



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



<http://www.planttreaty.org>

# IT work on SMTA operations A general overview

**Selim Louafi**

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food & Agriculture

2<sup>nd</sup> IT Consultation, Rome, December 2008

---

# Rationale

1. Facilitating the work of the Secretariat
2. Facilitating the use of the SMTA
3. Facilitating the reporting obligations

---

# General Principles

- Constant feedbacks of CP and users
  - Service provided on a voluntary basis
  - Seamless integration with existing systems
  - No tracking of individual accessions
  - No pre-emption of any decision of the GB on reporting procedures and information needs
- ⇒ Autonomy of distributed system
- ⇒ Reduction of transaction costs for users

---

# Application of these general principles

1. Flexibility of use

2. User friendliness

3. Cost efficiency

---

---

# Flexibility of use

- Different requirements, technological capabilities and existing systems.
- The IT tools cover a wide range of demands:
  - Genebanks as well as Breeders
  - Single Provider as well as multiple Provider
  - With internet connection or without
  - Real-time reporting or by periodic uploading
  - With existing ordering system or without
  - With existing accession database or without
  - With existing user database or without
- The IT tools need to adapt easily to further GB decisions

S no	Scenario	Brief Scenario Description
A1	Fully integrated	Full integrated system (POTK, PID, DS) mounted on a simple accession database
A2	PID <-- POTK (-->DS)	No realtime connection with DS but connected with PID server in real time
A3	(PID <-- ) POTK -->DS	No realtime connection with PID but connected with DS in real time
A4	Only POTK required	Only POTK required
A5	PID <-- existing OS--> DS	Integrated system mounted on an existing ordering system
A6	existing OS -->PID	no realtime connection with DS but realtime connection to PID server
A7	existing OS --> DS	no realtime connection with PID but realtime connection to DS
A8	No POTK	Connection to the PID established to uniquely identify the users but information sent to the DS only in periodic uploading
A9	No POTK, No PID	Connection to the PID only to send info to the DS. Sub-users PIDs are then allocated manually by the ITS
B	GENE-IT	offline smta management and generation
C	Paper	

---

# User friendliness

- User management functionalities
- Speed of customization of the tools in order to add functionalities
- Clear and simple interfaces

---

# Cost-efficiency

- Whole IT work is based on a the principle of reduction of transaction costs for the users as well as for the Secretariat in fulfilling its task.
- At all times, the Secretariat has sought the simplest, most parsimonious and cost-effective procedures, including when providing alternative options.



---

# Legal issues

- Particular attention has been given to the following legal issues and implications that arise in the context of online acceptance of private contracts in a digital environment:
  - data integrity;
  - establishment of online identity of the parties to the contract;
  - secure data transmission;
  - confidentiality in data management;
  - service provider liability;
  - applicable law in the online environment.