



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 Sudan on 11 July 2019.*

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

## *Sudan Template for submission of examples on Farmers' Rights*

*Title of measure/practice: Community-based Seed Growers Groups (SGGs) to produce certified seeds of improved and traditional varieties.*

*Date of Submission: 05/02/2019*

*Country: Sudan*

*name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person*  
**Khartoum Sudan -- contact person Mohamed Yosif – Project manger - 00249912939969**

*Type of institution/organization (categories)*

*Government organization related to plant genetic resources-Federal Seed Administration (FSA). (Seed growers and grain producers), Private Seed Companies (PSCs), service providers (MSPs, SSPs, Agro dealers), the Agricultural Research Corporation (ARC).*

*The extension sub-teams and the Local Extension Teams (LETs) in North and South Kordofan states.*

### **Description of examples: Mandatory information**

*Establishment of Community-based Seed Growers Groups (SGGs) is one the activities of the Seed Development Project which was approved in 2011, became effective in 2012, and completed on time in March 2018. The Project has four complementary and reinforcing components. Component 1 focuses primarily on the regulatory environment of the seed industry and on the institutional strengthening of the FSA. The aim of Component 2 is to provide necessary support for enhancing the performance of the seed production system. Component 3 is intended at supporting seed and market development, including support to farmers' groups and associations and the private sector providing relevant technologies, goods and services. The component 4 is concerned with project management.*

*The development objective was to increase crop productivity of smallholder farmers who adopt certified seeds for crop production under rainfed conditions in North Kordofan (NK) and South Kordofan (SK) states.*

***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)***

*Community-based Seed Growers Groups (SGGs) are enabled to produce certified seeds of improved and traditional varieties. The cumulative number of SGGs reached 17 groups (against 12 groups planned at project design) including 853 farmers (530 men and 323 women). These groups were provided technical training by the extension teams and the PSCs technicians to multiply certified seeds using registered seeds produced by the ARC. Project records show a total area of 4,451 feddan is under seed production by the SGGs members. SGGs members and PSCs clearly confirm the success of the project-supported business model in which private seed companies contract seed growers for the multiplication of registered seeds to produce fully certified seeds. The seed growers sell their seed to the seed company by price higher than the market price not less than 20%.*

These achievements have led to an increase of the cultivation under seed production, which has resulted in a significant improvement in food security nationally.

### **To which provision of Article 9 of the International Treaty**

Art 9.3

*Please indicate which category of inventory*

Category (6)

#### **Other information, if applicable**

##### **Objective**

The development objective was to increase crop productivity of smallholder farmers who adopt certified seeds for crop production under rain fed conditions in North Kordofan (NK) and South Kordofan (SK) states.

Project original design estimated an outreach of 108,000 smallholder farmers and 32 Seed Growers Groups (SGGs).

##### **Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmer Location(s) and geographical outreach**

69,000 smallholder farmers and 17 SGGs. The primary target group consists of smallholder farmers who generally grow less than 15 feddan (6.3 ha) of land, engaging in traditional rain fed agriculture as their main source of livelihood, cultivating mainly sorghum, groundnuts, and sesame

The project area is composed of seven Localities in North and South Kordofan: Rahad, Sheikan and Omrouaba in NK; Abbasiya, Abu Gubeiha, Atadhamoun, and Rashad, in SK.

##### **Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice**

IFAD financing of USD 8,569,638 and GOS financing of USD 506,660 Beneficiaries' contribution, largely in-kind was not quantified. Private companies' contribution foreseen at project design was abandoned as these companies provided direct support (input and extension services) to the seed growers and demonstrations plots.

##### **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)**

The project proposes two main climate change adaptation measures: (i) drought resistant varieties; and (ii) dissemination of soil and water conservations techniques. The communities' resilience to environmental variability increased with the adoption of project promoted technologies, consisting of improved high yielding drought tolerant varieties released by ARC for sesame, groundnuts and sorghum, and timely utilization of agricultural machineries and recommended technical packages across the seasons. Promotion included mainly techniques of seed bed preparation and water harvest (chisel and disc harrow, techniques of crop planting using mechanical/pneumatic planter vs sowing (using traditional tools - sallouka- and seed broadcasting. As mentioned earlier, the adoption rates of improved varieties and good agriculture practices by smallholders ranged from 41% for Sorghum to 53% for Sesame to 87% for groundnuts. These rates compare well with the design expected adoption rate of certified seeds by GPGs of at least 33%.

## **Lessons learned:**

*In some villages, members of the SGGs managed to establish business deals for seeds supply on a commercial basis to neighbors' and other farmers outside the project area, such as West Kordofan and Darfur states.*

## **Challenges**

- *Limited government resources decrease the sustainability of services provided by the extension teams. This is however mitigated by a sustainable strategy to involve the private sector*
- *Limiting the purchase and selling of seeds through contracting a seed company.*
- *The high enthusiasm and ambitious expansion plans of the seed growers were constrained by the lack of appropriate storage facilities at the village level. The groups were willing to share the cost of investment of the storage facilities.*

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***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)***

- *Sustainable partnership between relevant private sector actors and farmers. Adopting a more modern farming approach that revolves around sustainable supply of farm inputs to smallholders (services, seed, agrochemicals) from the private sector.*
- *Share the cost of investment of the storage facilities between the seed grower and seed company.*

