



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 the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) on 23 July 2019.

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

International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Basic information

Title of measure/practice: Gender and lentil production in rural Ethiopia

Date of submission: July 23, 2019

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

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

ICARDA, CGIAR Research Center; www.icarda.org; a.nour@cgiar.org; d.najjar@cgiar.org

Type of institution/organization (categories): treaty-based international organization; international research centre part of CGIAR.

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

ICARDA worked with the agricultural offices of the Woreda and Kebele administrative regions within Ethiopia.

This research activity was undertaken with funding from the CGIAR Research Program on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals.

Mandatory information:

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

In 2018, the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) started implementing a project addressing gender relations in lentil production in Ethiopia, in cooperation with Agricultural Offices at district (Woreda) and community (Kebele) administrative levels and with funding from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Research Program on Grain Legumes and Dryland Cereals. Main objectives were to enhance understanding how gender inequality affects the capacity of women and men to build resilient livelihoods, and how to address gender-based constraints in agricultural research and extension work. Core components included exploring gender-related norms surrounding the division of roles in lentil production; farm-related decision making; access to lentil-based extension services; and innovations, particularly new varieties, in two major lentil-producing areas of Amhara and Oromiya, where rainfed farming is dominant. Activities entailed quantitative and qualitative interviews and focus group discussions, followed by a validation and an awareness-raising process, which involved representatives of the above-mentioned administrative units as well as community leaders and lentil growers. In the course of this process, the research-findings were shared with the communities, considering Article 9 of the International Treaty and ICARDA's obligations under the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets.

Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

Gender and agriculture studies in Ethiopia have often focused on legumes such as chickpea. The gender aspect of lentil production is under-studied. However, lentils are a main source of income, constituting 50 to 100% of the income of surveyed households in Oromiya and Amhara regions of Ethiopia. The study explored norms surrounding the division of roles, farm-related decisions, access to lentil-based extension services, and innovations, particularly new seed varieties in two major lentil-producing areas of Amhara and Oromiya. The research employed quantitative and qualitative interviews and focus group discussions with a total of 554 male and female lentil farmers. This was followed by a validation process and an awareness raising process which involved an additional 201 male and female respondents through 64 interviews with male and female lentil growers.

Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words)

The validation and awareness-raising process involved a 201 male and female respondents through 64 interviews with male and female lentil growers with special focus on female heads of households (five interviews with women sharecroppers, three interviews with divorced women, and three interviews with widows), six focus groups with each gender (60 male and 60 female lentil growers including laborers) and four key informants from Oromiya (one female and three male) and five from Amhara (two female and three male). The awareness-raising process also involved representatives of Woreda Agriculture Bureau (second lowest administrative unit), community leaders, Kebele (the lowest government administrative structure), community groups and lentil growers.

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)

Although lentils are a critical source of income in parts of Ethiopia, not enough attention has been paid to farmers' limited access to reliable information and improved seed varieties. Furthermore, the gender aspects of lentil production are rarely studied; gender and agricultural studies on legumes in Ethiopia have more often focused on chickpea, bean, and groundnut. Understanding gender norms related to lentil farming is important – and will help address constraints that affect the resilience of both women's and men's livelihoods.

New ICARDA research shows that the sale of lentils constitutes 50 to 100 percent of smallholders' income in the Oromiya and Amhara regions, two of Ethiopia's largest lentil-producing areas. The study explored norms surrounding the division of roles, farm-related decisions, access to lentil-based extension services, and innovations, particularly new seed varieties. Special focus was given to female heads of households, as they are the most disadvantaged and often lack family and government support.

ICARDA researchers also worked with married female farmers who have limited access to extension and rarely participate in cooperatives, where their husbands play a lead role - resulting in the benefits of cooperatives (such as dividends, inputs, and trainings) being directed towards men.

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	Also relevant
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 ¹ , 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	X	
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation		X

¹ Including seed houses.

10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		
11	Other measures / practices		

Objective(s)

The findings were shared with the community for three reasons: (1) to confirm ICARDA accurately understood what was happening on the ground, (2) to raise awareness of the harmful implications of gender inequality on lentil production, and (3) to uphold the community's right to know the findings, noting Article 9 of the ITPGRFA and also ICARDA's obligations under the CGIAR Principles on the Management of Intellectual Assets with respect to farmer's rights and dissemination of ICARDA research results.

Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers²

The validation and awareness-raising process involved a 201 male and female respondents through 64 interviews with male and female lentil growers with special focus on female heads of households (five interviews with women sharecroppers, three interviews with divorced women, and three interviews with widows), six focus groups with each gender (60 male and 60 female lentil growers including laborers) and four key informants from Oromiya (one female and three male) and five from Amhara (two female and three male). The awareness-raising process also involved representatives of Woreda Agriculture Bureau (second lowest administrative unit), community leaders, Kebele (the lowest government administrative structure), community groups and lentil growers.

Location(s) and geographical outreach

Amhara and Oromiya regions of Ethiopia.

Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice

During the validation and awareness phase, there were findings on farm-related divisions of labor, decision-making norms and practices, challenges in growing lentil, access to agriculture extension services and membership in farmer's cooperatives. Participants appreciated the sharing of the findings which, according to them, is a rare practice. Heated discussions were held with regards to, for example, the issue of women's limited participation in agriculture. Oftentimes during the discussions, men were targeted due to a belief that they represent the entire household. This became a point of contention between those men who thought women were not interested in learning about farming, or thought women did not need access to extension services because they "*are not farmers*" and those in the discussions who insisted that women could not participate due to prevailing norms, such as norms that limit women's mobility and participation in meetings. For example, in a male Focus Group Discussion (FGD) a participant from Amhara argued that "*if women go out too much and walk around they are said to have bad behavior so it is better for them to remain at home. So they do not come to the farmers' training center*". Others noted women's multiple roles as producers and caregivers to be additional reasons for their limited involvement in an agriculture extension service. Women

² Any classification, e.g. of the types of farmer addressed, may be country-specific.

also raised a number of practical issues for their lack of participation. Married women mentioned that spouses attended meetings and also explained that the timings of trainings often do not consider women's busy schedules. However, female participants from both regions agreed that female heads of household are more involved in extension services when compared to married women.

How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?

The measure increased awareness and facilitated dialogue between officials and members of the community on gender inequalities which has significant food security implications, including the gender yield gap and inequitable access to resources and opportunities in food production.

Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)

A representative of the Woreda Agriculture Bureau from Oromiya commented that the discussion helped him to understand better how gender norms affect male and female farmers differently and promised to consider that in his future work. Female participants from both regions also recommended arranging the timing and place of services in consultation with women would contribute to improve women's participation in extension services. Male FGD participants noted that the lack of research and agricultural training support on lentil crops affects both men and women negatively and as such should be improved so that both can benefit. Female and male FGD participants recommended improvements in access to affordable farm inputs, such as effective chemicals, and good quality seeds. And, according to them, immediate actions are required to sustain the already-established lentil demand and lentil market in both Oromiya and Amhara.

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

Ethiopia is undergoing rapid political changes with a strong women empowerment component. These effort mesh well with the current political climate with its promising potential to realize increased gender equality in the country.

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

IDRC highly encourages returning findings to the community in its funded projects.

Lessons learned

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

It is good practice to return findings to the community. Policy-based measures can have limited impact without buy-in from local partners. As such, it is important to raise awareness on the potential harmful impacts of gender inequality.

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

Farmers were angry that they did not receive their fertilizer share, which was complicated due to political unrest in the country. It was difficult to gain their perspective. ICARDA listened to their

problems, incorporated these into the research and they then agreed to share with ICARDA their experiences about lentil production. Another limitation was that it was harvesting time and rain was expected. ICARDA visited their fields and even helped them with piling crops to help spare some time for the project.

The project had a built-in component that related to awareness-raising as to the impacts of problems observed with a focus on gender inequality. This is not always possible for other projects due to bureaucracy (e.g., in obtaining fieldwork permission), or funding limitations.

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)

Experienced people who speak the same language and are from the same culture. ICARDA worked with a skilful consultant who was leading the fieldwork implementation of the study and she has done similar work for WFP. Such sensitive topics (being critical of government extension services, harmful aspects of gender norms) are better received by people from the same culture.

Further information

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

<https://www.icarda.org/media/news/lentil-farming-and-gender-norms-ethiopia>

Also featured on GLDC Website along with a related photo essay,

<http://gldc.cgiar.org/lentil-farming-and-gender-norms-in-ethiopia/>