation with INRA. These research approaches have been devised as public-private-partnerships in which a set of grass genotypes is sent to be evaluated to several partners (plant breeders and research institutions).

The fodder crop GR network gathered INRA, GEVES and breeding companies and works on Alfalfa, rye grass, perennial ryegrass, meadow fescue, smooth meadow grass, ...

The coordination of the network is realised by GEVES.

- ⇒ **ASF** (association of French breeders) brings together most of breeders specialized in several species like beets, cereals, fodders, maize, protein crops, vegetable...

These different associations are carrying out activities in relation with plant genetic resources (collection, crossing, utilisation, characterisation ...)

ACVNPT (Association des créateurs de variétés nouvelles de pomme de terre / French association for potato breeders)

This association is gathering the four 4 French potato breeders carrying out activities in relation with potato plant breeding including plant genetic resources (collection, crossing, utilisation, characterisation ...) in close partnership with INRA since 1969.

Potato GR

Since 1992, INRA has stopped breeding activities on potato but is continuing to deliver parental material to potato breeders, members of ACVNPT. For that they are managing and using GR collections in order to introduce new characters, in particular disease resistances. The potato national GR network is currently under creation.

Promais

39, Chemin de Virebent - 31200 Toulouse, France - Tel: +33 1 42 33 76 95 - Fax: +33 1 40 28 40 16 catherine.justafre@pro-mais.org

Founded in 1965, PRO-MAÏS is a non profit breeders' organization that aims at advancing the study and improving maize. 10 breeding companies are member of Promais.

PRO-MAIS's activity is twofold:

- ⇒ Maintenance of maize genetic resources
- ⇒ Research projects on maize genetic resources, on evaluation, management and methodology, on creation of new skills and resources for private breeders, etc.

Maize genetic resources network <http://www.pro-mais.org/index.php?langue=fr>

<http://urgi.versailles.inra.fr/siregal/siregal/welcome.do>

Promais members in close collaboration with INRA have been active in maize GR network in order to manage the GR on long term perspectives.

Based on this work, in 2009, Promaïs and INRA have notified a collection of 533 accessions of maize PGRFA to the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The coordination of the network is realised by INRA.

GNIS (Groupement National Interprofessionnel des semences / French organisation for seed and seedling)

44, rue du Louvre, 75001 Paris – France – Tel : +33(0)1 42 33 51 12 – Fax : +33(0)1 40 28 40 16 - gniscontact@gnis.fr

In France more than 70 plant breeding companies are active and are all members of GNIS. They work often in collaboration with public bodies such as universities and Inra, the French National Agronomic Research Institute. GNIS realised communication actions on genetic resources and plant biodiversity: plant biodiversity atlas, field demonstrations, and technical books.

GNIS is providing technical assistance to the French public authorities in relation with plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Wheat genetic resources and plant breeding: FSOV, Research Fund for plant breeding

Following the signature of an interprofessional agreement (06/01), set up to reinforce wheat plant breeding

** Intended to finance collective research programmes for common wheat*

** Intended to breed improved varieties adapted to sustainable agriculture and environmentally friendly:*

⇒ *study of French population in respect to septoria*

⇒ *study of wheat diversity in partnership with CYMMIT*

French Foundation for research on biodiversity (FRB)

195, rue Saint-Jacques 75005 Paris – France – Tel: +33(0)1 80 05 89 10 – Fax:+33(0)1 80 05 89 59

In 2008, the FRB took over from the Institut français de la biodiversité (French Institute for Biodiversity/ IFB) and the Bureau des ressources génétiques (Genetic Resources Bureau / BRG). The FRB missions are the following:

- ⇒ Bringing together the scientific community on biodiversity
- ⇒ Supporting and promoting research on biodiversity in relevance with society expectations
- ⇒ Management of the BiodivERSA ERA-NET
- ⇒ Composition of FRB

- 8 public research institutions (INRA, CNRS, IRD, CIRAD, MNHN, BRGN, IFREMER, CEMAGREF) + Scientific council (CS)
- Stakeholders' advisory council (COS) gathering more than 120 organisms: UFS, Sicasov, ACVNPT, Promaïs and GNIS are members of this council.

ofiodiversity

The management and sustainable use of PGRFA are not in the missions of this private research Foundation. Based on the last modernization agricultural law adopted in July 2010, the French ministry of Agriculture is currently working on a new organization to strengthen the partnership between the private breeders and the public bodies.