



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 United States of America on 30 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

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

Basic information

- Title of measure/practice **Federal Advisory Committee – National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board**
- Date of submission **July 30, 2019**
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place **United States**
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person) **U.S. Department of Agriculture**
- Type of institution/organization (categories) **Government**
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s))

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
 - Objective(s)
 - Summary of core components
 - Key outcomes
 - Lessons learned (if applicable)

The U.S. government has several federal advisory committees that provide opportunities for farmers to participate in making decisions relative to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, including National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB).

The NAREEEAB provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture and land-grant colleges and universities on top priorities and policies for food and agricultural research, education, extension and economics.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

The NAREEEAB was started in 1996.

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

The NAREEEAB is a congressionally-mandated Board of 25 members (and 6 ex-officio members), who are appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to represent the interests and needs of broad and diverse stakeholders across the Nation. Stakeholders consist of those from the farm, rural, food, fiber and natural resource sectors. Their respective affiliations include: businesses; organizations; local and state governments; regional groups; producers; processors; food and fiber handlers and transportation servers;

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

retailers; teachers (K-12) and other educators; Land-Grant colleges and universities, along with interested non-Land-Grants; scientists; engineers; economists; and the American consumers.

Two full Annual Board Meetings held are held each year approximately 6 months apart. Many activities continue throughout the interim by short-term Working Groups, Task Forces, Planning Committees, Ad Hoc Committees, and the recently established congressionally-mandated Citrus Disease Subcommittee, the Specialty Crop Committee, the National Genetic Resources Advisory Council Subcommittee, and the Renewable Energy Committee.

The Executive Committee of the Board meets monthly via conference call to receive updates on progress and discuss emerging issues of national importance. The Executive Committee includes the USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (ex-officio to the full Board) on these calls, which encourages dialogue between USDA and the represented stakeholder group.

- 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)

The Advisory Board’s numerous advisory roles have increased, primarily as a result of additional congressional legislation, but also to support requests by USDA on current and emerging issues of national importance. The Board continues to accomplish its purpose by addressing numerous requirements that were mandated by Congress in 1996, 1998, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2014 legislation, in addition to USDA specific requests for advice.

The NAREEE Advisory Board Office at USDA ensures that the work of the Board is efficiently coordinated and that there is clear communication among the Chair, Vice Chair, working group members, and others involved.

- To which provision(s) of Article 9 of the International Treaty does this measure relate
Art. 9.2c

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		

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	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.		
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 farmers⁵
- 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?
- 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

⁴ Including seed houses.

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

Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice
<https://nareeeab.ree.usda.gov/>