



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**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 [first meeting](#) of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG), the Expert Group considered possible structure of the inventory based on a number of proposals made by members, agreed to utilize a [Template](#) for collecting examples of best practices and measures of implementing Farmers' Rights.*

*This document presents the updated information on best practices and measures of implementing Article 9 of the International Treaty submitted by Syria on 28 January 2019.*

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

**To Mr. Kent Nnadozie**  
**Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

With Reference to the notification NCP-GB8-017- Farmers 'Rights – Standard inputs, of December 18th 2018, including the request to submit some measures and practices on farmers' rights to the Governing Body.

We send the following:

1. **Title of the measure or practice:** Support the production, manufacturing and marketing process of rural women farmers

**Place:** Several villages throughout Syria (that received assistance despite the crisis)

**Institution:** Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform- Damascus- Syria

**Type of institution:** governmental

**Brief history:**

Due to the crisis and the bad situation of farmers in some affected areas and after the occurrence of relative calm and the possibility to access to some safe areas, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform has carried out a project to develop farmers' activities, especially for rural women, by supporting the production, manufacturing and marketing process.

**Basic components:**

- Provide technical advice and training for rural women
- Provide some supplies to assist the production, for example an irrigation system is needed to provide water used for watering
- Conversion of some marginalized lands into agricultural lands for beneficiary families
- Support rural women by providing seeds of 8 varieties of summer and winter crops (tomato, cucumber, zucchini, eggplant, peas, spinach, radishes and beans), mostly derived from local genetic resources
- In home manufacturing area, soft and subsidized loans have been provided to set up agricultural industries with added value (such as marmalades, dairies ...)
- In the third phase, the marketing of rural women's products will be through the establishment of specialized sales halls in all the governorates.

**Brief description:**

This project aims to support farmers, especially rural women, by decision of the Minister of Agriculture, to ensure the legal work and to set up a national record of descriptive and numerical documentation of these projects, whether individual or collective. Specific amounts were allocated from the Ministry's budget to implement this project in its three phases (production, manufacturing and marketing), to each phase is allocated a certain amount. The Ministry has also made efforts to assure a specialized technical staff for the management of these projects in all implementation areas, as central task forces and working groups in each province to overcome the difficulties.

2. **Title of the measure or practice:** Rural development projects to support families in the Syrian countryside

**Place:** The eastern region of Syria, which was under the terrorists' control

**Institution:** Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform- Damascus- Syria

**Type of institution:** governmental

**Brief history:**

Due to the crisis, the Syrian countryside suffered the shortage of agricultural production requirements, especially in areas under the control of armed groups. Rural development projects aimed to restoring the agricultural life cycle, and the normal life of rural families in Syria, and seeking food self-sufficiency for these families.

**Basic components:**

- Distribution of some crops seeds and boosting their cultivation
- Providing small loans with simple interest
- Vegetables cultivation in tunnels in cooperation with the St. Ephrem Patriarchal Development Committee at Al-Hasakah (governorate) and the World Food Program through the distribution of seeds and requirements for vegetables production, as fertilizers and drip irrigation systems.
- Beginning of the training on cultivation of mushrooms in Aleppo

3. **Title of the measure or practice:** productivity grants from international donor organizations to rural families

**Place:** Governorate of Damascus countryside during 2017 and 2018

**Institution:** Ministry of Agriculture (Damascus Rural Agriculture Directorate) with international donor organizations (World Food Program), International Federation of Red Crescent Societies and FAO

**Type of institution:** governmental + International organizations

**Brief history:**

The crises caused a decline of agricultural production in many regions, therefore the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform decided, with the support of international donors' organizations, to support farmers and their families in restoring agricultural production activities at the family level.

**Basic components:**

- 685 grants including tomatoes, eggplants and peppers seedlings, sufficient to cover an agricultural surface of 500 square meters in some areas of the eastern and northern Damascus countryside
- 400 winter seeds grants in West Damascus area.
- 5500 home grants for 2.8 kg of winter vegetable seeds
- Agricultural equipment
- 2000 home gardens grants for winter vegetables, cabbage seedlings and irrigation systems.
- 1500 grants for vegetable seeds, summer crops and irrigation systems from the National Program for Family Farming.

4. **Title of the measure or practice:** Raise the purchase value of wheat, barley and cotton crops
- **Objective:** revive the production cycle and encourage farmers to return to their fields and sell their crops after the crisis.

No additional information

5. **Title of the measure or practice:** Study of a draft legislative instrument to exempt the loans of the Agricultural Bank granted to farmers for agricultural purposes from contractual interest and delay penalties as well as rescheduling loans to reduce the financial burden.

No additional information

6. **Issuing the Law 20 of 2009 on protection and circulation of plant genetic resources**, which included farmers 'rights in Article 7 thereof:
  - a. The State shall guarantee and protect the farmers' rights relating to plant genetic resources.
  - b. Farmers and peasants participate in decision-making regarding the conservation of plant genetic resources in their regions and afford a part of benefits arising from material transfer agreements to support their efforts in this field.

We hope to have provided useful information

Kind regards,  
Yousef Wjhani  
Focal Point, Syria