



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 Norway on 21 June 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* **Participation in decision-making**
- *Date of submission* 20th June 2019
- *Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place* Norway
- *Responsible institution/organization*

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

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Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

- *Short summary to be put in the inventory*

Farmers and their organizations have a multitude of channels to participate in and influence on policy processes in Norway. For example, there are annual agricultural negotiations between the Government and the farmers' unions, resulting in the Annual Agreement on Agriculture. This agreement stipulates the financial support to agricultural purposes. In the field of genetic resources, farmers indirectly participate in decision making, since farmer cooperatives are major actors in the sector. E.g. Norway's major breeding company as well as the main seed distributing company are owned by such cooperatives. There are also projects for developing new varieties with a high level of farmer participation. In addition, farmers are represented in the advisory board on plant genetic resources at the Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre. The Centre aims to maintain close working relationships with both the major farmer cooperatives and unions as well as with the smaller number of farmers who are actively involved in issues directly related to seed diversity and cultivation of traditional varieties. The reason is that all farmers do not necessarily have competencies or special interest in PGRFA. During the last few years, farmers cultivating traditional varieties, including loose networks of interested farmers, have become more

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



organized, and cooperatives were established. Through this development, it has become easier for the authorities to involve dedicated ‘diversity farmers’ in various processes.

- *Brief history; Core components; Description* See summary above.
- *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		
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 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	x	
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation		
10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers’ Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		

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 Including seed houses.



11	Other measures / practices		
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- *Objective(s)* Ensure farmers' participation in decision making
- *Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers*⁵ All farmers and their organizations
- *Location(s) and geographical outreach* National

Lessons learned

- *Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words).*
Farmers' participation in decision making in mainstream agriculture, in particularly seed production and plant breeding is a main pillar in Norwegian agriculture. However, all farmers do not necessarily have particular competence or special interest in direct use of PGRFA, while agriculture as such depends on sustainable use through science and breeding. It would be beneficial to enhance the involvement of also "diversity farmers", who apply a high degree of biodiversity, in decision-making processes.
- *What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)*
Preservation of and further developing/modernizing adequate testing systems for varieties especially in minor and orphan crops is a major challenge. Farmers' participation in decision making and priority setting is crucial to this aspect.

Further information

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

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