



Food and Agriculture  
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**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 Norway on 21 June 2019.*

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



## **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:* **Global consultations on Farmers' Rights**
- *Date of submission:* 20 June 2019
- *Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place:* Norway (and Zambia, Ethiopia and Indonesia)
- *Responsible institution/organization:*

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- *Type of institution/organization (categories):* Government
- *Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors:*

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**Description of the examples**

**Mandatory information:<sup>1</sup>**

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

Norway, in cooperation with research organizations of the respective host country and the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, has been involved in three global consultations on Farmers' Rights, which took place in Lusaka, Zambia in 2007, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2010 and in Bali, Indonesia in 2016. All consultations sought to involve a wide range of participants representing various stakeholders and regions. The program and objectives differed to some extent, but all consultations shared the purpose of producing constructive proposals to the sessions of the Governing Body regarding how to further enhance the implementation of Farmers' Rights. The second consultation consisted of both an e-mail-based survey and an international conference with regional components, which allowed more experts and stakeholders to participate than a conference alone could. Participants of these consultations actively engaged and shared views, experiences and examples of best practices relating to the implementation of Farmers' Rights and discussed a range of issues that may affect their realization. Besides providing information to contracting parties and the Governing Body, these consultations have also strengthened the national implementation of Farmers' Rights in some countries and contributed to awareness raising among government representatives and other stakeholders. The documented experiences could thus serve as examples of options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights.

- *Brief history; Core components of the measure/practice and description of the context and the history of the measure/practice is taking place:*

Norway has been involved in three global consultations on Farmers' Rights, which took place in Lusaka, Zambia in 2007, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia in 2010 and in Bali, Indonesia in 2016. All consultations sought to involve a wide range of participants representing different stakeholders and various regions. The number of participants increased gradually from the first one, with less than 30 participants till the last one with almost 100 participants. The program and objectives different to some extent, but all consultations shared the purpose of producing constructive proposals to the sessions of the Governing Body regarding how to further enhance the implementation of Farmers' Rights.

Lusaka, Zambia 2007

The first consultation took place in the intersessional period between the first and second session of the Governing Body, where the implementation of the International Treaty was still at a very early

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



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stage. The Bureau of the Governing Body decided in November 2006 to include "the implementation of Article 9" as an item on the provisional agenda for the Second Session of the Governing Body to the Treaty. To prepare for the discussions under this agenda item, Norway took the initiative to conduct an informal international consultation. The consultation took place in Lusaka, Zambia, 18–20 September 2007 and was co-hosted by the Zambia Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Zambia; the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway; and the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway.

#### Addis Abeba, Ethiopia 2010

The Global Consultations on Farmers' Rights carried out in 2010 consisted of both an e-mail based survey and an international consultation conference with regional components held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The consultations were organized as a response to Resolution 6/2009 of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, which called for regional workshops on Farmers' Rights, and it was carried out by the Fridtjof Nansen Institute of Norway and hosted by the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation of Ethiopia. In the two phases of the consultations, a total of 171 experts and stakeholders from 46 countries in Africa, Asia, the Near East, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America and Europe, and from farmer organizations, government institutions, the seed industry, NGOs, IGOs, research institutions and other relevant groups participated. The participants shared their views and experiences and discussed obstacles and options to the realization of Farmers' Rights. The consultation conference resulted in recommendations from the regional groups as well as joint recommendations from the conference. The prime concern among most participants is the need for guidance, support and capacity building to develop or adjust national legislation, policies, strategies and programs for the realization of Farmers' Rights. Based on these global consultation in 2010, Ethiopia submitted an input paper to the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Body, which was circulated to all contracting parties.

#### Bali, Indonesia 2016

In response to the invitation of the Governing Body through Resolution 5/2015 to organise consultations on Farmers' Rights, Indonesia invited Norway to co-organise a global consultation in Bali, Indonesia. The consultation brought together about 95 participants from 37 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Near East, North America and Southwest Pacific. The participants were drawn from farmers' organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), Contracting Parties, seed industry organizations and research institutions. The event was co-chaired by Regine Andersen from Norway and Carlos Correa from Argentina.

The consultation addressed the following issues in particular: (i) why Farmers' Rights matter; (ii) different challenges for the realization of Farmers' Rights; and (iii) possible ways of further strengthening the realization of Farmers' Rights. During the consultation, participants actively engaged and shared views, experiences and examples of best practices related to the implementation of Farmers' Rights, as addressed in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. They also identified a range of issues that may affect the realization of Farmers' Rights and discussed a possible set of recommendations to the Governing Body in this regard. Due to the large number of participants, limitation of time and that some participants represented organizations without a mandate to adopt recommendations, it was agreed to request the Co-chairs to make a summary reflecting their interpretation of the discussions at the Consultation. Later, Norway and Indonesia submitted the co-chairs' proposal to the sixth session of the Governing Body so that the



Governing Body could consider these recommendations and possibly adopt a resolution on Farmers' Rights reflecting these considerations.

- *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
  - Art. 9.2c    x
  - 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 <sup>2</sup>	Also relevant <sup>3</sup>
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 <sup>4</sup> , 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	
10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Including seed houses.



- 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 objective of the 2007 informal consultations on Farmers' Rights was to prepare for the discussions under the agenda item *implementation of Farmers' Rights* at the upcoming session of the Governing Body.

The overall goal of the 2010 global consultations on Farmers' Rights was to support the implementation of Farmer' Rights at the national level, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty. Its project objective was to fulfil the provision of Resolution 6/2009 on regional consultations on Farmers' Rights. In particular, the consultations were aimed at the sharing of national experiences on the implementation of Farmers' Rights among Contracting Parties of each region, and the identification of gaps and needs at the national level with regard to the further implementation of Farmers' Rights.

The objectives of the 2016 global consultations Farmers' Rights were to develop common ground for understanding Farmers' Rights, to find inspiration in the exchange of best practices on realization of Farmers' Rights, and to gather ideas on how to strengthen implementation of Farmers' Rights by bringing together a broad range of stakeholders.

- *Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers<sup>5</sup>*: different stakeholder groups from across the regions
- *Location(s) and geographical outreach*: International level
- *Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice*: Human resources: organising committee to plan for the program incl. inviting speakers, apply for funding, identifying participants, venue etc., report writing. Financial resources to cover all costs.
- *How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?*

The outcomes of the consultations have provided valuable inputs to the sessions of the Governing Body, enhancing the discussions under this agenda item and different suggestions from the consultations have been included in the resolutions of the Governing Body, e.g. the suggestion to establish an intersessional process to produce an inventory of examples of realisation of Farmers' Rights.

The sharing of examples have also strengthen the national implementation of Farmers' Rights in some countries. The consultations have also been important for awareness raising among government representatives and other stakeholders.

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



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The consultation in Indonesia also gave the impetus to organise regional consultations prior to the global one (one in Africa and one smaller one in Europe) as well as regional consultations among farmers' organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

- *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).*

Norway considers it useful to bring together participants from different regions, different stakeholder groups and thus with different perspectives. In our view, the consultations have enhanced the general understanding of Farmers' Rights, identified several obstacles that prevents further realisation of Farmers' Rights, as well as possible solutions on how to overcome those. E.g. the presentations made at the 2016 global consultation documented several experiences regarding the realisation of Farmers' Rights and could thus serve as examples of options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights.

Among these are:

- Strengthening of local seed systems, including supporting farmers as seed suppliers (e.g. through seed clubs)
- Strengthening farmers' and their organisations' participation in decision making at national and regional levels on policy and regulation regarding seed registration and plant variety protection
- Promoting participatory approaches such as community seed banks and participatory plant breeding
- Integration of Farmers' Rights in development cooperation programmes

In addition, the consultations contributed to prepare Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to the upcoming sessions on Farmers' Rights, thus contributing to enriching the discussions under this agenda item and providing inputs to the resolution on the subject matter.

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

Funding is a challenge. All consultations have benefitted from numerous sponsors. It would have been easier to organise the consultations with fewer, but larger donors. However, the financial challenge was managed by asking as many participants as possible to cover their own costs as well as to sponsor other participants. Translation is costly, but highly valuable to increase the number and engagement of participants and stakeholders.

- *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 consultations became relevant because they all produced specific recommendations to the upcoming sessions of the Governing Body. It's important to have ownership of Contracting Parties, so that the results of the consultations can be formally presented at the sessions of the Governing Body. At the same time, due to the strong engagement of different stakeholders in the issues related to Farmers' Rights, it's



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important to be inclusive. In this regard, it's important to combine both substantive presentations with sufficient time to exchange views and experiences. Sharing specific examples on realisation of Farmers' Rights is inspiring and illustrate for others on how to strengthen their own efforts.

The consultations have greatly benefitted from continuity (Regine Andersen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute) in organising all three consultations and participating in all sessions of the Governing Body. The approach has been research based including documented experiences, systematic collections of experiences through electronic surveys.

The consultations have produced concrete recommendations due to well prepared and structured co-chairs, and rich reports of the consultations.

### **Further information**

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

- Norway's submission on Farmers' Rights: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bs767e.pdf>
- Report of the Informal International Consultation on Farmers' Rights, 18 - 20 September 2007, Lusaka, Zambia  
[https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/lmd/vedlegg/brosjyrer\\_veiledere\\_rapporter/lusakarapporten.pdf](https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/lmd/vedlegg/brosjyrer_veiledere_rapporter/lusakarapporten.pdf)
- Report of the Global Consultations on Farmers' Rights in 2010, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia  
<https://www.fni.no/getfile.php/131651-1469868910/Filer/Publikasjoner/FNI-R0111.pdf>
- Input paper submitted by Ethiopia based on Global Consultations on Farmers' Rights in 2010  
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-be078e.pdf>
- Report of the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights in 2016, Bali, Indonesia  
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-bs767e.pdf>

Submission from Norway and Indonesia containing the Co-Chairs' proposal from the 2016 Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bt107e.pdf>