



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 ICRISAT on 8 July 2019.

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



Template for submission of

Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty

Basic information

- Title of measure/practice
 - Harnessing dryland legume and cereals genetic resource for food and nutrition security and resilient farming systems in Malawi and Zambia
- Date of submission
 - This work started in January 2019 with target to achieve substantial progress by 2020
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place
 - Malawi and Zambia
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person)
 - **Responsible institution/organization**
International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), P.O. Box 1096, Lilongwe-Malawi. **Website:** www.icrisat.org (name, address, website (if applicable), **e-mail address:** J.Mwololo@giar.org **telephone number:** +265993872133 and contact person: Dr. James Mwololo
 - Type of institution/organization (categories):
An international non-profit organization that undertakes scientific research for development and a member of the CGIAR consortium
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s))
 - Department of Agricultural Services (DARS Malawi)
 - Zambia Agricultural Research Institution (ZARI), Msekera Research Station, Chipata
 - Out-grower farmers' foundation-Chipata, Zambia
 - National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM)-Lilongwe, Malawi

Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate
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 - Farmers will be supported to sustainably use and conserve PGRFA in Malawi and Zambia. This will be ensured through participatory research, testing of technologies and training support to build their capacity while integrating indigenous knowledge. In addition, locally adapted varieties will be re-introduced, conserved, disseminated or bred with farmers'

¹ This mandatory information is required in order for the measure/practice to be included in the Inventory.



participation and other stakeholders in the Agricultural sector. This measure will start as from January 2019.

- Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words)
 - The capacity of smallholder farmers to use local and improved varieties to achieve food and nutrition security will be enhanced to underpin resilience in the face of climate variability. This will further involve evaluation of wide germplasm across the region capitalizing on the material from ICRISAT gene bank followed by participatory selection and breeding efforts for further improvement. This activity will also be supported by quality agronomic packages. Key specific activities will include: Farmer organization, farmer trainings, establishment of trails/demonstrations, field days.
 - Being gender sensitive and ensuring female participation in livelihood-strengthening activities such as training on climate smart agriculture approaches, engaging in seed production as a business, appointing women to leadership positions in farmer organizations involved in technology development and testing, and targeting women for training on income generating activities and business development
- 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)
 - The Agriculture sector contributes 22% and 28% to the GDP in Zambia and Malawi respectively. Food crop production is mainly in the hands of small-scale farmers who constitute more than 60% of the farming community and still largely based on traditional practices. Crop productivity is still low, and both countries are food insufficiency and nutrition insecure owing to a number of challenges such as lack of access to inputs, output markets, technical knowledge and climate variability. Grain legumes and dryland cereal crops share multiple values in agri-food systems as resilient crops that provide nutritious food, income and or feed for livestock. It is envisaged supporting farmers to maintain and conserve agrobiodiversity in areas vulnerable to climate variability and food insecurity would contribute to increased productivity thereby securing their livelihoods
 - The existing social and cultural constraints imply that, women usually farm with fewer resources and/or with less decision-making powers, low literacy and numeracy skills, limited access to employment and economic opportunities. Men and women also have varying capacities and or resources to make use of new technologies. The measure therefore focus on concrete targeted action to support and offer services that ensure women are at the centre of action as agents of change for food and nutrition security and value chain approaches to resilience. The project will embrace the value of women in Agricultural production for food and nutrition security and will target 50% representation
- To which provision(s) of Article 9 of the International Treaty does this measure relate
 - Art. 9.1
 - Art. 9.2a
 - Art. 9.2b



Art. 9.2c

Art. 9.3

Other information, if applicable

- Please indicate which category of the Inventory is most relevant for the proposed measure, and which other categories are also relevant (if any):

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

² Please select only one category that is most relevant, under which the measure will be listed.

³ Please select one or several categories that may also be relevant (if applicable).

⁴ Including seed houses.



- In case you selected ‘other measures’, would you like to suggest a description of this measure, e.g. as a possible new category? _____
- Objective(s)
To enhance food and nutrition security and resilient farming systems in Malawi and Zambia, through use of grain legumes and cereals genetic resource.
- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers⁵
 - Farmers in climate variability prone areas of Malawi and Zambia, and targeting to reach 3000 farmers in total
- Location(s) and geographical outreach
 - Zambia (Chipata and Lundazi districts); Malawi (Mchinji and Salima districts)
- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice: the measure is being supported by a grant from the BSF fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture- of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture? **Not applicable but will be availed at later stages of the project**
- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)-so far 10 farmer groups of 20 members each have been developed to initiate the conservation and access of genetic resource activities, 60 farmers have been trained; and work is in progress towards achieving the set goals
- (i) Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice: The measure is linked to the Malawi and Zambia National Plant Genetic Resources institutions to strengthen PGRFA information systems and strategies for the implementation of the ITPGRFA
- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?
- Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice

Lessons learned

- Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words): **Not applicable but will be availed at later stages of the project**
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words): **Not applicable but will be availed at later stages of the project**
- 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): As a preliminary basis strong partnerships is key to successful implementation of the measure. More details will be provided at later stage of the project.

Further information

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice
 - This will be provided once more information is concretized as the project implementation is advanced.

⁵ Any classification, e.g. of the types of farmer addressed, may be country-specific.



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