



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 Philippines on 27 July 2019.

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



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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: Capacity Building and Promotion of Dynamic Conservation and Sustainable Use of Agro-biodiversity in traditional ecosystems of the Philippines/In situ conservation of traditional varieties
- Date of submission: July 2019
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: Philippines
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person): Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research
Address: RDMIC Bldg. cor, Elliptical Road, Visayas
Website: <https://www.bar.gov.ph>
Email: od@bar.gov.ph

Telephone Number: 461-2900

Contact Person: Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar

- Type of institution/organization (categories): Government
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): University of the Philippines Lo BANos

Address: College, Los Banos, Laguna

Website: <http://uplb.edu.ph>

Email Address: uplb@up.edu.ph

Telephone number: 63495363604

Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

- Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including:
 - Implementing entity and partners:
 - Start year :
Objectives
 - Summary of core components:

 - Key outcomes:
 - Lessons learned (if applicable)

This measure aims to capacitate stakeholders in the promotion of dynamic conservation practices that sustain globally significant agro- biodiversity in traditional agro-ecosystems of the Philippines through a set of activities. The core components include (i) mainstreaming agro-biodiversity considerations into policy and legal frameworks, development strategies and institutional structure; (ii) pilot activities to

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



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



The International Treaty
**ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

enhance and expand dynamic conservation practices for agro-biodiversity in three pilot municipalities; and (iii) dissemination of information, awareness raising, and (iv) review of existing policy and regulatory issuances

The Bureau of Agriculture Research of the Department of Agriculture initiated this measure initially as a pilot project in 2005 through the FAO-GEF funded Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems” Project 1. An upscaled project was agreed on in 2016 which started being implemented in 2017 with other collaborating units of the Department of Agriculture such as the Philippine Rice Research Institute, the Bureau of Plant Industry, the Agricultural Training Institute, the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization, the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority. Supporting agencies include the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Biodiversity Management Bureau, Department of Trade and Industry-Export Marketing Bureau, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, National Commission for Culture.

Key outcomes include (i) agrobiodiversity mapping, inventory, collection and documentation, i.e., traditional rice and wild relatives in Hingyon and Hungduan in Ifugao; and indigenous fiber crop abaca Lake Sebu in South Cotabato, (ii) capacity building on conservation practices; (iii) Product development; (iv) market linkages for product based enterprises; (v) review of existing laws .

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

In 2005, through the “FAO-GEF funded Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems” project,¹ the piloting of dynamic conservation of globally important agricultural biodiversity nourished by small scale farmers, peasants and indigenous communities, and their associated traditional knowledge systems, and protecting cultural diversity began in Ifugao. After the successful implementation and based on its lesson learned, the government endorsed a full scale project in 2016 to specifically upscale the best practices and lessons learned and called “Dynamic conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in traditional agro-ecosystems of the Philippines”. In order to promote dynamic conservation of traditional crops and associated ecosystems and services, the chosen objectives and activities are geared towards awareness raising and capacity development activities for the farmers, local communities and relevant stakeholders, thus leading to conservation of globally important agrobiodiversity (of rice, mung bean, taro, yam, banana, Manila hemp and others) in traditional agroecosystems, as well as helping to realize the rights of farmers to PGRFA.

- 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)

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Philippines was at the epicenter of the agricultural Green Revolution. Varietal replacement, hybridization, mono-cropping and use of standardized crops effectively supplanted traditional rice-based farming systems and diminished indigenous agro-biodiversity in many areas across the country



In consequence, large parts of the globally significant agricultural biodiversity of the country was lost. Many indigenous and endemic varieties were threatened by extinction. Today, the cultivation of traditional varieties is limited to certain areas in the Philippine highlands, while lowland agricultural systems are dominated by standardized monocultures and agricultural practices incompatible with the conservation of agricultural biodiversity. Inadequate appreciation of the full socio-economic and cultural value of traditional varieties existed. Benefits derived from traditional varieties, such as, superior nutritional value, cultural significance, and higher resilience against shocks like pests, invasive alien species, and extreme weather events were ignored. The lack of information and awareness among policy-makers as well as consumers led to an incorrect valuation of traditional agrobiodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture. Consequently, the value of these traditional crops is neither sufficiently reflected in market prices and consumer appreciation, nor appropriately taken into account at the political level. In consequence, inadequate valuation of these biological resources created barriers, preventing farmers and local communities to effectively conserve sustain plant genetic resources and ascertain their rights to these resources.

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

(i) **Organization of technical and organizational capacities at individual and community levels**, to include training on inventory and mapping of traditional rice varieties and promotion of market-based incentives for traditional crops' conservation.

Training on organic agriculture (rice); For abaca farmers, macro-propagation chambers for abaca in two barangays in Lake Sebu/establishment of abaca nurseries

Issuance of Municipal Resolutions adapting the conservation practices;

The Biodiversity Seed Fair to facilitate seed exchange of farmers and collection of traditional varieties for characterization. .

Contextualization of lesson plans and workbooks for Grades 5 and 8 to include agrobiodiversity awareness and appreciation of the cultural, environmental and economic importance of agrobiodiverse resources.

- (i) **Review of existing laws** with a view to incorporate conservation of traditional varieties, wild crops, and landraces; and related farmer rights.

- 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		
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		

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.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- 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)
- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers⁵ : The target groups are the Indigenous Peoples’ farmers of Ifugao and South Cotabato initially targeting 1,000 farmers
- Location(s) and geographical outreach : Twelve Barangays from the Municipalities of Hingyon and Hungduan, Ifugao and five barangays from Lake Sebu, South Cotabato

- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice: GEF assistance and Philippine counterpart
- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture? The measure has strengthened the conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops.
- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)
 - (i) establishment of 17 Community Seed Banks (CSB) for their seed storage and seed exchange;
 - (ii) Ongoing agrobiodiversity mapping, inventory collection and documentation (Philippine Rice Research Center (Philrice) for rice; Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) for traditional abaca varieties; University of the Philippines (root crops, Legumes vegetable)
 - (iii) Collection of 64 + 74 traditional rice varieties now with PhilRice (to national gene bank)
 - (iv) Facilitation of the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices at learning guides/workbooks of Grades 5 and 8 in the province of Ifugao
 - (v) Agrobiodiversity Market linkages
 - (vi) Training on adding value to traditional crops’ products and/or product processing, packaging, labelling and marketing; of farmer processors on business planning, market analysis and value-chain analysis: /
Support for the participation of farmer-processors to Agri-Fairs/Market Fairs
Assistance in the organization and business registration of Lake Sebu Indigenous Women and Farmers Association (LASIWFA);
Availability of healthy food like tomato candy and ginger candy for children as well as the nutritious food such as taro and banana chips which are nutritious in local stores;
Market Linkage with the private sector: LASIWFA was linked to Mamasita through the project and was able to supply t’nalak cloth to Mamasita. The project also linked LASIWFA to the Punta Isla Resort in Lake Sebu for product display; and
 - (vii) discussions involving proposed amendments of the Seed Act to include farmers’ rights;

- Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice
 - The Indigenous Peoples Right Act (IPRA) of 1997 (RA 8371)

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



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



The International Treaty
**ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice? FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Farmer Varieties, Landraces and Traditional Varieties
- 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).
 - The importance of access and availability of traditional seeds;
 - The need to respect the rights of IPs and comply with the FPIC process;
 - The importance of respecting local coordination protocol and information dissemination with the local government units on the project plans and activities and get their full support for the project;
 - The need to create awareness among the IP farmers on the economic importance of their ABD resources and the need for their conservation and sustainable use, their economic and health values through product processing, marketing and participation in food fairs and exhibits
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)
- 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)
 - Active participation of the stakeholders in the project activities.
 - Continuous interaction and dialogue with the stakeholders.
 - Full support of national institutional bodies and the local government units including the private sector in the implementation of the measures.

Further information

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