



Saving, Sharing & Caring for the Seeds that Feed the World

Eighth Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GB-8)

The International Treaty works to save, share and take care of the world's crops, to ensure equity and food security for all.

Key Messages:

1. **The International Treaty makes sure the plants that feed the world continue to exist and remain available for the common good of all:** It is the key international treaty whose primary purpose is to save the basis of the world's crops¹. It takes care of the seeds of the plants that feed and nourish us.
2. **Largest Global Gene pool for sharing plant material for food & agriculture:** In the 15 years since it came into force, the International Treaty has established the **Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing**, currently the largest global gene pool of crops for food and agriculture.
 - **Easy global transfers:** The International Treaty's Multilateral System has already enabled more than **5.4 million transfers** around the world, at an average rate of 1000 transfers a day!
 - **The more, the better:** The more crops there are in the Multilateral System, the greater the opportunity for a secure food supply, because farmers and plant breeders can access more of the world's crop diversity as they confront changing climatic and environmental conditions while feeding growing populations.
 - **Information is key:** In order for plant genetic material to be truly valuable, it is important to have vital information about that material. The **Global Information System** provides a rapidly growing web Portal for all data needs relating to seeds by using revolutionary data standards.
 - **Supporting farmers:** The International Treaty enables the sharing of benefits from the use of material in the Multilateral System, through its **Benefit-sharing Fund**, which has already **benefitted over 1 million people** in 55 developing countries. Twenty new projects in 29 countries are starting this year.
3. **1st to call for Farmers' Rights:** The International Treaty is the **1st legally-binding international instrument** to formally acknowledge the enormous contribution of indigenous people and smallholder farmers as traditional custodians of the world's food crops, and it calls on nations to **protect & promote** their rights to save and use the seeds they have taken care of for millennia.

¹ The International Treaty's objectives are "the conservation & sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security." (*Article 1.1 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*)