



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 [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 Pagkakaisa para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo at Kaunlarang Pangkanayunan (PARAGOS), the Philippines on 25 July 2019.

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



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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
Implementation of Farmers' Rights at national level in Philippines by Government and farmers
- Date of submission
25 July 2019
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place
Philippines
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person)
PARAGOS (Pagkakaisa para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo at Kaunlarang Pangkanayunan)
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Daryl Leyesa
- Type of institution/organization (categories)
Farmers' Organization
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s))

International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty

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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
PARAGOS-PILIPINAS (Unity Toward Effective Agrarian Reform and Rural Development)
 - Start year
2018
 - Objective(s)
Measure the level of implementation of the Article 9 of the ITPGRFA in the Philippines and support the farmers' role to develop farmers' seeds.
 - Summary of core components
PARAGOS carries on education and campaign work on farmers' rights to the land and sustainable agriculture practices. This includes the following formats:
 - Agroecology School/Training Center.
 - Farmer-to-farmer exchange on farming techniques (organic farming skills, organic fertilizer production).

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



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- Key outcomes

Local farmers groups are organized and strengthened on organic farming, with increased appreciation on the importance of conserving and using their own seeds.

Models of Organic Farming, with own seeds, serve as evidence for increased productivity among farmers and viability of agroecology.

Empowered rural women increased visibility as advocates for sustainable agriculture and agrarian reform, which includes articulating the need for seed subsidy.

- Lessons learned (if applicable)

Need to push for policies that seek to protect the agricultural lands for the purpose of food sovereignty.

The claim to the land by making it productive through peasant agroecology practices, where we save, use, and promote our own seeds.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate
 - Republic Act 7308 (An Act to Promote and Develop the Seed Industry in the Philippines and Create a National Seed Industry Council and for other purposes, 1992)
 - Republic Act 100055 (Philippine Technology Transfer Act, 2009)
 - Republic Act 10068 (An Act Providing for the Development and Promotion of Organic Agriculture in the Philippines and other purposes, 2009)
 - Department of Agriculture (DA) Circular No. 4, Series of 2016: Guidelines on Importation of Plants, Plant Products and Planting Materials for Commercial Purposes
 - Republic Act 8371 (Indigenous People's Rights Act, 1997)
 - Republic Act 9710 (Magna Carta of Women, 2009)
- Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words)
 - Farmers generally are recognized as seed growers, but they are not dynamically supported in their role of managing biodiversity.
 - Technically farmers are not prohibited to plant their own seeds or seeds from other farmers, BUT they are discouraged by government to do so. The government endorses only certified seeds, "sowing fear" that if farmers use non-certified seeds the results would be not as good. However, this is not always the case, even certified seeds do not give good yield.
 - Limitation on seeds exchange are not provided.
 - Peasants can sell their seeds. No limitations in the quantity are provided. Technically, there is no sanction but there is no support either for peasants to develop and sell their seeds. If they want to be certified, they have to meet government standards.
 - About the Phytosanitary regulation, in the informal seed system it operates mostly on trust and quality of the seeds, eg. farmers know how the seeds were produced and taken cared of.
 - Bureau of Plant Industry is the assigned agency for monitoring phytosanitary requirements and quality of seeds.
 - Traditional knowledge is protected, but not recognized.
- 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 law recognizes the representation of the farmers to the National Seed Industry Council, but most of the provisions view farmers as mere beneficiaries/recipients
 - IPRA provides: "Community Intellectual Rights. Refer to the rights of ICCs/IPs to own, control, develop and protect: (a) the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as but not limited to, archeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies, visual and performing arts and literature as well as religious and spiritual properties; (b) science



and technology including, but not limited to, human and other genetic resources, seeds, medicine, health practices, vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals, indigenous knowledge systems and practices, resource management systems, agricultural technologies, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, designs, scientific discoveries; and, (c) language, script, histories, oral traditions and teaching and learning systems”

- IPRA Section 10: Protection of Community Intellectual Property. The ICCs/IPs have the right to own, control, develop and protect the following: (b) Science and Technology including, but not limited to, human and other genetic resources, seeds, medicines, health practices, vital medicinal plants, animals, minerals, indigenous knowledge systems and practices, resource management systems, agricultural technologies, knowledge of the properties of flora and fauna, and scientific discoveries;
- To which provision(s) of Article 9 of the International Treaty does this measure relate
 - Art. 9.1 x
 - Art. 9.2a
 - Art. 9.2b x
 - Art. 9.2c
 - Art. 9.3 x

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	X	
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		X
4	Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge		X
5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites		X

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

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



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.		X
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? _____
- Objective(s)
- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers⁵
- Location(s) and geographical outreach

- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice
No funds being received by the organization but campaigns are mostly done in partnership with selected NGOs and coalitions (Focus on the Global South, KAISAHAN, PKKK/ National Rural Women Coalition). GAD Caravans were supported partly from the GAD budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).
- 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)
- Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice
- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?
- Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice

Lessons learned

- Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words).
 - The organization reiterate the link of land rights to seeds and genetic resources. It is when peasants and indigenous communities exercise full control and security of tenure over their land

⁴ Including seed houses.

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



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and resources, can they also exercise full control and right over their seeds. While we recognize the need for seed conservation, protection, and development, tenurial security is basic for countries like the Philippines where agricultural land is shrinking.

- There is the need to push for policies that seek to protect the agricultural lands for the purpose of food sovereignty. For the Philippines, this means the passage of the National Land Use Act (NLUA). Further for rice farmers, PARAGOS calls for the inventory, delineation and protection of the remaining rice lands.
- The organization strengthen the claim to the land by making it productive through peasant agroecology practices, where we save, use, and promote our own seeds.
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)
- 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)

Further information

- [Link\(s\) to further information about the measure/practice](#)