



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 Sweden on 9 July 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

- Networking for growing crop diversity
- 17 March 2020
- Sweden
- Crop diversity networks
  - Föreningen Sesam (conservation of heirloom varieties; [foreningensesam@gmail.com](mailto:foreningensesam@gmail.com))
  - Allkorn (farmer network; Niclas Dagman, [niclasdagman@gmail.com](mailto:niclasdagman@gmail.com) or Dylan Wallman, [dylan.wallman@live.se](mailto:dylan.wallman@live.se))
  - Wästgötarna (farmer network; Niclas Dagman, [niclasdagman@gmail.com](mailto:niclasdagman@gmail.com))
  - Gutekorn (farmer network)
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- NordGen ([www.nordgen.org](http://www.nordgen.org)) as provider of seeds or client (in the case of Föreningen Sesam)

#### Description of the examples

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

NordGen, established 1979, is the joint Nordic genebank for *ex situ* collections (seeds) of agricultural and horticultural crops. Throughout the years, individual researchers and farmers have requested and obtained seed samples from NordGen for further multiplication and cultivation. Focus has primarily been on heritage or redundant cultivars. Selection of superior plants within evaluated landraces and/or locally grown cultivars has taken place. Activities include both seed production for maintaining expertise and methodology in the field, as well as growing (niche) products for consumers (flour, flakes, whole or crushed grain). The networks provide their own need of seed. Seed is shared within the networks, as existing legislation restricts putting seed on the market.

- 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

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



- 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		
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) \_\_\_\_\_
- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers<sup>5</sup> - not known, but less than 100.

<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.

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



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- Location(s) and geographical outreach - national
- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice - none, except for the occasional order of seed multiplication from NordGen
- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture? Positively; it should be noted, however, that no seed flows back to NordGen from the three farming networks (Allkorn, Wästgötarna or Gutekorn) as all seed is used within the networks.
- Please describe the achievements of the measure/practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words) At the regional/local level: regional on farm maintenance of heritage varieties, a variety of niche products on the market, increased public awareness and interest
- Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice - none
- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice? UPOV Convention-91, Article 15
- Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice - none

### **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 use of genebank material to explore niche markets is recommended; at least in our part of the world there is an increasing interest among chefs and others in products with specific properties and qualities, in particular combined with storytelling. It is, in any case, important to comply with the existing seed legislation. If selection of superior types is made from genebank accessions (e.g. from landraces), this should be communicated since the original accession has been altered.
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words) A major hurdle is to move from genebank amounts (250 seeds/bag) to volumes enough for sowing in the field. This takes several years and may need economic support if no farmer/grower is prepared to take the risk. Every genebank should consider carefully whether it can provide larger amounts of seed than normally distributed.
- 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) Farmers/growers with a strong belief that there is a market 'out there'.

### **Further information**

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice
  - Föreningen Sesam, <https://foreningensesam.se/what-is-foreningen-sesam/>
  - Allkorn, <http://www.allkorn.se/allkorn.aspx?sida=startsida> (in Swedish)
  - Wästgötarna, <http://www.wastgotarna.se/> (in Swedish, under reconstruction - accessed 2019-07-02)
  - Gutekorn, <https://gutekorn.wordpress.com/in-english/>