



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 Italy on 31 July 2019.

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



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

**Enhancement and protection of the products of local varieties of the Genova's mountain by a
consortium of farmers called "Consorzio della Quarantina"**

Basic information

- Title of measure/practice: **Enhancement and protection of the products of local varieties of the Genova's mountain by a consortium of farmers called "Consorzio della Quarantina"**
- Date of submission: **July 2019**
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: **Italy**
 - Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person): **Consorzio della Quarantina per la Tutela dei Prodotti di Varietà e Razze tradizionali della Montagna genovese – (from now Consorzio della Quarantina) Address: Via N.S. della Provvidenza 3 (c/o Parco Antola) – 16027 Torriglia GE; e-mail address: presidente@quarantina.it; Telephone number 339 8137736**
- Type of institution/organization (categories): **NGO - conservation, promotion and education activities on agro-biodiversity**
 - Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): **Institutions: Liguria Regional government; Province of Genova; Actors: members of the association, producers and partners of the Quarantina Consortium, local history and rural culture scholars, other associations as Rete semi Rurali.**

Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

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

This measure presents the role that local associations can play in the sustainable management of agrobiodiversity. They are particularly relevant in marginal areas to maintain farming activities and therefore guarantee an income to farmers. The establishment of the Consorzio della Quarantina is the result of a research conducted since the mid-'80s by Massimo Angelini, scholar of rural culture, which focuses in particular on research and recovery of a variety of potato traditionally grown in the mountains of Genova, which was known as "Quarantina bianca". The Consortium has 39 members, 23 of whom are farmers. Among these, 15 are producers of the Quarantina white potato for the Consortium. In addition, the association has 2 affiliated shops that buy the Quarantina potato directly from the Consortium and 9 farmhouses and bed and breakfasts with which they collaborate and that the Consortium supply with the Quarantina potato. Even if they started their activities for conserving local varieties, in last years they developed a programme of selection of new varieties obtained from the cultivation of real seed taken from the berry of the white Quarantina variety. This project, also supported by the Liguria Region, is aimed at the genetic improvement of the same Quarantina, in particular as regards to the characteristics of productivity and resistance to the Downy mildew. The activities of comparison between the new lines selected and the white Quarantina have been arranged in 9 different farms, located mainly in the province

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



of Genova, at different altitudes, and for a period of 6 years, leading to the collection of interesting data. This aspect is really relevant because demonstrates how conservation is linked to innovation and how it is possible to create modernity from tradition.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

The establishment of the Consorzio della Quarantina is the result of a research conducted since the mid-'80s by Massimo Angelini, scholar of rural culture, which focuses in particular on research and recovery of a variety of potato traditionally grown in the mountains of Genova, which was known as “Quarantina bianca”. Hence the idea of creating a Consortium, considering the interest that in the meantime had been created around the recovery of this product. Therefore was born the “Consorzio della Quarantina” on 13 April 2000, on the initiative of 20 agricultural producers in the mountain area of the Province of Genova. After the change of Statute, which took place in 2003, and the creation of a non-profit association in 2006, the Consortium decided to expand its actions in the area with particular attention to the cultivation and breeding of varieties and traditional breeds of agricultural interest, related to the area around Genova, the production and dissemination of products derived from these varieties and breeds, the expansion of the membership base that includes, in addition to producers and affiliates (shops and restaurants), also purchasing groups, supporters, consumers and their families; the extension of the territorial area of interest that goes beyond the borders of central Liguria; the interest in all the products of family farming, linked to the territory and small-scale products for the local market. With the birth of the association the name changes from “Consorzio di tutela della Quarantina bianca Genovese e delle patate tradizionali della Montagna genovese” to “Consorzio della Quarantina per la Tutela dei Prodotti di Varietà e Razze tradizionali della Montagna genovese” .

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

The core components of the consortium's practices, according to the association's Statute, can be summarized as follows:

1. Supporting the rural world to promote and protect family farming, housing and production recovery of the territory;
2. The cultivation, breeding, conservation, exchange and dissemination of varieties and local breeds, and the sale of the products derived from them;
3. To give impulse to the local culture, the manual handcraft, the traditional kitchen, the knowledge of the territory and its communities;
4. To support local knowledge, local practices, collective ownership, community places, the custom handed down to us.

These practices are supported through various activities that the Consortium carries out on the territory in collaboration with the producers, members and affiliates of the association. In particular, it should be noticed the work of recovering six different varieties of potatoes traditionally grown in the mountainous areas of the province of Genova, the organization of the production and reproduction of tubers arranged by the producers of the consortium, the testing of new varieties of potatoes from the berries of the white Quarantina, and the drafting of a Protocol for the cultivation, reproduction and sale of the white potato Quarantina.

- 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 “Consorzio della Quarantina” was founded thanks to an activity of research and recovery of a local variety of potato, the Quarantina bianca, undertaken by Massimo Angelino, a scholar of rural culture, in the '80s. The interest shown by many farmers during the research process led to the establishment in 2000 of a Consortium composed by 20 farmers and in 2006 of a non-profit association called "Consorzio della Quarantina per la Tutela dei Prodotti di Varietà e Razze tradizionali della Montagna genovese".

The various tasks of the association are coordinated by the members who are directly involved in the organization of numerous activities, the main of which is certainly the cultivation, reproduction and sale of the white potato Quarantina. Moreover, in 2011, one of the members of the Consortium, started a work of production of new varieties starting from the real seed extracted from a berry of the variety Quarantina bianca. This path has been recognized and supported by the Regional government of Liguria, which in 2017 granted funds through the Rural Development Plan for the organization of demonstration days in the fields of producers of these new lines of potatoes. Finally, the Consortium is also responsible for promoting and organizing courses in agriculture and traditional cuisine, involving different actors in the area.

- 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	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

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).



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		X
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? _____
- Objective(s)

The purpose of the association, according to its Statute, is to support the rural world, to promote family farming and the recovery of housing and production of disadvantaged areas of the mountains of Genova, to recover, cultivate, breed varieties or local breeds, to preserve and pass on local knowledge about local varieties / races and peasant culture.

- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers⁵

The Consortium has 39 members, 23 of whom are farmers. Among these, 15 are producers of the Quarantina white potato for the Consortium. In addition, the association has 2 affiliated shops that buy the Quarantina potato directly from the Consortium and 9 farmhouses and bed and breakfasts with which they collaborate and that the Consortium supply with the Quarantina potato. The association also promotes events open to the public, including the organization of the "Mandillo dei Semi", a day of exchange of self-produced seeds, and the event "exhibition of potatoes from the world", an exhibition of 600 different varieties of potatoes from around the world, managed by one of the members of the Consortium. Always in contact and in close collaboration with other associations linked to the Italian rural world, it is worth mentioning in particular the adherence to the themes concerning the legislation on the varieties considered local or of ancient constitution carried out by Rete Semi Rurali.

⁴ Including seed houses.

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



- Location(s) and geographical outreach

Italy. The territorial area involving the Consorzio della Quarantina includes several mountain municipalities in the Province of Genova, Liguria Region (Italy).

- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice

This project has been self-funded by the association.

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

The activities of the Consorzio della Quarantina are mainly focus on the recovery and enhancement of genetic resources at risk of extinction. Since its establishment, in fact, the consortium has provided for the drafting of a set of rules that draws up the guidelines to be followed for the implementation of all the actions necessary to safeguard the heritage of local varieties and breeds in the area. In particular, they can be identified in (following the “Disciplinare della Quarantina”):

- 1) collection of technical and popular documentation produced during the time;
- 2) inventory, location and consistency through the compilation of reporting forms for each access;
- 3) morpho-physiological characterization and evaluation of the distinction between local and commercial varieties, highlighting the characteristics of uniqueness;
- 4) evaluation of the size of the populations and preparation of all the measures for the on farm conservation of the different populations, identifying the areas and a technically correct methodology;
- 5) identification of the propagation material for in situ conservation;
- 6) identification of the areas for ex situ conservation and selection of farm "germplasm banks";
- 7) drafting of guidelines for ex situ conservation;
- 8) all further operations needed for the registration to the National Register of Biodiversity.

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

The Consortium has 39 members, 23 of whom are farmers. Among these, 15 are producers of the Quarantina white potato for the Consortium. In addition, the association has 2 affiliated shops that buy the Quarantina potato directly from the Consortium and 9 farmhouses and bed and breakfasts with which they collaborate and that the Consortium supply with the Quarantina potato.

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

No.

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

No

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



Since 2011 a member of the Consortium started a programme of selection of new varieties obtained from the cultivation of real seed taken from the berry of the white Quarantina variety. This project, also supported by the Liguria Region, is aimed at the genetic improvement of the same Quarantina, in particular as regards to the characteristics of productivity and resistance to the Downy mildew. The activities of comparison between the new lines selected and the white Quarantina have been arranged in 9 different farms, located mainly in the province of Genova, at different altitudes, and for a period of 6 years, leading to the collection of interesting data.

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 "lessons" learned in this particular path of safeguarding and enhancement a genetic resource can be summarized as follows:

1. The recovery and enhancement of a local variety/race is an arduous task; for this reason, collective management is essential, based on clear, shared and open rules, that is, rules that can be modified over time. This assumption has always been present to the producers of Quarantina, who in fact immediately joined in a Consortium, and have established guidelines for the cultivation, reproduction and sale of Quarantina potatoes according to rules shared by all the members and drawn up in the "Specification of Quarantina", modified over the years.
2. The recovery of a local variety/race cannot be separated from the knowledge related to this resource. Since its establishment, the Consortium's task has been to gather information on the different local varieties by organizing them in technical sheets, to promote the circulation of local knowledge through the organization of meetings and informative courses on family farming and traditional cooking and to seek the support of institutions/other associations for the promotion of their activities in the area.
3. In order to define itself as such, tradition must be innovative: this idea is the starting point for the "Rubra spes Project", which has provided for the selection of different lines of potatoes starting from the real seed extracted from Quarantina berries.

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

The greatest challenges that the Consortium face is mainly organisational, both in terms of cultivation and sale of Quarantina potatoes and in terms of selection of new varieties. This is mainly due to the fact that all the breeding of the potatoes and the trials of the new varieties took place on large, impervious territories and that for the most part the producers couldn't count in external financial support.

- 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 main point is to have the participation of farmers in the initiative. They should consider themselves not only client but primary actors of the project.

Further information

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

<http://www.quarantina.it>