



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and
Supporting Initiatives**

Note by the Secretary

This document presents the Report on the implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Supporting Initiatives submitted by Farmers' Pride Project on 10 January 2019..

The submission is presented in the form and language in which it was received.



Conserving
plant diversity
for future generations

www.farmerspride.eu
#EUfarmerspride

ITPGRFA: Implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Supporting Initiatives

Horizon 2020 Farmer's Pride

Farmer's Pride¹ is a three year Community Support Action funded by the European Union under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. The project, which began in November 2017, aims to enhance and promote the *in situ* management, conservation and use of PGR in Europe to provide greater diversity for food, nutrition and economic security. Farmer's Pride involves more than 40 national and international organizations representing stakeholder groups with an interest in the conservation and sustainable use of PGR, either as project partners, members of the External Advisory Board, or as Farmer's Pride Ambassadors².

Building on existing organizations and processes for PGR conservation and use—such as Europe's protected area system (Natura 2000), farmer and gardener networks, gene banks and community seed banks—the diverse actors involved in the project are working together to establish a supportive policy context and a Europe-wide network for *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of PGR. This network will involve both stakeholders (custodians and users of PGR) and sites (specific localities where wild and cultivated PGR are under active conservation management), and will require appropriate operational structures, governance and policies to ensure its effective functioning and longevity. To achieve this, Farmer's Pride is:

- Using survey tools and other outreach mechanisms to gain a better understanding of the roles and interests of the people and organizations involved or with an interest in the *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of PGR in Europe and establishing a stakeholder communication and collaboration platform to engender cross-sector partnerships.

¹ Full title: 'Networking, partnerships and tools to enhance *in situ* conservation of European plant genetic resources'.

² Specialists representing various PGR stakeholder groups who are supporting the Farmer's Pride project by participating in workshops and helping with other activities such as the promotion of surveys and dissemination of project publications.

- Combining the knowledge of the identified stakeholders with the results of GIS analyses to identify a series of specific locations where wild and cultivated populations are managed to agreed standards and designating them as the first formally recognized sites of the European network.
- Defining the management practices needed to ensure that the goals of conserving genetic diversity in wild and cultivated plant populations are met within the European network and using showcases to demonstrate best practices—for example, to show how the conservation of populations of multiple species at various locations, and in different environmental conditions and stakeholder management contexts, can be efficiently managed.
- Creating and making available tools to manage the complex information associated with *in situ* conservation of PGR.
- Engaging with plant breeders, farmers and other users of PGR to determine which traits are likely to be most important to meet future agricultural and market needs and undertaking GIS analyses to predict which populations are most likely to contain these traits to make sure they are conserved for their future potential use for crop improvement.
- Creating an infrastructure to promote and facilitate access to *in situ* conserved diversity and showcasing how closer alliances can be created between *ex situ* and *in situ* PGR managers to improve synergies between the management of the populations in their care.
- Improving knowledge of how local seed systems interact with national gene banks and authorities, and private seed companies to create stronger and long-lasting local, national and international networks—for example, by defining the roles of different actors in ensuring seed quality, good information management, and in developing national cooperation projects.
- Creating the foundations of a governance structure to ensure the effective operation of the European network and to permanently embed it within the broader, existing conservation framework in Europe, as well as investigating the suitability of the current policy environment to support the operation of the network and identifying gaps and needs for policy change.
- Improving our understanding of the public and private benefits associated with PGR conservation and sustainable use as a basis for identifying cost-effective strategies and policies to improve the PGR conservation and sustainable use system in Europe.
- Establishing a dialogue to communicate the project's outcomes to European policy-makers.

For further information, visit the project website at: www.farmerspride.eu or contact the Project Manager: s.kell@bham.ac.uk.