

# IPC Regional consultations on farmers' rights

Proposals on the implementation of Farmers' Rights at  
national level

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11-14 September 2018

# Timeline of IPC WG Activities on Farmers' Rights

IPC Global  
Consultation on  
Farmers' Rights

- Nyéléni, Mali. 23-26 September 2017

IPC Regional  
Consultation on  
Farmers' Rights in  
Latin America and  
Caribbean

- Seberí, Brazil. 16-20 April 2018

IPC Regional  
Consultation on  
Farmers' Rights  
in Africa

- Nyéléni, 17-20 July 2018

7<sup>o</sup> Session of  
the Governing  
Body of the  
ITPGRFA

- Kigali, Rwanda. 30 October – 3 November 2017

IPC Regional  
Consultation on  
Farmers' Rights in Asia  
and Pacific

- Kediri, Indonesia. 10-13 July 2018

ITPGRFA - Ad  
Hoc Technical  
Expert Group  
on Farmers'  
Rights

- Rome, Italy. 11-14 September 2018



# IPC Regional Consultations

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- Support of Norwegian, Brazilian and Malian Focal Points of the ITPGRFA, and, consequently, support of ITPGRFA Secretariat. FAO South-South Cooperation provided funds.
- Three Regional Consultations: Latin America and Caribbean (Brazil), Asia and Pacific, Africa.
- More than 120 peasants, indigenous people, farmers, farmers' organizations, women's organizations and NGOs from 42 countries.







Peasants and Indigenous peoples are the traditional custodians of all knowledge of seed and biodiversity at the service of the public good.

(9.2 a)

Farmers' rights are collective rights,  
and any legislation which inhibits  
democratic participation of farmers  
and their own organizations infringes  
on farmers' rights.

(9.2 c)

Peasants' seeds cannot be subject to Intellectual Property. IP rights (PVP, patents) restrict farmers' rights.

(9.3)



The Material Transfer Agreement defines facilitated access for research and selection. It does not actually guarantee that a patent on a genetic sequence contained in seeds delivered by farmers will not prevent them from continuing to use them.

(9.3)



De-materialization of genetic  
resources (Digital Sequence  
Information – DSI) threatens the  
realization of Farmers' Rights.

(9.3)

Women have been and are still the key custodians of seed and agricultural biodiversity, and are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of industrial agriculture, and therefore must be ensured a role in all participatory and decision-making bodies.

(9.2 c)



The right to equitably participate in decision making and benefit sharing can only be achieved with Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) – where ‘prior’ in particular means sufficient time is granted and information is provided in local languages, and consent is granted, not only sought.

(9.2 c)

We reject the nomenclature ‘formal’ v ‘informal’ seed systems, which are more accurately described as ‘industrial’ and ‘peasant’ seed systems, where ‘industrial seed systems’ are designed to bring profit via exclusivity, and ‘peasant seed systems’ are known to have been collectively maintained for thousands of years by indigenous peoples and peasants as commons for the public good, through rules defined by them.

(9.1)



Peasant seed systems fundamentally rely on peasants' and indigenous peoples' knowledge and practices. They ensure diversified, resilient and dynamically developing seeds, and thus fundamentally contribute to maintaining and expanding biodiversity in PGRFA.

(9.1)

Peasant seed systems are the backbone of agroecological farming systems, which are resilient and contribute to conserving and increasing biodiversity.

(9.1)



There can be no compulsory  
registration of seeds from  
peasant seed systems.

(9.3)

There should be compulsory disclosure of the indigenous peoples and peasants who are the custodians of parental lines from which all seed originates.

(9.1)



Phytosanitary requirements often impinge on farmers' rights as defined in Article 9, and should be reviewed in all countries to be made scale and seed system appropriate. Local participatory quality assurance systems need to be recognized by states.

(9.3)

For Farmers' Rights to be genuinely realized, there must be specific and autonomous legislation at the national level that recognize those rights.

(9.3)



Countries should support the Treaty in the collection of payments for the Benefit Sharing Fund in order to benefit peasants and developing countries. This can be done through targeted taxation on commercialized seed varieties that are not freely reproducible.

(9.2 b)



*Thank you for your attention*

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