



## Taking Care of the Seeds that Feed the World

Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture meets at FAO

11 - 16 November 2019 | Rome, Italy

How often do you stop to ponder about where the food on your plate came from? Chances are that everything on your dinner plate either started as a seed, or used or needed seeds.

Plant genetic resources form the basis for all our food from plants. They are a precious resource that most of us take for granted, but we should not. Why? Because the diversity of these valuable resources has been either diminishing or disappearing.

Thousands of varieties of food plants have vanished in our lifetime alone. That means that the diverse sources of our food from plants are being depleted, while our numbers are increasing. This is an untenable situation.

[The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#), which this year turns 15 years old, has been working around the world to stop the loss of agro biodiversity. Through this global pact, member countries work together to conserve and sustainably use the world's precious plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

From 11-16 November at FAO's headquarters in Rome the Treaty's governing body will hold its 8th Session, bringing together delegates from 146 member nations, plus experts, observers, non-governmental organizations, scientists, farmers' representatives and other international organizations.

### RESOURCES

**Governing Body website:**

<http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/eighth-governing-body/en/>

**International Treaty website:**

<http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/en/>

**FAO website:** [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

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[#InternationalTreaty](#),  
[#FoodSecurity](#), [#BenefitSharing](#)  
[#Seeds](#), [#FAO](#)

### MEDIA ACCREDITATION:

Media accreditation must be done no later than **17:00 on 7 November 2019**, please send:

- a copy of a valid press card (or) letter of

Together, Governing Body delegates will be making a series of decisions for the future work and activities of the International Treaty.

FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu will deliver an address at the GB-8 Opening Ceremony that will commence at 10.00 hours on Monday, 11 November 2019.

### **Saving, Sharing & Taking Care of the Seeds that Feed the World**

Key participants include:

- **146 Contracting Parties, Farmers' Organizations, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, etc.**
- **Qu Dongyu**, Director-General, FAO
- **H.E. Narendra Singh Tomar**, Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, India
- **Sir Robert Watson**, Keynote Speaker
- **Ms Evalyne Adhiambo Okoth**, Smallholder farmer from Kenya
- **Governing Body Chair, Ms Christine Dawson**, USA

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- a copy of a valid ID (passport, identity card)
- Email to [FAO-Newsroom@fao.org](mailto:FAO-Newsroom@fao.org). Please include "Press Accreditation" in the subject line.
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### **15 Years of Saving & Sharing**

**Simultaneous translation** into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian will be provided during this session.

The Opening Ceremony, Closing Ceremony and Plenary sessions will be open to the media.

The Opening Day will be webcast live: <http://www.fao.org/webcast/>

**Where and when: 11 – 16 November 2019 / Opening Day: Plenary Hall, 12 – 16 November 2019: Green Room, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy**