



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Views, Experiences and Best Practices as an example of possible options for
the national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty**

Note by the Secretary

At its [second meeting](#) of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG), the Expert Group agreed on a revised version of the [template](#) for collecting information on examples of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights

This document presents the updated information on best practices and measures of implementing Article 9 of the International Treaty submitted by the Netherlands on 31 July 2019.

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

'Updated' submission of the Government of the Netherlands concerning the implementation of Farmers' Rights under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

The Government of the Netherlands wishes to share the following measures, best practices and lessons learned, in the revised format, as examples on the national implementation of Farmers' Rights under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Implementation of Farmers' Rights by the Dutch Government

The Government of the Netherlands respects the sovereign rights of all countries with regards to their local genetic resources, their commitment to the protection of traditional knowledge relevant to genetic resources and the balanced and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of these resources.

The agricultural sector is presented with an enormous task now and in the future. The urgency for sustainably increasing global food production is growing, not in the least under the pressure of climate change and a rapidly growing population. The Dutch Government is committed to make a significant contribution to global food security and nutrition, as well as improvement (e.g. socio-economic and ambitions) of livelihoods of farming communities in developed and developing countries.

The Government of the Netherlands believes that every farmer, from subsistence to commercial farmer, should have the right:

1. to choose the best available seeds that fulfil the specific needs of the farmer;
2. to access quality seeds and be protected against fraudulent seeds;
3. to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds, subject to national law.

The Dutch Government is proactive in providing a supportive legislative and regulatory framework and economic environment at all three levels and would like to encourage governments globally to shape their policies in such a way that all three levels are covered.

The Dutch Government is aware of the need to develop specific policies to ensure the conservation of genetic resources. To conserve genetic diversity for the future the Dutch Government invests in seed banks (and ensures quality seed bank management), such as the national gene bank Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands (CGN), the global Svalbard Global Seed Vault on the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen, the CGIAR gene bank platform, and in situ / on farm.

To guarantee alignment between relevant (UN) processes the Dutch Government is taking an active role in e.g. the ITPGRFA working group for 'enhancing the functioning of the multilateral system on access and benefit sharing', the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture (CGRFA), the AHTEG Farmers' Rights, the Nagoya Protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Crop Diversity Trust, the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), CG system, streamlining biodiversity initiative (FAO), bilateral work in different regions, and in collaboration with key partners, especially private sector. These instruments should contribute to Farmers' Rights, striking a balance between a fair remuneration for the developers of varieties and available better varieties for farmers.

Finally, the availability of genetic resources to farmers and breeders is essential for current challenges but also for those to come. The Government of the Netherlands is supportive to the breeder exemption under the UPOV convention and active to limit the possibility to protect products of essentially biological processes under the patent system, which does not have a breeders exception.

Measures, best practices and lessons learned

1. Support to the conservation of traditional plant varieties and crops

1.1. Conservation of traditional crop varieties

Location: the Netherlands
Responsible: Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands (CGN)
Wageningen University & Research

Website: <https://www.wur.nl/en/Research-Results/Statutory-research-tasks/Centre-for-Genetic-Resources-the-Netherlands-1.htm>
E-mail: cgn@wur.nl

Objective:

There are over 100 Dutch agrobiodiversity initiatives that are concerned with the conservation of traditional crop varieties. The Government of the Netherlands supports these initiatives, focused on the management of Dutch biocultural heritage, through the Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands (CGN). The CGN genebank, focusing mainly on vegetables and animal genetic resources, plays an important role in safeguarding genetic resources for the current and future generations of farmers. CGN is engaged in activities including the development and maintenance of the knowledge-sharing platform 'the Oerakker', further development of the 'Orange List' for conservation varieties, support for the implementation of European conservation guidelines, regeneration of the last part of 'Eternal Mash' collection and its conservation under long-term genebank conditions. Moreover, CGN is involved in communication on biodiversity for better understanding of the conservation of genetic resources and their sustainable use.

Further information: <https://www.deoerakker.nl/>
<https://deoerakker.cgn.wur.nl/or/searchform.asp>

1.2. Simplified procedures for conservation and amateur varieties

Location: the Netherlands
Responsible: Naktuinbouw
Website: <https://www.naktuinbouw.com/>
E-mail: teamsupport@rasraad.nl

Summary for the Inventory:

In the Netherlands, variety testing and registration takes place under the responsibility of the Netherlands Inspection Service for Horticulture (Naktuinbouw). Following the relevant EU Directives 2008/62/EC (for agricultural crops) and 2009/145/EC (for vegetables), the application procedure for listing and marketing landraces, varieties naturally adapted to local or regional conditions, and varieties developed for growing under specific conditions with no intrinsic value for commercial crop production ('conservation' and 'amateur' varieties) differs from those for formal varieties. Conservation and amateur varieties do not have to comply with the general requirements for uniformity and stability (DUS criteria), or Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU). One reason is that the costs for a DUS and/or VCU test might be higher than the profit that can be made with seed marketing. Therefore, the Dutch Government decided to accept only varieties for registration that are marketed. If the annual turnover is expected to be less than €500, a variety does not need to be listed at all. For all other conservation and amateur varieties, a simplified testing system has been developed.

Objective:

The procedure for application for listing and marketing landraces, varieties naturally adapted to local or regional conditions, and varieties developed for growing under particular conditions with no intrinsic value for commercial crop production (amateur varieties) differ from those for formal varieties. Those unformal varieties may not comply with the general requirements for Uniformity and Stability (DUS) or Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) or may be developed especially for non-formal seed system.

Key outcomes:

The costs for a DUS and / or VCU test might be higher than the profit made. Therefore, the Dutch Government decided to accept only varieties for registration that are actually marketed and that with a turnover of less than €500 per year a variety does not need to be listed. In addition, the Netherlands developed a simplified testing system for those conservation and amateur varieties.

Further information: <https://www.naktuinbouw.com/research/listing-varieties-naturally-adapted-local-or-regional-conditions-or-landraces-conservation>
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2008.162.01.0013.01.NLD
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32008L0062&from=NL>

1.3. Resilient seed system for climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods

Location: East-Africa
Responsible: CGIAR
Website: <https://www.cgiar.org/>
E-mail: r.vernooy@cgiar.org
Duration: 2018 - ongoing

Summary for the Inventory:

Since 2018, an initiative of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) has been addressing the unprecedented challenges faced by farmers to deal with changing and variable climates and related crop management problems caused by (new) biotic and abiotic stresses. It builds on previous work of Bioversity International and partners in various countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America and aims to combine and scale, from the local to the global level, successful strategies, methods and tools that increase farmers' and their communities' timely availability, affordability and improved access to good-quality seed of a portfolio of crops and crop varieties, including novel ones that are better adapted to climate change. Structured seed legislation is important to guarantee the necessary seed quality to farmers. Core components are: (1) building resilient seed systems, including through seed system characterization, introducing promising crop diversity for climate change, strengthening community seed banks and enterprise development; (2) supportive policies and laws; and (3) national, sub-regional and global networking. Central to the scaling strategy is engagement with the private seed sector and local and national governmental and non-governmental organizations that are well positioned to take up and further develop the tested strategies, methods and tools.

Objective:

Farmers in developing countries are facing unprecedented challenges to deal with changing and anomalous climates and related crop management problems caused by (new) biotic and abiotic stresses. Current seed systems are not serving their needs because: they do not ensure seed diversity and quality; they lack decentralized (local) seed production and marketing organizations and enterprises that can cater to the specific demands of smallholder farmers; they are not reinvigorated by crop breeding; they are constrained by limited and uncoordinated forms of ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources; they are not supported by effective implementation of international agreements related to plant genetic resources; and they are constrained by national seed laws.

Successful efforts to provide solutions to these problems across the globe have been scattered. There is now an urgent need to bring these solutions to scale. This project aims to combine and scale from the local to the global level, successful strategies, methods and tools that increase women and men farmers' and their communities' timely availability, affordability and improved access to good-quality seed of a portfolio of crops and crop varieties. This includes novel crops and varieties that are better adapted to current and future climate change. Structured seed legislation is important to guarantee the necessary seed quality to farmers.

Summary of core components:

The project builds directly on the results of and lessons learned from a number of research and development initiatives that Biodiversity International, the Community Technology Development

Trust (CTDT) of Zimbabwe, the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation of Wageningen University and Research (WCDI), the Netherlands and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), the Netherlands, have carried out in recent years in a number of countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Work is proposed on three interrelated themes and activities:

1. Resilient seed systems: core activities include seed systems' characterization, introducing promising crop diversity for climate change, strengthening community seed banks and enterprise development;
2. Supportive policies and laws: national policy development, local level policy development and implementing farmers' rights;
3. National, sub-regional and global networking: peer learning and exchange, curriculum development, technology transfer, development of information management systems and establishment of sub-regional support units.

Key outcomes:

Central to the scaling strategy is engagement with the private seed sector and working with local and national governmental and non-governmental organizations that are well positioned to take up and further develop the strategies, methods and tools already tested and integrate them in their daily work. While focusing on particular countries, the sub-regional dimension is integrated strategically, particularly for the purposes of knowledge exchange, capacity building and policy analysis and advocacy.

1.4. *Food Forever Initiative*

Responsible: Coalition of Champions, mobilized by Global Crop Diversity Trust, Government of the Netherlands
Website: www.food4ever.org
E-mail: k.vanseeters@mininv.nl
Duration: 2017 – ongoing

Summary for the Inventory:

In 2017 the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust) launched the 'Food Forever Initiative' in cooperation with several 'champions' from public and private sector. The aim of the initiative is to rally the support necessary from all stakeholders, ranging from politicians, farmers, chefs, businesses, to individuals, to drive positive change in the way we conserve, grow, sell and consume crop and livestock diversity. Specific attention is given to the role of smallholder farmers and how their access to quality seeds and to markets can be improved. 'Food Forever Champions' have agreed to join as advocates for this important cause. They are experts and leaders from all walks of life who are driven to speak out about the importance of food diversity. Partners of the initiative contribute, with their work, to implementing SDG Target 2.5, which specifically addresses the need for maintaining genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through the implementation of related international agreements. Together, the Crop Trust and the Government of the Netherlands provide for the initiative's secretariat functions. Financial support is provided by the Governments of Germany, Norway, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Objective:

Under Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 2.5 specifically addresses the need for maintaining genetic resources.

"By 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed".

Summary of core components:

In 2017 the Crop Trust launched the Food Forever Initiative with a number of Champions from public and private sector. With climate change and population growth increasingly challenging our natural resources, we all have a vested interest in more resilient food systems. The goal of the Food Forever Initiative is to rally the support necessary from all stakeholders – be it politicians, farmers, chefs, businesses, or individuals- to drive a positive change in the way we conserve, grow, sell and consume crop and livestock diversity. Specific attention is given to the role of smallholder farmers and how their access to quality seeds and to markets can be improved.

Key outcomes:

Food Forever Champions have agreed to join as an advocate for this important cause. They are experts and leaders from all walks of life who are driven to speak out about the importance of food diversity. Food Forever Partner Organizations are groups whose work contributes to implementing SDG Target 2.5. Together, the Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust) and the Netherlands Government provide the Initiative's secretariat functions. Financial support is provided by the Governments of Germany, Norway, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

2. Equitable participation in the sharing of benefits (article 9.2 b)

2.1. Access and benefit sharing: capacity building / support multilateral system

Responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
E-mail: NL focal point: k.vanseeters@minlnv.nl
Duration: 2014 – ongoing

The Governments of the Netherlands and Iran are co-chairing a dedicated working group under the Treaty (ITPGRFA), to enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System. The group took up its work in 2014; negotiations are focused on increasing user-based payments and contributions to the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund, with the overall objective to enhance the functioning of the Treaty's Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing for food security and sustainable agriculture. The Working Group currently works on text-based negotiations for the revision of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) for exchanges of crops within the Treaty's Multilateral System (MLS) (Annex I). At the same time, criteria and options are identified and considered for expansion of the coverage of the scope of the MLS. To reach compromise between the partners (Contracting Parties, private sector, NGO's and academia), these two processes will need come into force at the same time. A detailed implementation plan to attain the enhanced MLS is under development, and will take into account issues related to digital (sequence) information arising from PGRFA and Farmers Rights.

Further information: <http://www.fao.org/3/CA2216EN/ca2216en.pdf>

3. Participation in decision making (article 9.2 c)

3.1. Representation of farmers in the advisory boards of relevant organizations

In the Netherlands farmers and farmer organizations have multiple ways to participate and influence the development of policy and decision-making processes. As agriculture is heavily dependent on high quality of seeds and propagating material, farmers and farmer organizations play an important role in the development and implementation of policy. Farmers are represented in the advisory board of the national Centre for Genetic Resources (CGN), the advisory boards of the inspection services NAK (focusing on agricultural crops), Naktuinbouw (focusing on horticultural

plants) and BKD (focusing on flower bulbs) as well as advisory boards of relevant research projects.
(96 words)

Further information: <https://www.wur.nl/en/Research-Results/Statutory-research-tasks/Centre-for-Genetic-Resources-the-Netherlands-1.htm>
<https://www.nak.nl/>
<https://www.naktuinbouw.com/>
<http://www.bkd.eu/bkd>

4. Right to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed (article 9.3)

4.1. Exceptions to plant breeders' rights and patent rights in the Netherlands

Responsible: Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
Website: <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-agriculture-nature-and-food-quality>
E-mail: m.valstar@minlnv.nl

Objective:

In the Netherlands, farmers have the right to save, use, exchange and sell of varieties not falling under the protection of plant breeders' rights or patent rights. Though, these seeds need to comply with quality standards as defined in the national seed law, in accordance with the European Seed Marketing Directive. Regarding varieties protected by plant breeders' rights or patent rights, the farm-saved seeds exemption applies. For plant varieties protected by national plant breeders' rights, exemptions are regulated by the Dutch Seed Law (Zaaizaad- en plantgoedwet, 2005). For plant varieties protected by European plant breeders' rights, exceptions are regulated by Regulation (EC) 2100/94 on Community plant variety rights. For plant varieties falling under a patent (Directive 98/44/EC on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions), the same provision applies. Based on these exemptions, farmers in the Netherlands can use farm-saved seeds of protected varieties of a number of agricultural crop species (e.g. cereals and potatoes) on their own farm against the payment of a remuneration to the holder of a plant breeders' right, but are not allowed to market farm-saved seeds of protected varieties.

Further information: <https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0018040/2019-01-01>

4.2. Private and non-commercial use project

Responsible: Oxfam Novib and Plantum
Website: <https://www.oxfamnovib.nl/donors-partners>
<http://www.plantum.nl/basis-for-the-green-economy>
E-mail: info@oxfamnovib.nl
info@plantum.nl
Duration: 2017 - ongoing

Summary for the Inventory:

For subsistence and amateur farmers, the UPOV Convention of 1991 grants an exception for acts done privately and for non-commercial purposes. The Government of the Netherlands has supported the project 'Private and non-commercial use', which has been implemented jointly by the civil society organization Oxfam Novib and the sector association Plantum since 2017. The objective is to investigate the scope and possible implementation of this provision within the UPOV Convention of 1991, thereby trying to create clarity about the legal space of subsistence farmers to exchange and/or sell farm-saved seeds in the informal seed system. The project takes the views of

stakeholder organizations (including governments, farmers, seed industry, civil society organizations and other international organizations) into consideration. Currently, the project is focusing on specific country case studies. By supporting this project, as well as stimulating the discussion on the private and non-commercial use exception on an international level, the Netherlands hopes to create a constructive dialogue about the possibilities for subsistence farmers to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds.

Objective:

For subsistence and amateur farmers UPOV Convention of 1991 grants an exception for acts done privately and for non-commercial purposes. The Government of the Netherlands supports the project "*private and non-commercial use*" which investigates the scope and possible implementation of this provision within the UPOV Convention of 1991. Thereby trying to create clarity about the legal space of subsistence farmers to exchange and / or sell farm-saved seeds in the informal seed system.

Summary of core components:

The project takes the views of stakeholder organisations (including governments, farmers, seed industry, civil society organisations and other international organisations) into consideration. At this moment the project is focussing on specific country case studies.

Key outcomes:

By supporting this project, as well as stimulating the discussion on the private and non-commercial use exception on an international level, the Netherlands hopes to create a constructive dialogue about the possibilities for subsistence farmers to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds.

5. Access to seeds

5.1. *Building a vibrant seed sector, improving access to quality seeds and connecting farmers to the market*

Responsible: Wageningen Centre of Development Innovation (WCIDI) of Wageningen University & Research (as consortium coordinator)
Website: <http://www.issdseed.org/issd-africa>
E-mail: Marja.thijssen@wur.nl
Duration: 2014 - 2017

Summary for the Inventory:

ISSD Africa is a research project (2014-2017) coordinated by a consortium of Wageningen Centre of Development Innovation (WCIDI) of Wageningen University & Research, the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), the Future Agricultures Consortium and Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development in Nairobi, Kenya, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The project united African seed experts, seed programs and associated organizations in a community of practice, aiming to increase farmers' access to quality seed through the development of market-oriented, pluralistic and vibrant seed sectors in Africa. The ISSD approach is a seed sector-wide, demand-driven and inclusive approach, designing interventions tailored to specific crops, value chains and seed systems. During the first project period, action learning focused on four themes: (1) promoting seed entrepreneurship; (2) increasing access to varieties from the public domain; (3) matching global commitments with national realities; and (4) supporting seed sector development under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the African Union-lead Agriculture, Seed and Biotechnology Program. The community of practice provided a structure for experimenting, sharing and learning, enhancing collaboration and promoting synergy.

Objective:

The ISSD Africa project united African seed experts, seed programmes and associated organizations in a community of practice, aiming to increase farmers' access to quality seed through the development of market-oriented, pluralistic and vibrant seed sectors in Africa.

Summary of core components:

The ISSD approach is a seed sector-wide, demand-driven and inclusive approach, designing interventions tailored to specific crops, value chains and seed systems. During the project period action learning focussed on seeking African solutions to complex challenges of strategic importance on four themes by using an 'ISSD lens'. The themes were:

1. Promoting seed entrepreneurship;
2. Increasing access to varieties from the public domain;
3. Matching global commitments with national realities;
4. Supporting seed sector development under CAADP and the African Union lead Agriculture, Seed and Biotechnology Program.

Key outcomes:

The community of practice provided a structure for experimenting, sharing and learning, enhancing collaboration and promoting synergy. Partnerships around the four themes were able to identify ways to effectively address challenges related to the themes.

ISSD Africa is coordinated by a consortium of Wageningen Centre of Development Innovation (WCIDI) of Wageningen University & Research, the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT), the Future Agricultures Consortium and Tegemeo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development in Nairobi Kenya. The project was supported by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Currently funds are being mobilized for the next phase of the project.

Further information: http://www.issdseed.org/sites/default/files/case/issd_africa_brief_twg_2.pdf
http://www.issdseed.org/sites/default/files/case/synthesis_paper_the_support_for_farmer-led_seed_systems_in_african_seed_laws_issd_africa_twg3.pdf

5.2. Access to Seeds Index

Responsible: Access to Seeds Foundation
Website: www.accesstoseeds.org
E-mail: iverhagen@accesstoseeds.org
Duration: 2015 - 2018 (1st Global Seeds Index, followed by Regional Indexes)

Summary for the Inventory:

The 'Access to Seeds Index', developed by the Access to Seeds Foundation, measures and compares the efforts of the world's leading seed companies to enhance the productivity of smallholder farmers. From 2015-2018, the foundation conducted a study, which profiles 54 seed-producing cooperatives that were identified in 20 countries of West and Central Africa. It shows that seed-producing cooperatives play a key role in improving access to quality seeds in the region. Cooperatives often partner with national and international research institutes to select and test improved varieties and with seed companies to distribute their seeds nationally and regionally through the seed companies' channels. The study identified strong examples of seed-producing cooperatives in four countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal). The situation in eight other countries (Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo) can be characterized as promising. In four countries (Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Republic of Congo) no seed-producing cooperatives were identified that are formally recognized. Key outcomes were increased understanding of the role of cooperatives in seed systems, which are increasingly being formally recognized as producers of certified seed.

Objective:

The rise of the seed-producing cooperative in West and Central Africa: A viable path towards improving access to quality seeds in the region. The Access to Seeds Index measures and compares the efforts of the world's leading seed companies to enhance the productivity of smallholder farmers.

Summary of core components:

This study profiles 54 seed-producing cooperatives that were identified through landscaping studies in 20 countries. It showed that seed-producing cooperatives play a key role in improving access to quality seeds in the region. Cooperatives often partner with national and international research institutes to select and test improved varieties and with seed companies to distribute their seeds nationally and regionally through the seed companies' channels. The study identified strong examples of seed-producing cooperatives in four countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal). The situation in eight other countries (Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo) can be characterized as promising. In four countries (Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Republic of Congo) no seed-producing cooperatives were identified that are formally recognized or may be in the near future.

Key outcomes:

In a region where the adoption rate of quality seeds remains remarkably low, it is evident that no local or regional actor involved in the seed industry and capable of delivering quality seeds into the hands of smallholder farmers should be overlooked. It is often stated that only 20% of the seed used in sub-Saharan Africa is certified seed from the formal seed sector. The so-called informal seed sector, which covers community-based initiatives and farm-saved seed practices, accounts for the other 80%. Cooperatives are often regarded as part of the informal sector. Although this may still be correct for a lot of cooperatives, the statement ignores the fact that in most of Western and Central Africa, seed-producing cooperatives are increasingly being formally recognized as producers of certified seed, as a new study by the Access to Seeds Index revealed.

Further information: <https://www.accesstoseeds.org/index/south-southeast-asia/>
<https://www.accesstoseeds.org/category/index-insights/>

5.3. *SeedNL partnership*

Responsible: Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Plantum
E-mail: k.vanseeters@minInv.nl
Duration: 2018 - ongoing

Objective:

Since 2018, the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Plantum, the Dutch breeding and seed sector association have started to develop a partnership under the flag of 'SeedNL'. The partnership will focus on increasing access to and use of quality seed as a basis and catalyst for improving agricultural productivity in developing countries and emerging economies. Besides, this the partnership will share knowledge and experience and work based on a joint agenda. SeedNL aims to sustainably contribute to reducing poverty, promoting inclusive green growth and resilience to climate change.

No.	Category	Most relevant¹	Also relevant²
1	Recognition of local and indigenous communities', farmers' contributions to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, such as awards and recognition of custodian/guardian farmers	1.3	4.2, 5.1
2	Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds	2	
3	Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA	5.1	5.3
4	Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge	5.2	
5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites	5.1	1.3
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks ³ , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.	5.1	5.3
7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection	5.3	5.1, 5.3
8	Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels	3	
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation	1.1	1.4, 5.1, 5.3
10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.	4.1	1.2
11	Other measures / practices		

¹ Please select only one category that is most relevant, under which the measure will be listed.

² Please select one or several categories that may also be relevant (if applicable).

³ Including seed houses.