

Country Report on the implementation  
of the International Treaty on Plant  
Genetic Resources for Food and  
Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

**ETHIOPIA**

**NOVEMBER 2018**

## **FIRST COUNTRY REPORT ON COMPLIANCE – ITPGRFA**

Name and contact details of the reporting officer:

Institution: ETHIOPIAN BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE

Country: ETHIOPIA

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*ANNEX 2*

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***STANDARD REPORTING FORMAT PURSUANT TO SECTION V.1 OF THE PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE AND ADDRESS ISSUES OF NON-COMPLIANCE***

**International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

**Draft**

**Standard Voluntary Reporting Format**

**Introduction**

1. Pursuant to Article 21 of the Treaty, the Governing Body has adopted a resolution that includes, amongst others, provisions on monitoring and reporting (Resolution 2/2011). Pursuant to this Resolution, each Contracting Party is to submit to the Compliance Committee, through the Secretary, a report on the measures it has taken to implement its obligations under the Treaty in one of the six languages of the United Nations (Section V.1).
2. The first report is to be submitted within three years from the approval of this standard format. The Governing Body approved this standard format at its Fifth Session.
3. This standard format has been developed to facilitate reporting and monitoring of the implementation of the Treaty. The use of this standard format is voluntary. A Contracting Party may use another reporting format if it so wishes.

**Article 4: General Obligations**

1. Are there any laws, regulations procedures or policies in place in your country that implement the Treaty?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

**Ethiopia ratified ITPGRFA by Proclamation No. 330/2003 . Access to Genetic Resource and Community Knowledge, and Community Right Proclamation No. 482/2006 ( currently it is under revision), Access to Genetic Resource and Community Knowledge, and Community Right Regulation No. 169/2009, Second National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (2015-2020),**

2. Are there any other laws, regulations, procedures or policies in place in your country that apply to plant genetic resources?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

National Policy on Biodiversity Conservation and Research (1982), Plant Breeder's Right Proclamation No. 481/2006, Seed Proclamation No. 782/2013, Biosafety Proclamation No. 655/2009, Biosafety (Amendment) Proclamation No. 896/2015, Plant Protection Decree 56/1971, Plant Quarantine Regulation No. 4/1992

3. Is there any law, regulation, procedure or policy in place in your country that needs to be adjusted / harmonized<sup>1</sup> to ensure conformity with the obligations as provided in the Treaty?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such adjustments and any plans to make those adjustments:

**Genetic Resources and Community Knowledge and Community Rights Proclamation(No.482/2006) and Regulation (169/2009) that provides legal space for Annex 1 only but does not address the non- Annex 1**

**Article 5: Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterisation, Evaluation and Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

4. Has an integrated approach to the exploration, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) been promoted in your country?

Yes  X

No

5. Have PGRFA been surveyed and inventoried in your country?

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this report, a Contracting Party may choose whichever term (adjusted or harmonized) is appropriate in relation to their legal systems.

Yes  X  
No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of your findings, specifying species, sub-species and/or varieties, including those that are of potential use:

Plant genetic inventories and surveys have been conducted by the the then Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC), now it is calle Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI) and its partners to gather and document information on the types and distribution of farmers' landraces, forest and aquatic resources and medicinal plants. Following extensive surveys, about twenty areas rich in biological diversity, distributed across six regional states, have been identified for conservation purposes. A programme of landrace conservation supports the farming communities in their efforts to maintain crop/plant diversity, and produce food for their family and for the country as a whole. Systematic crop germplasm exploration and collection operations resulted in collections of indigenous landraces, including unique breeders' collections of economically important crops with rich genetic diversity such as barley, wheat, sorghum, tef, maize, noug, linseed, lupin, finger millet, haricot bean, field pea, lentil and horse bean. (Ref. Ethiopia: Second country report on the state of PGRFA to FAO)

If your answer is 'no', please indicate:

- Any difficulties encountered in surveying or inventorying PGRFA;
- Any action plans to survey and inventory PGRFA;
- The most important PGRFA that should be surveyed and inventoried:

There is a need to conduct a detailed survey, inventory and documentation of major crop species.

6. Has any threat to PGRFA in your country been identified?

Yes  X  
No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- The species, subspecies and/or varieties subject to such threats;
- The sources (causes) of these threats;
- Any steps taken to minimise or eliminate these threats;
- Any difficulties encountered in implementing such steps:

The expansion of modern farming practices, which relies on improved, uniform crop cultivars, climate change (recurrent draught), diseases and pests; poor law enforcement on policies and strategies, e.g., Ethiopian agriculture speaks about the significance of land races for food security but the implementers focus on improved varieties than the local varieties/landraces.

7. Has the collection of PGRFA and relevant associated information on those plant genetic resources that are under threat or are of potential use been promoted in your country?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

In Ethiopia, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI) which was established in 1976 to lead ex-situ and in-situ conservation in the country have the basic facilities necessary for collection, conservation, distribution and documentation of PGRFA. So far EBI has collected and conserved around 81,000 accessions of different plant species out of which 79,354 accessions are crop & horticulture species belong to 89 crop species

8. Have farmers and local communities' efforts to manage and conserve PGRFA on-farm been promoted or supported in your country?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

Around 30 Community Seed Banks (CSBs) have been established, and crop conservation associations are organized in different regional states of the country. Crop Conservation Associations were established ( 24 associations) which have a total members of 6620. More than 34 field & horticultural crop species (> 61 varieties) have been restored in different parts of the country.

9. Has *in situ* conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production been promoted in your country?

Yes

No  X

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether any measures have been taken to:

- Promote *in situ* conservation in protected areas;
- Support the efforts of indigenous and local communities.

If such measures have been taken, please provide details of the measures taken:

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10. Are there any *ex situ* collections of PGRFA in your country?

- Yes  X
- No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide information on the holder and content of such collections:

So far Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute has collected and conserved around **81,805** accessions of different plant species out of which 79,354 accessions are crop & horticulture species belong to 89 crop species

11. Has the development of an efficient and sustainable system of *ex situ* conservation of PGRFA been promoted in your country?

- Yes  X
- No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the measures taken to promote *ex situ* conservation, in particular any measures to promote the development and transfer of technologies for this purpose:

**There are Five Cold rooms as well as five Field genebanks , particulaly for rcalcitrant seeds & vegetatively propagating crop plant species were establised.**

12. Has the maintenance of the viability, degree of variation, and the genetic integrity of *ex situ* collections of PGRFA been monitored in your country?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the main conclusions of these monitoring activities:

The international Genebank standard is being used to manage our Genebank, and it is regularly monitored to test the viability.

13. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation or documentation of PGRFA?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the other Contracting Parties with whom the cooperation was undertaken (where additional to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms) and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

#### Article 6: Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

14. Are there any policy and legal measures<sup>2</sup> in place in your country that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such policy and legal measures include:

- X Pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources;

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<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this report, legal measures may include regulations.



- X Strengthening research that enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers;
- X Promoting plant breeding efforts, with the participation of farmers, that strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;
- X Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers;
- X Promoting the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilised species;
- X Supporting the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to plant breeding and agricultural development;
- X Reviewing and adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution.

If such policy and legal measures are in place, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

**Ethiopia ratified ITPGRFA by Proclamation No. 330/2003. Participatory plant breeding researches are being conducted with other international organizations such as Bioversity International; the country is also works assisted by Benefit sharing Funded projects such as PR81, etc . More recently , we were granted/contracted for PR-191-Ethiopia project that is the benefit sharing fund to caary our similar objectives.**

#### Article 7: National Commitments and International Cooperation

15. Has the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, documentation and sustainable use of PGRFA been integrated into your country's agriculture and rural development programmes and policies?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the integration of such activities into the agriculture and rural development programmes and policies:

The National Policy on Biodiversity Conservation and Research dictates that any biodiversity conservatory and development plans and programs needs to be integrated in all sector inter alia agricultural, industrial, health and economic sectors. The Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute establishment Council of Ministers Regulation No. 291/2013 has the duty to conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, documentation and sustainable use of PGRFA. The Ministry of Agriculture has a policy and different programs that mainstream PGRFA. Even if there are different attempts to integrate PGRFA in agricultural sector, it is not adequate enough.

16. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes

No  X

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the aim of such cooperation is to:

- X Strengthen the capability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with respect to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- X Enhance international activities to promote conservation, evaluation, documentation, genetic enhancement, plant breeding, seed multiplication, and sharing, providing access to and exchanging PGRFA and appropriate information and technology, in conformity with the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing under the Treaty.

If, in addition to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms, your country has cooperated with other Contracting Parties directly or through FAO and other relevant international organizations, please indicate such other Contracting Parties and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

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#### Article 8: Technical Assistance

17. Has your country promoted the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Yes

No  X

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

18. Has your country received technical assistance with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such technical assistance:

Maintreaming agrobiodiversity into agricultural systems by GEF/UNDP funds , Bioversity International, etc

### Article 9: Farmers' Rights

19. Subject to national law, as appropriate, have any measures been taken to protect and promote farmers rights in your country?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

X Recognition of the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources;

X The protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA;

X The right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilisation of PGRFA;

X The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

- X** Any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange, and sell farm-saved seed / propagating material.

If such measures were taken, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

**Ethiopia issued Plant Breeders' Right Proclamation No. 481/2006 part five Art. 27 and 28 states about farmers' right; Genetic Resources and Community Knowledge and Community Rights Proclamation (No.482/2006) and Regulation (169/2009), and Ethiopian National Policy on Biodiversity Conservation and Research (1998)**

### Article 11: Coverage of the Multilateral System

20. Has your country included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS) all PGRFA listed in Annex I to the Treaty that are under the management and control of your Government and in the public domain?

- All
- Partially  **X**
- None

If your answer is 'all', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

No difficulties encountered so far

If your answer is 'partially', please provide details of:

- The extent to which Annex I PGRFA have been included in the MLS;
- The crops that have been included in the MLS; and
- The difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

Limited number of crops were included ( such as wheat and maize ) in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS) all PGRFA listed in Annex I. no problem of including but the varieties of the listed species ( 64 annex I) need to be specified by scientific method to bring them to the benefit of world.

If your answer is 'none', please provide details of the difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

21. Has your country taken measures to encourage natural and legal persons within your jurisdiction who hold Annex I PGRFA to include those resources in the MLS?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of:

- The natural or legal persons within your jurisdiction that included Annex I PGRFA in the MLS;
- The crops that have been included in the MLS by these persons; and
- Any difficulties these persons encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

Legal Person: EBI, ILRI

Crops: EBI-all annex I crops,

If your answer is 'no' please provide details, in particular details of any difficulties encountered in encouraging these persons to include Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

Most of natural persons holding PGRFA are private seed companies who are not open and willing to disclose what PGRFA they are holding

## Article 12: Facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Multilateral System

22. Has your country taken measures to provide facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 12.4 of the Treaty?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such measures:

**Art. 15(2) of Genetic Resources and Community Knowledge and Community Rights Proclamation (No.482/2006) states that an access to genetic resources under a multi lateral system is according to conditions and procedures of the multi lateral system (SMTA) .**

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA:

23. Has facilitated access been provided in your country to Annex I PGRFA pursuant to the standard material transfer agreement (SMTA)?

Yes  **x**

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide the number of SMTAs entered into:

five

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA pursuant to the SMTA:

24. Has the SMTA been used voluntarily in your country to provide access to non-Annex I PGRFA?

Yes  **x**

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the number of such SMTAs entered into:

five

25. Does the legal system of your country provide an opportunity for parties to material transfer agreements (MTAs) to seek recourse in case of contractual disputes arising under such agreements?

Yes  **X**

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

Based on Access to Genetic Resource and Community Knowledge, and Community Right Regulation No. 169/2009 ( Article 20), Whoever has a claim with regard to the implementation of SMTA, may present his claim to the Federal High Court of Ethiopia.

26. Does the legal system of your country provide for the enforcement of arbitral decisions related to disputes arising under the SMTA?

Yes  **X**

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

According to the 1965 Civil Procedure Code of Ethiopia, subject to the requirements provides under such code (from article 456-461), arbitral awards can be enforced in Ethiopia.

27. Have there been any emergency disaster situations in respect of which your country has provided facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA for the purpose of contributing to the re-establishment of agricultural systems?

Yes

No  **X**

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such emergency disaster situations and the Annex I PGRFA to which access was provided:

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**Article 13: Benefit-sharing in the Multilateral System**

28. Has your country made any information available regarding Annex I PGRFA?

- Yes
- No  X

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of any information made available regarding Annex I PGRFA (e.g. catalogues and inventories, information on technologies, results of scientific and socio-economic research, including characterisation, evaluation and utilisation):

29. Has your country provided or facilitated access to technologies for the conservation, characterisation, evaluation and use of Annex I PGRFA?

- Yes
- No  X

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether your country:

- Has established or participated in crop-based thematic groups on utilisation of PGRFA;
- Is aware of any partnerships in your country in research and development and in commercial joint ventures relating to the material received through the MLS, human resource development and effective access to research facilities.

If access to technologies was provided, please provide details of the access provided:

30. Has your country provided for and/or benefitted from capacity building measures in respect of Annex I PGRFA?<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Please note that this question differs from question 15 as it only concerns Annex I PGRFA and is more specific.



Yes  x

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

X Establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

X Developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

Carrying out scientific research and developing capacity for such research.

If your country provided for and/or benefitted from such measures, please provide details:

Capacity building trainings were provided on GLIS , and its associated technologies,

#### Article 14: Global Plan of Action

31. Has your country promoted the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

Yes

No  X

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the implementation of the plan was promoted through:

National actions;

International cooperation;

If the implementation of the plan was promoted, please provide details:

**Article 15: Ex Situ Collections of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other International Institutions**

32. Has facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (IARCs) or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- To which IARCs or other international institutions facilitated access was provided;
- The number of SMTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

**Three: ILRI, Bioversity International and CIMMYT**

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

33. Has access to non-Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to IARCs or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

Yes

No  x

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- To which IARCs or other international institutions access was provided;
- The number of MTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing access to non-Annex I PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

No request was made

### Article 16: International Plant Genetic Resources Networks

34. Has your country undertaken any activities to encourage government, private, non-governmental, research, breeding and other institutions to participate in the international plant genetic resources networks?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such activities:

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### Article 18: Financial Resources

35. Has your country provided and/or received financial resources for the implementation of the Treaty through bilateral, regional or multilateral channels?

Yes

No  x

If your answer is 'yes', , where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved:

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36. Has your country provided financial resources for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such national activities and the amount of the financial resources involved:

Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute under proclamation No. 291/2013 is mandate to conserve ,effect sustainable use , and ensure fair and equitable benefit sharing of ethiopian biodiversty ( crops, plants , animals and microbes) . In this requard there is a government annual budget to promote the three objectives of biodiversity including Food and agricultural crops through the budget is limited in its amount.

#### About this reporting format

37. Have you encountered any difficulties in completing this reporting format?

Yes  X

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details on such difficulties:

Some questions are not clear; I failed to report on line .it is not friendly system.

If you have suggestions for improvement of this reporting format, please share them:

Glossary and actual training on the area is need

**General remarks on the implementation of the ITPGRFA**

38. You may use this box to share any advice you may have arising from your country's experience with implementation of the Treaty:

Ethiopia has rich PGRFA maintained in exsitu system yet further molecular characterization and field trails are needed. This should be assisted technically and financially. If all available PGRFA ( which Ethiopian has large accession ) is characterized clearly , the access and benefit sharing aspect could be easily facilitated.

39. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of difficulties in implementation of the Treaty:

40. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of measures that could help to promote compliance: