



Food and Agriculture
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The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Views, Experiences and Best Practices as an example of possible options for
the national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty**

Note by the Secretary

At its [second meeting](#) of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG), the Expert Group agreed on a revised version of the [template](#) for collecting information on examples of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights

This document presents the updated information on best practices and measures of implementing Article 9 of the International Treaty submitted by Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) in Uganda on 23 July 2019.

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



Template for submission of

Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty

Basic information

- Title of measure/practice

Improving small scale farmers' especially women access to quality seeds through using the community managed seed security model

Date of submission:

7/23rd/2019

- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place

Uganda

- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person)

Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) Uganda

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- Type of institution/organization (categories)

Non government Organisation

- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s))

OXFAM Uganda

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Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

- Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including:

- Implementing entity and partners

The project targeted small scale farmers especially women in Gulu district with ten farmer groups with several 3250 farmers in 4 sub-counties, i.e. Ongako, Laroo, Bungatira and Unyama

- Start year

It was implemented in April 2016

- Objective(s)

To provide a practical, harmonized and systematic approach for promoting community led seed security among small scale farming communities

¹ This mandatory information is required in order for the measure/practice to be included in the Inventory.



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To generate experiences for strengthening the informal seed sector that can provide good quality seed of required characteristic for small scale farmers in Uganda

To provide for an alternative source of income for the small scale farmers through sale of surplus good quality declared seeds to other farmers

- Summary of core components

The community seed security model looked at components that provided a practical, harmonised and systematic approach for promoting community-led seed security for small scale farmers as well as consolidating the technical capacity of small-scale farmers to identify, multiple save and distribute good quality seed for improved food security.

- Key outcomes

There has been strengthened solidarity around protection and promotion of farmer managed seed systems in the region. Small-scale farmers who benefited from the intervention understood the relevance of protecting and preserving their indigenous seed systems; thus, they have shared the knowledge hence contributed to the preservation of crop diversity among small scale farmers.

Increased seed security. Small scale farmers developed ten community seed banks for their local seed varieties in 3 sub-counties of Unyama, Ongako and Iaroo in Gulu district. In the seed banks, farmers have managed to collect over 50 different varieties of seeds, i.e. Beans (Nabale, kanyebwa, black beans etc.), Okra, cassava stems, soya beans, pigeon peas, groundnuts, millet, sorghum., lapena, boo, Marakwnag among others.

Increased incomes as the sale of seeds have provided an alternative source of income for the small-scale farmers. Farmers that were part of the intervention were able to sell some of the seed to other farmers in their communities and the markets hence attaining incomes that they use to improve livelihoods in their households.

Increase political support for farmer managed seed systems. Local leaders have led to creating awareness on farmers needs to access quality seed and also presented farmers' challenges to national leaders during different meetings.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

Seed among other factors is an instrumental input that determines the development of agriculture and overtime women small-scale farmers were the primary custodians where they played a crucial role in maintaining biological diversity within the agricultural systems and ensuring food and nutrition security for the communities. However, Over time the farmers' self-reliance to provide their own seed and other planting materials is continually being undermined with stressed ecological support systems and climate variability , manmade effects like influx of fake seeds in the markets accumulated with high costs, lack of adequate extension services, increasing pressure



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from multinational corporations, researchers and private sector coupled with the lack of proper implementation strategies especially in the existing laws and policies among others.

However even with these uncertainties, an estimated 80% of the country's seed remains under the farmer managed seed systems which has been consistent over years therefore In 2016 with support from OXFAM , ESAFF Uganda found an essence to secure seed rights by strengthening farmers rights to save, use, exchange and sell seed in the wake of increasing pressure to attach intellectual property to these seeds from multinational corporations, researchers and private sector actors. These was done by using the Community Managed Seed Security (CMSS) Model, which is a participatory farmer-led approach for systematically planning, and executing interventions towards promoting farmers seed sovereignty. The model ensures sustainability and ownership among communities.

- Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words) Description of the context and the history of the measure/practice is taking place (political, legal and economic framework conditions for the measure/practice) (max 200 words)

The measure/practice was implemented by 10 small scale farmer groups in 4 sub counties of Ongako,Unyama, Laroo and Bungatira in Gulu district in the northern region of the country. The region is one of the most highly affected areas with major food insecurities due to the long war in the region that was led by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) that kept most farmers in Internally Displaced People's Camps for a long time thus most of them still lack the essential factors of production such as land, seeds and extension services coupled with stressed ecological systems and climate variability has left many of them unable to increase their production and productivity.

- To which provision(s) of Article 9 of the International Treaty does this measure relate

Art. 9.1

Art. 9.2a

Art. 9.2b

Art. 9.2c

Art. 9.3

Other information, if applicable

- Please indicate which category of the Inventory is most relevant for the proposed measure, and which other categories are also relevant (if any):



No.	Category	Most relevant ²	Also relevant ³
1	Recognition of local and indigenous communities', farmers' contributions to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, such as awards and recognition of custodian/guardian farmers		
2	Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds		
3	Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA		
4	Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge		
5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites		
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks ⁴ , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.		
7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection		
8	Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels		
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation		
10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		
11	Other measures / practices		

- In case you selected 'other measures', would you like to suggest a description of this measure, e.g. as a possible new category? ___ Preserving plant genetic resources through using farmer field schools

- Objective(s)

The major learning objective of the Farmer Field School is to identify the most important morphological and agronomic traits that contribute to increase in yield under local conditions

²Please select only one category that is most relevant, under which the measure will be listed.

³Please select one or several categories that may also be relevant (if applicable).

⁴ Including seed houses.



Establish coherent farmer groups that facilitate the work of research and extension workers providing the demand for a demand driven approach

- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers⁵
Farmer Fields' Schools target 25- 30 that are organised in subgroups of 5 small scale farmer groups facing challenges in increasing their production and productivity at grassroots levels

- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice

Available land

Seeds

Facilitation for facilitators

Small scale Climate change adaptation technologies i.e. irrigation kits

- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?
- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)

Increased capacity of small scale farmers in making informed decisions on what's best for them, based on their observations in making their farming profitable and sustainable. During farmer field schools farmers have given opportunities to identify their biggest challenges and find solutions to them.

Increased social capital among small scale farmers in communities. During the farmer field schools farmers are able to build relationships amongst each other which makes it easy to work together during fields activities and make informed decisions and find suitable solutions that can uplift their communities

- Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice

The National seed policy

The National agricultural extension policy

- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?

The UN declaration on peasant rights and other people working with rural communities

FAO guidelines on the seed policy

International seed treaty

- Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice

Lessons learned

⁵ Any classification, e.g. of the types of farmer addressed, may be country-specific.



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- Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words).

Relevancy and responsiveness to local concerns; the content of the farmer fields schools should be adapted to the needs and interests of the community such as challenges, opportunities and possible solutions to their crop management practices

The content of the farmer fields' schools should be adapted to the needs and interests of the community

- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)

The whole process for the development of farmer field schools is so engaging therefore it needs a lot of commitment from the facilitators and the small scale farmers

Effects of climate change such as too much sunshine followed by prolonged drought which that affects the production and productivity levels of crops

Inadequate trainers of trainers that fail to provide enough opportunities for participants to master the farmer field process

- What would you consider conditions for success, if others should seek to carry out such a measure or organize such an activity? (max 100 words)

The willingness of the farmers to take lead in the entire process and provide the necessary resources most importantly land for field experiments made it easy to carry out the measure.

Highly skilled facilitators for the farmer field schools that will provide farmers with the right information needed for the developments of the farmer field schools

Collaboration with existing research institutions that helped farmers play a big role in carrying out their own research on the identified plant traits

Further information

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice

www.esaffuganda.org