



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 [first meeting](#) of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG), the Expert Group considered possible structure of the inventory based on a number of proposals made by members, agreed to utilize a [Template](#) for collecting examples of best practices and measures of implementing Farmers' Rights.

This document presents the updated information on best practices and measures of implementing Article 9 of the International Treaty submitted by Participatory Ecological Land Use Management Zimbabwe (PELUM-ZWE) on 6 February 2019.

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

PELUM-ZWE Submission: Example of Farmers Rights

Basic information	
Title of measure/practice	Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme: Increasing Resilience of the Resource Poor Farmers through Seed Sovereignty.
Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place	Zimbabwe
Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person)	<p><i>Name:</i> Participatory Ecological Land Use Management Zimbabwe (PELUM-ZWE); <i>Address:</i> Number 2 Birdcage Walk, 178 Hebert Chitepo Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe; <i>Website:</i> https://pelumzimbabwe.wixsite.com/pelumzimbabwe <i>Email:</i> pelumzim@gmail.com; <i>Telephone number:</i> +263 242 790 001 <i>Contact person:</i> Gertrude Pswarayi-Jabson</p>
Type of institution/organization (categories)	Non-profit making
Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations /actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s))	<p><u>Collaborating Organisation 1:</u> <i>Name:</i> Zimbabwe Small Holder Organic Farmers' Forum; <i>Address:</i> 5 Gloucester Drive Eastlea, Harare, Zimbabwe; <i>Website:</i> www.zimsoff.org; <i>Email:</i> nelson.mudzingwa@gmail.com <i>Telephone number:</i> 00263 242 746552</p> <p><u>Collaborating Organisation 2:</u> <i>Name:</i> Fambidzanai Permaculture Centre; <i>Address:</i> Plot 4 Dovedale Road, Mount Hampden, Zimbabwe <i>Website:</i> www.fambidzanai.org.zw; <i>Email:</i> info@fambidzanai.org.zw / lewis@fambidzanai.org.zw <i>Telephone number:</i> +263 242 2915403 / +263 772 114 326</p> <p><u>Collaborating Organisation 3:</u> <i>Name:</i> Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust (CELUCT);</p>

	<p><i>Address:</i> Chitekete Village, Chikukwa Ward, Chimanimani <i>Website:</i> http://www.thechikukwaproject.com <i>Email:</i> celuct@zol.co.zw <i>Telephone number:</i> +263 773 231 572 / +263 712 510 717</p> <p><u>Collaborating Organisation 4:</u> <i>Name:</i> Farmers' Association of Community self-Help Investment Groups; <i>Address:</i> 5808 Artherstone Road, Bindura, Zimbabwe; <i>Website:</i> None; <i>Email:</i> thomasmupetesi@gmail.com; <i>Telephone number:</i> +263 772 228 898;</p> <p><u>Collaborating Organisation 5:</u> <i>Name:</i> Practical Action <i>Address:</i> 4 Ludlow Road, Newlands, Harare, Zimbabwe; <i>Website:</i> www.practicalaction.org <i>Email:</i> info@practicalaction.org.zw <i>Telephone number:</i> +263 242 776 631-3;</p> <p><u>Collaborating Partner 6:</u> <i>Name:</i> Towards Use of Resources Organisation (TSURO) Trust; <i>Address:</i> Stand 212, Ngangu Township, Chimanimani, Zimbabwe; <i>Website:</i> tsuro-chimanimani.org.zw; <i>Email:</i> info@tsuro-chimanimani.org.zw / bmuchini@iwayafrica.co.zw; <i>Telephone number:</i> +263 27 205 2784/3049/2804</p>
Description of the examples	
Mandatory information:	
Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate	<p>In July 2014, PELUM-ZWE and the Zimbabwe Small Holder Organic Farmers Forum (ZIMSOFF) conceived the idea of a collaborative and strategic multi-year programme to strengthen Farmer Managed Seed Systems in Zimbabwe. In December 2014, the two invited five organisations to establish a collaborative partnership that links isolated work on seed and respond to contextual factors on seed. A multi-year programme titled the</p>

	Zimbabwe Seed Sovereignty Programme (ZSSP) was born. ZSSP is underpinned by agroecological principles and its vision is towards seed sovereignty farming communities who improve and sustain their livelihoods. Its purpose is to protect and promote farmers rights.
Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improving capacities to produce enough quantity, quality and diversity of locally suitable seed varieties to meet food and nutrition, cultural, agro-biodiversity and other livelihood needs of the participating farmers, 2. Strengthening smallholder farmer solidarity, policy-influence power and resilience in the face of climate change and climate change impacts and growing corporate control of seed, and 3. Improving government recognition and support for farmers' rights to seed, farmer-led community seed systems and associated seed sovereignty of farmers
Short description of the context and the history of the measure/practice is taking place (political, legal and economic framework conditions for the measure/practice) (max. 200 words)	Seed has always created a base for food supply for farmers and the bedrock for understanding seasonal cycles, time for planting; use of plants for food, tools, art, and medicine and preserving culture, identity and dignity. Zimbabwean farmers are vulnerable because they do not have control of the food they produce, eat and preserve. Political parties capitalize on this weakness by using seed as a political tool. Zimbabwe is a signatory to SADC, ARIPO and COMESA and has laws that favour commercial seed production. The harmonization of seed laws under these regional blocks has been a closed system with minimal participation of farmers. Zimbabwe's however is in the process of formulating its National Agricultural Policy Framework and National Strategy on PGRFA that seeks to advance farmers rights. But not much strides have been made practically. Unnecessary use of agrochemical is prevalent. Dominant farming practices fail to make efficient use of nutrients, water and energy. This increases farmers' dependence on external inputs sold by multinational companies.
Other information, if applicable:	
Objective	To strengthen farmers' management of seed systems so that they are less dependent on external inputs
Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmer	The project is being implemented in selected 5 provinces and 5 districts consisting of 33 wards and 110 villages in Zimbabwe. The selected districts represent the regional seed related diversity and climate differences.

Province	District, Ward + village	Organisation	Direct target group	
			Multiplicators (Seed growers)	Seed Study Groups (SSG) + seed farmers
Manicaland	Chimanimani: 20 wards; 42 villages	TSURO Trust	3	3 SSG + 54 farmers
	Chimanimani: 2 wards; 7 villages	CELUCT	2	2 SSG + 36 farmers
Mashonal and East	Goromonzi: 2 wards; 13 villages	Fambidzainai Permaculture Centre	5	5 SSG + 90 farmers
Masvingo	Masvingo: 5 wards; 21 villages		5	5 SSG + 90 farmers
Matabelel and South	Matopo: 1 ward; 6 villages	Fambidzainai Permaculture Centre	5	5 SSG + 90 farmers
Mashonal and Central	Rushinga: 3 wards; 21 villages	FACHIG	5	6 SSG + 108 farmers
Total	5 districts; 33 wards; 110 villages		25	26 SSG + 468

					farmers
<p>Direct target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 468 seed growers (50% women) organised in 26 Seed Study Groups (SSG) who will in turn share knowledge and skills to 3,744 farmers in 5 provinces (each seed study group member is expected to share knowledge with 8 other farmers). • 500 households drawn from the 3,744 farmers in 5 provinces i.e 5 provinces who will use seeds produced by seed growers (Seed Study Group members) • 10, 000 general public reached through 2 national seed expos. (50% women) • At least 1,000 farmers who take part in the 22 seed fairs (50% women). • 50 farmers + 5 staff members from cooperating partners reached through learning visits (55 people) (50% women) • 25 farmers + 7 cooperating partners' staff members + 15 policy makers and relevant Government Ministries + 5 journalists + 5 strategic partners (50% women) reached through farmers symposiums. • 7 project partners capacity strengthened through the seed work. <p>Indirect target group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ca. 11, 232 small-scale farmers will be further influenced by farmers participating in the project (3,744X3) • 76 District level stakeholders: 10 Chiefs of 33 wards, 33 headmen, 33 extension officers • 8 stakeholders of relevant Government departments/ministries (Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Agriculture and Mechanisation, Health, Department of Research and Specialist Services, Agritex, Seed Services Department, the Diabetes Association and the national Gene Bank • 7 civil society organisations and social movements working to advance farmer rights (PELUM Association, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), African Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI), East and Southern Africa Smallholder 					

	<p>Farmers (ESAFF), Zimbabwe Traditional and Organic Food Forum, Foodmatters Zimbabwe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 10,000 general public (Approximately 2,000 per province X 5 provinces reached through advocacy work) • Approximately 31, 000 general public reached through media publications (Approximately 30,000 reached through print and broadcast reports by journalists; 10, 000 reached through publication on seed sovereignty stories; 1, 000 reached through video sharing on YouTube attracting 1,000 views and at least 100 likes)
<p>Location(s) and geographical outreach</p>	<p>The project is being implemented in selected 5 provinces and 5 districts consisting of 33 wards and 110 villages in Zimbabwe. The selected districts represent the regional seed related diversity and climate differences.</p>
<p>Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture? Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words) Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice</p>	<p>Phase 1, the pilot phase, was funded 100% (Euro210'000) by Bread for the World (May 2016 to April 2018). Phase 2 is funded 75% (Euro330'000) by Bread for the World and resources are still being mobilized to cover the remaining 25%. The practice is opening, creating and promoting spaces for farmers to express their views, concerns, achievements and issues. It is ensuring farmers' rights and enhancing the capacity of farmers to produce, exchange and trade seed. It is shifting research towards farmer-driven research especially in the field of Participatory Plant Breeding and Participatory Variety Selection. The practice is ensuring a farmer-led approach to planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme which amplifies the voice of farmers in decision making. It is increasing the recognition and enhancement of local and indigenous knowledge and innovations while promoting and upholding ecological practices. The practice is linked to Zimbabwe's National Agricultural Policy Framework and the National Strategy on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture currently being developed by Government.</p>
<p>Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?</p>	<p>Globally there are international instruments such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Second Global Plan of Action on PGRFA and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which acknowledges the challenges facing the biological diversity (including PGRFA) and calls for</p>

	parties to institute measures that enhances the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nmA5rfBHa8&feature=youtu.be https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivvAxq8JtUg https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvkCx26K3mY https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFw54HMkZjk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzJtywUquo4&t=1s
Lessons learned	
Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words).	<p>Principle based planning, monitoring and evaluation in key. This practice was guided by 5 principles: Terms of Reference (ToR) are guiding the Seed Programme based on 11 principles clustered into five areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farmer-led <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening, creating and promoting spaces for farmers to express their views, concerns, achievements and issues; - Ensuring farmers’ rights and capacity to produce, exchange and trade seed; - Shifting research towards farmer-driven research. - Ensuring a farmer-led approach to planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. 2. Strengthening Sustainable practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition and enhancement of local and indigenous knowledge and innovations - Promoting and upholding ecological practices - An emphasis on conserving and evolving traditional and Open Pollinated Varieties (OPV) seed varieties of high quality (that are not genetically engineered) 3. Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Having a trusting and learning partnership of equals based on clarity of roles and transparency - Reaching out to collaborate with other initiatives and stakeholders, wherever relevant, in Zimbabwe and beyond 4. Inclusivity

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring access to OPV and traditional seed of high quality by marginalised and vulnerable people <p>5. Contextual understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working towards a deeper awareness and understanding of socio-cultural, political and economic issues around seed at all levels
<p>What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words) What would you consider conditions for success, if others should seek to carry out such a measure or organize such an activity? (max 100 words)</p>	<p>There is need to invest time in building meaningful relationships with key stakeholders. Moreover, resources need to be invested in strengthening the capacity of farmers as well as those working closely with them such as extension services.</p>
Further information	
<p>Link to further information about the measure/practice</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nmA5rfBHa8&feature=youtu.be</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivvAxq8JtUg</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvkCx26K3mY</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zFw54HMkZjk</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzJtywUquo4&t=1s</p>