



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Our Ref.: PL 40/31

Rome, 25 January 2013

NOTIFICATION

Invitation to send submissions on how to improve sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

Dear Madam/Sir,

By Resolution 7/2011, *Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources*, adopted at its Fourth Session, the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture requested the Secretary “to invite submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments and relevant institutions and organizations on how to improve sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including on sectoral policies and best practices for sustainable agriculture”.

To facilitate the consolidation of such information in the documentation being prepared by the Secretariat for the upcoming Fifth Session of the Governing Body, and where appropriate for dissemination through the website of the International Treaty, I would appreciate to receive such submissions by **15 March 2013** electronically to ITPGRFA-Consultation-Sustainable-Use@fao.org in word format, and in hard copy to:

Dr Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, FAO
00153 Rome, Italy
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Any query or request for further information may also be addressed to the same contact.

Yours sincerely,

Shakeel Bhatti

Secretary

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture



Article 6 of the International Treaty on PGRFA

6.1 The Contracting Parties shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

6.2 The sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture may include such measures as:

(a) pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote, as appropriate, the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources;

(b) strengthening research which enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers, especially those who generate and use their own varieties and apply ecological principles in maintaining soil fertility and in combating diseases, weeds and pests;

(c) promoting, as appropriate, plant breeding efforts which, with the participation of farmers, particularly in developing countries, strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;

(d) broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers;

(e) promoting, as appropriate, the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilized species;

(f) supporting, as appropriate, 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 in order to reduce crop vulnerability and genetic erosion, and promote increased world food production compatible with sustainable development; and

(g) reviewing, and, as appropriate, adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution.