



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 France 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 : Specialised regime on ABS – implementation of the ITPGRFA
- Date of submission
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place : France
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person)
Ministry of Agriculture – 78 rue de Varenne – 75007 Paris – France
bspic.sdqspv.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr
- Type of institution/organization (categories): ministry
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s))
GEVES - <https://www.geves.fr/plant-genetic-resources/national-coordination/>
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Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

- Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including:
 - Implementing entity and partners: GEVES (implementing entity), INRA, CIRAD, IRD, FRB, GNIS (partner),
 - Start year : 2016
 - Objective(s): to implement the ITPGRFA, and in particular article 9
 - Summary of core components:
 - To allow the participation of farmers' representatives in decisions related to PGRFA,
 - To allow the recognition of PGR collection's curators ('gestionnaire' in French) at national level,
 - To establish national collection of PGRFA.
 - Key outcomes
 - Lessons learned (if applicable)
- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

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



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

Articles L.660-1 to L.660-4 of the Rural Code establishes the rules for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in order to implement the ITPGRFA. Regarding the issue of protection of traditional knowledge, it states that ‘*The conservation of PGRFA is organized in the general interest for their sustainable use, particularly for scientific research, innovation and applied varietal selection, as part of the agricultural and food heritage, in purpose of avoiding the irreversible loss of strategic PGRs.*’ In addition, they must also meet the previous criteria, and be widely known to be part of the country’s agricultural, horticultural, forest and culinary history. Most often they reflect this history as they are distributed or present in the area, or they are emblematic of a particular region.

Therefore, cultural aspect including traditional knowledge, is an important element and the contribution of agricultural stakeholders (farmers, plant breeders, ...) is taken into consideration in order to define the national collection. Detailed criteria for the national collection are now set up (July 2019).

The French legislation on PGRFA also establish the recognition of PGR collection’s curators (gestionnaires, including farmers or farmers association) through a publication in the French official journal.

- 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 order to build up the national collection and support stakeholders and collections, a national coordination body placed at GEVES was set up in 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture. Also in 2016, a committee for the conservation of Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) inside an advisory committee to the ministry CTPS was created.

These two new structures worked in order to propose to the ministry of agriculture detailed criteria for the national collection and rules for official recognition of collection’s curators.

For the time being, the examination of submissions is in process and should result with the first recognition by the end of 2019-beginning of 2020. Such recognition can concern in particular farmers, gardeners, orchard person. They have to apply by filling an application. Furthermore, expertise recognition is also implicitly shown if farmers participate in breeding programs, programs for on-farm conservation and evaluation of PGRFA or other similar activities, or if they are represented in committees and other relevant institutions.

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

Art. 9.1 x
Art. 9.2a x
Art. 9.2b x
Art. 9.2c x
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		X
2	Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds		X
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	X	
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.		x
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		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? _____

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.



- 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).
 - In this case, the participation of organisations' representatives gathering farmers is in direct relation with decision making on PGRFA. The farmers' organisations representatives are selected based on their recognised knowledge related to PGRFA and nominated *intuitu personae* by the ministry of agriculture. One representative is coming from the recognised *interprofessional organisation* GNIS, which is representative (more than 70% of the seed market in France) and gathers in particular farmers growing the seed and farmers using the seed, as well as cooperatives of farmers producing seed. A second one is coming from a recognised producer organisation. A third one is coming from a farmers' cooperative. A fourth one is a 'seed artisan'.
 - Stakeholders involved in PGRFA conservation can apply for funding. For example, one project funded in 2019 was submitted by 'organisation bretonne de selection – OBS' which is a local cooperative of farmers involved in a public-private cooperative network for the conservation of the French national collection of artichokes.
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)
The challenges are :
 - To maintain the involvement of one farmer representative (farmers' network) in the committee for PGR,
 - To convince some stakeholders' groups to follow the quality approach, which has been established collectively,
 - To take rapid decision taking into account the necessary time needed to learn to work jointly,
 - The ministry approach to work with advisory committee is very classic in France but may be not so frequent elsewhere.

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

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)

- To take time and to allow all stakeholders representatives to take part in the decision making process, and then to take ownership of the work done in common.

Further information

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

<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/decret/2017/5/9/DEVL1702693D/jo/texte>

<https://www.geves.fr/plant-genetic-resources/>