



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Supporting Initiatives

Note by the Secretary

This document presents the Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Supporting Initiatives submitted by Ecuador on 19 December 2018.

The submission is presented in the form and language in which it was received.

Use report of Ecuador

César Tapia
Focal Point Ecuador

| <i>Programmes</i> | <i>Activities done up to now by the Ecuador</i> |
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| <p>1. Implementing the sustainable use of PGRFA, as per Article 6 of the Treaty</p> | <p>In Ecuador, in relation to Article 6.2 The Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, over the measures, several initiatives have been carried out, which are detailed below:</p> <p>a) pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote, as appropriate, the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June 2017 the Law on Agrobiodiversity, Seeds and Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture was approved, and in article 18 "On the Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA", the National Agrarian Authority, in coordination with the National Environmental Authority and the Provincial Decentralized Autonomous Governments, public research institutes and higher education centers, will promote the development of plans, programs and projects to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Promote and promote the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, in order to reduce vulnerability and genetic erosion; b) Execute research programs of agrobiodiversity with public, private and community entities for the improvement, classification, conservation and generation of cultivars appropriate to the requirements of producers and the market; c) Design incentives in favor of agricultural producers to promote the preservation, conservation and use of plant genetic resources; d) Provide assistance and training to farmers to recover seed production systems and their agrobiodiversity in case of natural disasters or effects of climate change; e) Execute joint programs to conserve and implement genebanks. • On article 19 "On the Monitoring and Promotion of PGRFA", the National Agrarian Authority, in coordination with public and private entities that do research, higher education centers and the Provincial Decentralized Autonomous Governments, communes, communities, peoples and nationalities, will monitor the conservation, multiplication and use of PGR in declared agrobiodiversity zones. |

The State will promote and promote the production of PGRFA, through communication, awareness, information, biodiverse farms, seed exchange fairs, promotion and dissemination of agrobiodiversity; and, it will generate differentiated policies for its conservation, multiplication, use and consumption.

- In relation to article 22 "On research and innovation of PGRFA", the National Agrarian Authority in coordination with the governing institution of higher education, science, technology and innovation, higher education centers and private entities will establish plans, programs and projects to promote research, development and technological innovation in the field of plant genetic resources and seeds. In addition, it will strengthen and promote the generation of human talent capabilities.

The research priorities for seed production are:

- a) Food sovereignty and security and guarantee of the right to food;
- b) Conservation of plant genetic resources;
- c) Drug production;
- d) Development of agroindustry and peasant agriculture;
- e) Development of exports, import substitution or restriction.

- In relation to other policies or strategies, we have:
 - Incorporation of the conservation and use of agrobiodiversity in the Territorial Development Plans of three Decentralized Autonomous Governments - Provincial GADs (including the topic agrobiodiversity in the diagnosis and in the proposals)
 - Inclusion of agrobiodiversity in the National Biodiversity Strategy and its action plan.

b) strengthening research which enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers, especially those who generate and use their own varieties and apply ecological principles in maintaining soil fertility and in combating diseases, weeds and pests;

- Identification of on-farm conservation areas for 10 crops
- Inventory of agrobiodiversity in several regions of the mountains, coast, Amazon and Galapagos.
- Implementation of 7 community banks
- Conservation of 30,000 accessions in the national genebank.
- Morphological, ecogeographic and molecular characterization of more than 25 species through thesis.
- Conservation strategies through agro-tourism in indigenous communities of the Sierra Norte.

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| | <p>c) promoting, as appropriate, plant breeding efforts which, with the participation of farmers, particularly in developing countries, strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generation of 284 improved varieties of 30 crops, several of them through participatory research. These varieties have characteristics of high productivity, biotic and abiotic resistance, and quality. <p>d) broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of 4000 biodiverse farms in seven provinces of Ecuador and restitution of germplasm from community banks and the national genebank. • Support for strengthening of local products and ventures with added value of agrobiodiversity. • Creation of Participatory Guarantee Systems (SPG) and support for the creation of the stamp of peasant family agriculture <p>e) promoting, as appropriate, the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilized species;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening 7 short marketing circuits (business plans, corporate image and equipment) • Strengthening gastronomic fairs of ancestral food <p>f) reviewing, and, as appropriate, adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeal of the Seed Law of 1978, and this Law is updated and included in the Law on Agrobiodiversity, Seeds and Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture, which regulates the production and commercialization of basic, registered and certified seed. • The seeds that are produced in each of the INIAP, Experimental Stations are from clone plants selected by the breeding programs and training services; once the variety has been released, they are registered with the National Seed Council, which are analyzed for their quality through: physical, physiological and phytosanitary seeds tests, germplasm evaluation and technical advice. In each Experimental Station and Experimental Farm there is a Production and Services Department, which is in charge of the sale and information of the technical management of the plants and seeds that are released by the INIAP, of approximately 30 crops. |
| 2. Toolbox for Sustainable Use of PGRFA | In the implementation phase |

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| <p>3. Platform for the Co-Development and Transfer of Technologies within the context of non-monetary benefit-sharing</p> | <p>The process of technology transfer in Ecuador, is based on promoting validation processes, oriented to the agroecological, socioeconomic and cultural evaluation of technologies that are promising in the process of generation and adaptation, defining models of management of intellectual property of intangible assets, and systematically transfer technological advances to promote the development and growth of the various sectors of society, considering processes of training, licensing and trade of technologies. In this sense, PGRFA has benefited more than 5000 families that incorporate the management and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity, 70% correspond to indigenous women.</p> |
| <p>4. Training and capacity building on Farmers' Rights and sustainable use</p> | <p>According to article 23 "Dialogue of knowledge", which indicates that scientific research and participatory innovation will be developed within the dialogue of knowledge and respect for ancestral wisdom on issues of agrobiodiversity, seeds and sustainable agriculture. The programs and projects of participatory technological innovation and technical accompaniment must also be framed within the dialogue of ancestral knowledge and other forms of knowledge. The National Agrarian Authority in coordination with the Provincial Decentralized Autonomous Governments, in accordance with its competences, will implement territorial units at the cantonal and provincial level, of innovation and technology transfer, within the framework of the dialogue of knowledge, with the participation of the related educational institutions and representative community organizations at the parish level. The trainers and technical accompaniers that facilitate these processes will preferably be women and young people with knowledge of these matters and originating in the areas or territories where technical assistance is provided. Several activities have been developed in this context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the meetings of the Frente Parlamentario Ecuador Sin Hambre promoted by the National Assembly. • Campaign to promote the rights of the farmer of the ITPGRFA at the level of the National Assembly and local governments. • 5000 trained people belonging to peasant family farming on issues of management and <i>in situ</i> use of agrobiodiversity and agroecology. |
| <p>5. Raising awareness of the actual and potential value of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species of local and regional</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness among 70 decision-makers at the national and local levels, mainly Assembly members, Ministers, Directors of research institutions and academics. |

importance for food security and sustainable development

- Training at the level of primary and secondary formal education. More than 100 teachers from 20 schools and 32 agricultural technical colleges.
- Raising awareness to more than 2000 students of primary, secondary and third level education.
- Master's degree in agrobiodiversity.
- Workshops for the preparation of healthy and diverse foods (adapt and generate recipes) to promote self-consumption