



NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

newsletter

LAND TENURE

Introducing the new Land Tenure e-Journal

ALTHOUGH THE NEW LAND TENURE e-Journal was just launched online this month, it is the electronic successor of a 45-year old FAO journal – the Land reform, land settlement and co-operatives bulletin – dedicated to land-related issues, including land tenure topics.

When the Land Tenure Unit decided to modernize the Bulletin, which was first published in 1964, they turned to the international land tenure expert community, soliciting feedback and suggestions. In response to those recommendations, the e-Journal was created as a mix of academic contributions, theoretical analyses and practice-oriented articles from practitioners in the field.

"We're excited about this opportunity to launch a new journal dedicated entirely to land tenure issues," said Mika Torhonen, e-Journal Editor. "Our aim is to become the leading international publication dedicated exclusively to land issues and we look forward to a wide range of contributions from academics, land experts and practitioners working in the field and sharing their experiences. We believe it's crucial to partner closely with other land tenure institutions, in order to ensure the broadest possible appeal to experts in the field. We look forward to successful collaboration with our partners and welcome their contributions."

The e-Journal will produce one regular issue annually and also publish annual themed editions. In addition to the 2011 edition, to be released later this year, the e-Journal will also produce a special climate change and land tenure issue.



"We are eager to reach land and natural resources tenure professionals across the globe," said Mr. Torhonen. "We're hopeful that this journal can serve as a forum for debate and knowledge-sharing within the international land tenure community."

[To learn more:](#)

[Land Tenure e-Journal Issue 1](#)

[Land tenure web site](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES

The new Natural Resources and Environment Newsletter



WELCOME TO 2011'S first issue of the Natural Resources and Environment Newsletter.

In this issue, we will be introducing the new Land tenure e-journal, which has just launched its first issue. This e-journal is dedicated to land-related issues, including land tenure. We will also learn about the recently issued report, the State of the World's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and we will introduce you to the new web site gearing up for the 2012 event marking the twentieth anniversary of the Earth Summit - FAO@Rio+20.

[To learn more:](#)

Natural Resources Management
and Environment Department
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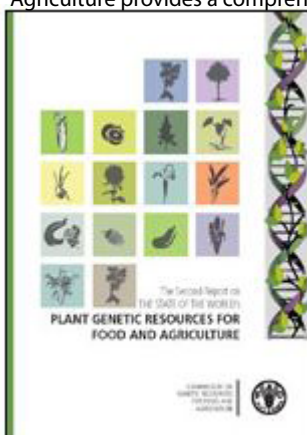
GENETIC RESOURCES

State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture



AT A TIME WHEN ALMOST ONE BILLION PEOPLE do not have enough to eat each day and the world population steadily rises towards an estimated nine billion people by the year 2050, ensuring the conservation and sustainable utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is more important than ever for achieving world food security.

Prepared with the active participation of member countries as well as the public and private sectors, The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture provides a comprehensive picture of the global situation and trends regarding



the conservation and use of plant genetic resources. The report assesses the current situation, focusing on significant changes since the last report, issued in 1998.

One of the more positive findings in the report is that, over the past twelve years, there has been an increase in awareness of the importance of protecting and utilizing the genetic diversity of food crops. Gene banks have increased in both size and the number. Much has yet to be done to encourage the conservation of these genetic resources, especially at the level of the farmer's field, generating local interest, and building capacities to conserve and use the genetic biodiversity that still exists.

"This report demonstrates the value of plant genetic

resources for food and agriculture as a strategic resource for sustainable development, alleviation of hunger and poverty, and for facing climate change", according to Linda Collette, Secretary of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. "But it also shows that while genetic diversity represents a 'treasure chest' of potentially valuable traits, it is under threat and special efforts are needed to conserve it and to strengthen the capacity to use it, especially in the developing world."

To learn more:

[State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#)

[Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture web site](#)

[Press release. Crop biodiversity: use it or lose it.](#)

NATURAL RESOURCES



FAO@Rio+20 web site

IN 1992, THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE on environment and development – commonly called the earth summit - was held in rio de janeiro, brazil. At that event, agenda 21 was adopted as an action plan for achieving sustainable development worldwide.

2012 Marks the 20th anniversary of the Earth Summit. The UN General Assembly has agreed to hold the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio+20 –in order to secure new political commitment to sustainable development, assess progress and address new challenges.

FAO is actively involved in the preparatory process and its new web site, FAO@Rio+20, has been launched to bring together its preparatory work, to post reports and initiatives and to gather opinions and foster international dialogue through electronic consultations.

To learn more:

[FAO@Rio+20 web site](#)