



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Our Ref.: NCP GB5 Article 9 submissions

21 September 2011

NOTIFICATION

Contracting Parties and relevant organizations invited to submit views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Article 9- Farmers' Rights

Dear Madam/Sir,

In Resolution 6/2009 ("*Implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights*"), the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) at its Fourth Session invited Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations to, within the next twelve months, submit:

- Views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty, involving, as appropriate, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders;
- Proposals for ways and means through which these views, experiences and best practices can be exchanged between and among Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholder groups.

Article 9 of the International Treaty recognizes the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centers of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, which constitutes the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world.

Article 9 further provides that the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights rests with national governments. Contracting Parties should, in accordance with their needs and priorities, and subject to national legislation, take measures to protect and promote those rights, including the:

- Protection of traditional knowledge relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

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- Right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- Right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

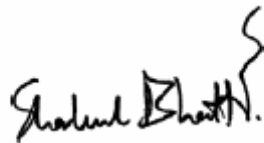
The above provisions shall not be interpreted to limit any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm saved seed/propagating material, subject to national law and as appropriate.

To facilitate the consolidation of information by the Secretariat for consideration by the *Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use, and to disseminate relevant information through the website of the International Treaty, where appropriate, I would appreciate if information could be sent by **16 March 2012** electronically to PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org and in hard copy to:

Dr Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary,
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Any query or request for further information may also be addressed to the same contact.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture