



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 India on 30 July 2019.

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

Template for collecting information on examples

Basic information:

Title of measure/practice: [Recognition and Rewards to farmers and farmer-breeder under the PPV&FR Act, 2001](#)

Name(s) of country: [India](#)

Responsible institution/organization

[Mr R. C. AGRAWAL](#)

[Registrar General, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority](#)

[Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation](#)

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Type of institution/organization (categories): [Government](#)

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

Description of the examples

Mandatory information:

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate:
[The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority \(PPV&FRA\) has been established by the Central Government under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001. The Authority grants exclusive rights to the breeders and farmers who have bred, evolved or developed any variety.](#)
- Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words):
[The Authority, under the provision of section 45 of PPV&FR Act, 2001 Rule 70 \(2\) \(a\) \[PPV&FR Rules, 2003\] has instituted Recognition and Reward from the Gene Fund.](#)
- Short 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 recognition and reward conferred annually under the provision of section 45 of PPV&FR Act, 2001 are as follows:](#)

- [Plant Genome Savior Community Award, given annually to the community of farmers/farming community based organizations who have a long track record for conserving plant agro-biodiversity. The award is open to all Indian group of farmers, community of farmers,](#)

particularly the tribal and rural communities engaged in conservation, improvement and preservation of genetic resources of economic plants and their wild relatives particularly in the areas identified as agro bio-diversity hotspots. There shall be maximum of five awards in a year, consisting of a cash of INR 10,00,000 each, a citation and a memento.

- *Plant Genome Savior Farmer Reward*, given to farmers who are engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of landraces and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation and the material so selected and preserved has been used as donors of gene in varieties registerable under the PPV&FR Act, 2001 (53 of 2001). There shall be maximum of 10 rewards (comprising of citation, memento and cash of INR 1,50,000) in a year.
- *Plant Genome Savior Farmer Recognition*, given to farmers who are engaged in the conservation of genetic resources of landraces and wild relatives of economic plants and their improvement through selection and preservation and the material so selected and preserved has been used as donors of gene in varieties registerable under the PPV&FR Act, 2001 (53 of 2001). There shall be maximum of 20 recognitions (consisting of a citation, memento and cash of INR 1,00,000) in a year.

- 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 ¹	Also relevant ²
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	Y	
2	Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds		Y

¹ Please select only one category that is most relevant, under which the measure will be listed.

² Please select one or several categories that may also be relevant (if applicable).

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		Y
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks ³ , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.		Y
7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection		Y
8	Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels		
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation		Y
10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		Y
11	Other measures / practices		

Other information, if applicable:

Objective:

To recognize the efforts of the farmers and farming communities engaged in the conservation of plant genetic resources so that such farmers and farming communities are encouraged for conservation activities and the such gene pool can be explored for the further use in food security.

- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmer: Farmers and farmer-breeder

The number of farmers and farming communities awarded are given below-

Awards / Reward / Recognition	Awarded	Since
1. Plant Genome Saviour Community Awards	25	2009-10
2. Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Reward	33	2012
3. Plant Genome Saviour Farmer Recognition	66	2012

³ Including seed houses.

- Location(s) and geographical outreach: National, Local levels:
- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice : National Gene Fund created by the Central Government under Section 45 of the PPV&FR Act, 2001.

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):

These awards have created an awareness amongst the farmers and their communities about the importance of the conservation and their sustainable use. Many awardee communities have also got additional demand of their traditional varieties from within and outside the country which has resulted in enhanced income of the farmers and their communities. After receiving the award, the farmers and their communities also receive national and international attention about their conservation efforts resulting in opportunities for additional funds to support their activities.

Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice: Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Agricultural Science Centres located at least one in each district), Biodiversity Management Committees who maintains the Peoples Biodiversity Registers at local level, State Biodiversity Boards, National Biodiversity Authority, Institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, State Agricultural Universities, State Departments of Agriculture and NGOs

- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?: TRIPS agreement, CBD
- Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice: The PPV&FR Authority has published literature for creating awareness on the provisions of the Act, farmers' rights and frequently asked questions in multiple regional languages. Regularly awareness programs local level are organized about the Farmers Rights and importance of conservation activities. An easy to understand video drama is also developed in multiple regional languages for explaining to farmers about their Rights and importance of conservation activities.

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 recognition can be bestowed only after a rigorous and massive national campaign using print and visual media to educate the farmers and farming communities about the importance of conservation of plant genetic resources and their rights about seed. There should be some funds at national and international level to further support the awarded farmers and farming communities to strengthen their conservation efforts.
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words): The National Gene Fund which is used for the awards/rewards needs further support so that it can also be utilized to meet the expenditure for supporting the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources including in-situ and ex-situ collections and for strengthening the capability of the local bodies in carrying out such conservation and sustainable use. The breeders (public/private) should make

efforts to explore the possible use of the important PGR available with farmers and their communities for incorporating in their breeding programs and their improvement.

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): (1). Mechanism to sensitize the farmers and their communities about the importance of conservation of the PGR and their sustainable use. (2). Sufficient funds to support the recognized farmers to carry forward their conservation activities. (3). Regular follow ups to the sites of awarded farmers and their communities for the continuation of their conservation activities (4). National Action Plans for the improvement of the PGR available with the awardees.

Further information

- Link to further information about the measure/practice

Submitted by India

<http://www.plantauthority.gov.in/index.htm>

<http://www.plantauthority.gov.in/PGSFA.htm>

<http://www.plantauthority.gov.in/PGSFR.htm>

<http://www.plantauthority.gov.in/PGSFRCG.htm>