



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 Switzerland on 31 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

- Title of measure/practice: Promotion of Article 9 implementation through International Cooperation and Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- Date of submission: July 2019
  - Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: Southern African Development Community (SADC) at regional level and in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Mozambique, eSwatini and possibly Lesotho
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person): Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- Type of institution/organization (categories): Government
  - Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)

#### Description of the examples

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

- Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including:
  - Implementing entity and partners
  - Start year
  - Objective(s)
  - Summary of core components
  - Key outcomes
  - Lessons learned (if applicable)

The goal of the “Strengthening Agro-biodiversity in Southern Africa” project is to strengthen food security in Southern Africa by promoting seed diversity and agro-ecological practices through an inclusive, evidence-based dialogue with governments at regional and country levels by empowered farmer’s and farmer support organizations. The project will enable the use of research and information on seed and soil fertility policies, regulations and programmes by small-scale farmers and farmer support organizations in advocating for agrobiodiversity, food security and farmers’ rights. Furthermore, policies and programmes that protect and support farmer-managed seed systems are being developed and promoted so as to mitigate the environmental and social impacts of the industrial food system. The project started in 2016 and is implemented by the African Centre for Biodiversity.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate:

The Swiss Government through its Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contributes to the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty.

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

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



The intent of SDC’s work is to promote seed programs and policies that reflect the needs and realities of smallholders stipulating the complementarity of informal and formal seed systems to enhance smallholders’ access to sufficient, affordable, diversified and locally adapted plant genetic resources, including local and improved varieties. The different projects and approaches of the integration of Farmers’ Rights focus on national, regional and global level, with a strong emphasize on Southern Africa.

- 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 Southern Africa region, there is a need for harmonization of regulations on seeds. SDC supports integrated seed systems since there is a tendency to provide legal and policy support only to the large-scale commercial sector, to the disadvantage of small-scale farmers. It therefore facilitates interactions between informal and formal systems by recognizing the complementary roles of private and public sectors and the important role farmers play in this regard, including through promoting their entrepreneurship and market orientation. With an aim to enable all stakeholders to participate in the policy dialogue, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) shall be strengthened for these discussions and negotiations. In this respect, SDC promotes the participation of CSOs in the policy dialogue concerning seed issues in the Southern African Development Community, in particular small-scale farmers and farmer support organizations in the region. SDC promotes initiatives that foster democratic debate over legal frameworks having an impact on food security and nutrition.

- 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     x

**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		x

<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).



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		x
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		x
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.		x
7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection		x
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.		x
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>
- Location(s) and geographical outreach
  
- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice
- 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) (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?

<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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- 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).
- 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)

### **Further information**

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice  
[https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/de/home/aktivitaeten\\_projekte/projekte-fokus/projekttdatenbank.filterResults.html/content/dezaprojects/SDC/en/2013/7F08780/phase99?oldPagePath=/content/deza/de/home/aktivitaeten\\_projekte/projekte-fokus/projekttdatenbank.html](https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/de/home/aktivitaeten_projekte/projekte-fokus/projekttdatenbank.filterResults.html/content/dezaprojects/SDC/en/2013/7F08780/phase99?oldPagePath=/content/deza/de/home/aktivitaeten_projekte/projekte-fokus/projekttdatenbank.html)

Further information should be submitted by the implementing partners