

Country Report on the implementation of the
International Treaty on Plant Genetic
Resources for Food and Agriculture
(ITPGRFA)

RWANDA

03/02/2020

First Report on Compliance of ITPGRFA

Online Reporting System on Compliance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Pursuant to Article 21 of the Treaty, the Governing Body approved, at its Fourth Session, the Compliance Procedures that include, among others, provisions on monitoring and reporting: Resolution 2/2011.

According to the Compliance Procedures, each Contracting Party is to submit to the Compliance Committee, through the Secretary, a report on the measures it has taken to implement its obligations under the Treaty. This Online Reporting Systems facilitates the submission of such information in electronic format.

Should you need any additional information regarding the reporting on compliance or the use of the online system, please visit the Treaty's Website or contact the Secretariat at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org.

Additional Reporting Information

Name and contact of the reporting officer

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Institution(s) of affiliation

> Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)

Article 4: General Obligations

1. Are there any laws, regulations procedures or policies in place in your country that implement the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

1A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

>

2. Are there any other laws, regulations, procedures or policies in place in your country that apply to plant genetic resources?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

2A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

> The law N° 41/2009 of 30/12/2009 authorizing the ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and agriculture signed in Rome on 3 November 2001. The ratification became effect on 25 January 2010 when the law was published in the official gazette No: 4 bis

3. Is there any law, regulation, procedure or policy in place in your country that needs to be adjusted / harmonized to ensure conformity with the obligations as provided in the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

3A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such adjustments and any plans to make those adjustments:

> 1. Law N°005/2016 of 05 July 2016 governing seeds and plant varieties in Rwanda

Rwanda published in the Official Gazette no Special of 20 April 2016

2. Eleven ministerial orders operationilizing the Law Governing Seeds and Plant Varieties in Rwanda:

a) Ministerial Order No 002/11.30 of 11/04/2017 determining the modalities for the assignment and transfer of plant breeder's rights published in the Official Gazette n° 16 of 17/04/2017

b) Ministerial Order No 003/11.30 of 11/04/2017 determining the modalities for testing the distinctness, uniformity and stability of plant variety published in the Official Gazette n° 16 of 17/04/2017.

c) Ministerial order No 016/11.30 of 06/11/2017 determining requirements for authorizing an applicant to use a protected plant and requirements for defining fair remuneration published in Official Gazette n° 46 of 13/11/2017.

d) Ministerial Order No 004/11.30 of 11/04/2017 determining the format, content of the register in which all information related to the plant breeder's rights is recorded and the conditions for having access to such information published in Official Gazette n° 16 of 17/04/2017

e) Ministerial Order No 005/11.30 of 11/04/2017 determining the criteria for recognizing a seed testing laboratory published in the Official Gazette n° 16 of 17/04/2017.

f) Ministerial Order No 006/11.30 of 11/04/2017 determining the procedures for seed inspection and granting of seed quality certificates published in the Official Gazette n° 16 of 17/04/2017

g) Ministerial Order No 007/11.30 of 11/04/2017 determining the requirements for a person to be granted a license for importing and exporting seeds published in the Official Gazette n° 16 of 17/04/2017.

h) Ministerial Order No 008/11.30 of 11/04/2017 determining the information that a quality seed label and container have to bear and the criteria for putting seed varieties in categories and the colours of labels for each category published in the Official Gazette n° 16 of 17/04/2017.

i) Ministerial Order No 009/11.30 of 11/04/2017 determining the requirements for a person to be authorized to become a quality seed producer, conditioner, or dealer published in the Official Gazette n° 16 of 17/04/2017

j) Ministerial Order No 010/11.30 of 11/04/2017 determining the procedures for evaluation, certification and registration of plant varieties, procedures for the withdrawal of certified plant varieties from the list and its format published in the Official Gazette n° 16 of 17/04/2017

k) Ministerial Order No 011/11.30 of 11/04/2017 determining the organization and functioning of the committee responsible for evaluation, certification and registration of plant varieties and their withdrawal from the list published in the Official Gazette n° 16 of 17/04/2017

3. Law N°48/2018 of 13 August 2018 on environment published in Official gazette no Special of 21 September 2018

4. Law N° 36/2011 of 02/09/2011 authorizing the ratification of the NAGOYA protocol on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted on 29 October 2010 published in Official Gazette n° 38 bis of 19/09/2011

5. International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Habitats signed on 10 June 1992 approved by

the Presidential Order No 017/01 of 18 March 1995

6. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change signed 5 June 1992 and approved by the Presidential Order N0: 02/101 of 30 May 1995

7. CARTAGENA Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention of Biological Biodiversity authorized and ratified by the Law No : 38/2003 of 29 December 2003

8. KYOTO Protocol to the Framework Convention on Climate Change adopted on 6 March 1998, authorized and ratified by Law No: 36/ 2003 of 29 December 2003

9. Washington Agreement on International Trade in Endangered species of Wild Flora and Fauna ratified by the Presidential Order no 211 of 25 June 1980

10. National Biodiversity Plan published in December 2016

11. Rwanda Biodiversity Policy Published in September 2011

Article 5: Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterisation, Evaluation and Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

4. Has an integrated approach to the exploration, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) been promoted in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

5. Have PGRFA been surveyed and inventoried in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

5A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of your findings, specifying species, sub-species and /or varieties, including those that are of potential use.

> The inventory catalogue in the National Gene Bank contains many entries of economic importance and environmental use including underutilized species such as finger millet [*Eleusine coracana* (L.) Gaertn], finger potato, sorghum [*Sorghum bicolor* (L) Moench] and pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan* L. Millsp.).

5B. If your answer is 'no', please indicate:

Any difficulties encountered in surveying or inventorying PGRFA;

Any action plans to survey and inventory PGRFA;

The most important PGRFA that should be surveyed and inventoried

>

6. Has any threat to PGRFA in your country been identified?

Please select only one option

yes

No

6A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

The species, subspecies and/or varieties subject to such threats;

The sources (causes) of these threats;

Any steps taken to minimise or eliminate these threats;

Any difficulties encountered in implementing such steps;

> I. Species threatened

1. Species threatened by outbreaks of new pests and diseases: Cassava (*Manihot esculanta*), maize (*Zea mays*), sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*), wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), Irish potato (*Solanum tuberosum*), tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), peppers (*Capsicum* spp)

2. Species threatened by changes in rainfall patterns with prolonged drought periods: all cultivated species including crops, vegetables, fruits and fodder species

3. Species threatened by soil erosion and land degradation: all cultivated species including crops, vegetables, fruits and fodder species

4. Species threatened by agriculture intensification: maize (*Z. mays*), wheat (*T. aestivum*), rice (*Oryza sativa*), common beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), cassava (*M. esculanta*), Irish potato (*S. tuberosum*), banana (*Musa* spp.)

II. Sources of the threats

1. The outbreak of new pests and diseases. Some recent outbreaks are:

- Cassava Brown Streak Disease in 2009

- Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease in 2013

- Fall armyworm in 2017

- Leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta*)

2. Changes in rainfall patterns with prolonged drought periods

3. Erosion and land degradation

4. Intensification of agriculture where only few varieties of crops are planted

II. Steps taken to minimize or to eliminate the threats

1. Pest and disease resistant/tolerant varieties

2. Drought, heat and frost tolerant varieties

3. Prospection, collection and conservation of genetic resources for threatened species. This included

underutilized species such as sweet potato (*Ipomea batatas*), finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*) sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*) and finger potato

7. Has the collection of PGRFA and relevant associated information on those plant genetic resources that are under threat or are of potential use been promoted in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

7A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

> The development and the dissemination of pest and disease resistant plant varieties, development and dissemination of drought, low N, heat, cold tolerant plant varieties and development and dissemination of early maturing varieties

8. Have farmers and local communities' efforts to manage and conserve PGRFA on-farm been promoted or supported in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

8A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

>

9. Has in situ conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production been promoted in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

9A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether any measures have been taken to:

- Promote in situ conservation in protected areas
 Support the efforts of indigenous and local communities

9B. If such measures have been taken, please provide details of the measures taken:

>

10. Are there any ex situ collections of PGRFA in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

10 A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide information on the holder and content of such collections:

> Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development /board through The National Gene Bank. The collections include: maize, beans, wheat, rice, pigeon pea, finger millet, sorghum, African egg plants, nightshade plant and spider plant

11. Has the development of an efficient and sustainable system of ex situ conservation of PGRFA been promoted in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

11A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the measures taken to promote ex situ conservation, in particular any measures to promote the development and transfer of technologies for this purpose:

>

12. Has the maintenance of the viability, degree of variation, and the genetic integrity of ex situ collections of PGRFA been monitored in your country?

Please select only one option

- yes
 No

12A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the main conclusions of these monitoring activities

>

13. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in

the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation or documentation of PGRFA?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

13A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the other Contracting Parties with whom the cooperation was undertaken (where additional to cooperation through the Governing Body or Treaty mechanisms) and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

>

Article 6: Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

14. Are there any policy and legal measures in place in your country that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

14A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such policy and legal measures include:

- Pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources;
 Strengthening research that enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers;
 Promoting plant breeding efforts, with the participation of farmers, that strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;
 Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers
 Promoting the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilised species
 Supporting the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to plant breeding and agricultural development
 Reviewing and adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution

14B. If such policy and legal measures are in place, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

- > 1. Law N°005/2016 of 05 July 2016 Governing Seeds and Plant Varieties in Rwanda
Rwanda published in the Official Gazette no Special of 20 April 2016 and eleven ministerial orders operationalizing the Law Governing Seeds and Plant Varieties in Rwanda
2. National Agriculture Policy published in 2018
3. Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation 2018-2024
4. The Seven Year Government Program 2017-2024

Article 7: National Commitments and international Cooperation

15. Has the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, documentation and sustainable use of PGRFA been integrated into your country's agriculture and rural development programmes and policies?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

15A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the integration of such activities into the agriculture and rural development programmes and policies:

>

16. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- yes
 No

16A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the aim of such cooperation is to:

Strengthen the capability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with respect to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA

Enhance international activities to promote conservation, evaluation, documentation, genetic enhancement, plant breeding, seed multiplication, and sharing, providing access to and exchanging PGRFA and appropriate information and technology, in conformity with the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing under the Treaty

16B. If, in addition to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms, your country has cooperated with other Contracting Parties directly or through FAO and other relevant international organizations, please indicate such other Contracting Parties and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

> Exchange of germplasm through CGIAR centers especially AfricaRice, CIAT, CIMMYT, Boversity International, IITA, CIP and ICRISAT

Article 8: Technical Assistance

17. Has your country promoted the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

17A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken

>

18. Has your country received technical assistance with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

18 A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such technical assistance:

>

Article 9: Farmers' Rights

19. Subject to national law, as appropriate, have any measures been taken to protect and promote farmers' rights in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

19 A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

- Recognition of the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources;
 The protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA
 The right to equitably participate in sharing benefit arising from the utilisation of PGRFA
 The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA
 Any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange, and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material

19B. If such measures were taken, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

> The Law N°005/2016 of 05 July 2016 governing seeds and plant varieties in Rwanda published in the Official Gazette no Special of 20 April 2016 gives the rights to farmers to save, to use, to exchange and sell farmer-saved seed or propagated materials irrespective their origin

Article 11: Coverage of the Multilateral System

20. Has your country included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS) all PGRFA listed in Annex 1 to the Treaty that are under the management and control of your Government and in the public domain?

Please select only one option

- All
 Partially
 None

20A. If your answer is 'all', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

> No difficulties

20B. If your answer is 'partially', please provide details of:

The extent to which Annex 1 PGRFA have been included in the MLS

The crops that have been included in the MLS; and

The difficulties encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

>

20C. If your answer is 'none', please provide details of the difficulties encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

>

21. Has your country taken measures to encourage natural and legal persons within your jurisdiction who hold Annex 1 PGRFA to include those resources in the MLS?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

21A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of:

The natural or legal persons within your jurisdiction that included Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS;

The crops that have been included in the MLS by these persons; and

Any difficulties these persons encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

>

21B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details, in particular details of any difficulties encountered in encouraging these persons to include Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

> Rwanda has never made never made any step in bring other countries to include the genetic resources of the Annex I into MLS

Article 12: Facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Multilateral System

22. Has your country taken measures to provide facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 12.4 of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

22A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such measures:

>

22B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA:

> In fact there has been flow of genetic resources from mainly CGIAR centers to Rwanda under SMTA, but no institution in the country has exchanged genetic resources from Rwanda under SMTA so that the country found it is necessary to put in place measures for facilitating the transfer of genetic resources. This is probably due to the fact that the awareness of the Treaty and the MLS still very low in Rwanda. There has been some exchange of genetic resources from Rwanda to out of the country, but these have not been done under MLS. It is important to increase the awareness of the Treaty in Rwanda so that various organizations can benefit from MLS

23. Has facilitated access been provided in your country to Annex 1 PGRFA pursuant to the standard material transfer agreement (SMTA)?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

23A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide the number of SMTAs entered into:

> 112 mainly with CGIAR centers. The number of entries received so far are 9,856

23B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA pursuant to the SMTA:

>

24. Has the SMTA been used voluntarily in your country to provide access to non-Annex 1 PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

24A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the number of such SMTAs entered into:

>

25. Does the legal system of your country provide an opportunity for parties to material transfer agreements (MTAs) to seek recourse in case of contractual disputes arising under such agreements?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

25A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

>

26. Does the legal system of your country provide for the enforcement of arbitral decisions related to disputes arising under the SMTA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

26A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

>

27. Have there been any emergency disaster situations in respect of which your country has provided

facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA for the purpose of contributing to the re-establishment of agricultural systems?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

27A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such emergency disaster situations and the Annex 1 PGRFA to which access was provided:

>

Article 13: Benefit-sharing in the Multilateral System

28. Has your country made any information available regarding Annex I PGRFA?

- Yes
 No

28A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of any information made available regarding Annex 1 PGRFA (e.g. catalogues and inventories, information on technologies, results of scientific and socio-economic research, including characterisation, evaluation and utilisation):

>

29. Has your country provided or facilitated access to technologies for the conservation, characterisation, evaluation and use of Annex I PGRFA?

If access to technologies was provided, please provide details of the access provided.

Please select only one option

- Yes

>

- No

29A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether your country:

- Has established or participated in crop-based thematic groups on utilisation of PGRFA
 Is aware of any partnerships in your country in research and development and in commercial joint ventures relating to the material received through the MLS, human resource development and effective access to research facilities.

29B. If access to technologies was provided, please provide details of the access provided:

>

30. Has your country provided for and/or benefitted from capacity building measures in respect of Annex 1 PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

30A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

- Establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
 Developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
 Carrying out scientific research and developing capacity for such research.

30B. If your country provided for and/or benefitted from such measures, please provide details:

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Article 14: Global Plan of Action

31. Has your country promoted the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

Please note that this question differs from question 15 as it only concerns Annex I PGRFA and is more specific.

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

31A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the implementation of the plan was promoted through:

- National actions
- International cooperation

31B. If the implementation of the plan was promoted, please provide details:

> The implementation is facilitated through national environment and agriculture policies such as National Biodiversity Plan published, Rwanda Biodiversity Policy and National Agriculture Policy

Article 15: Ex Situ Collections of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other International Institutions

32. Has facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (IARCs) or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

32A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

To which IARCs or other international institutions facilitated access was provided;
The number of SMTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:
> CIMMYT, CIAT, AfricaRice, ILRI, CIP, IITA
Approximately 112 SMTAs

32B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty

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33. Has access to non-Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to IARCs or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

33A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

To which IARCs or other international institutions access was provided;
The number of MTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

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33B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing access to non-Annex 1 PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

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Article 16: International Plant Genetic Resources Networks

34. Has your country undertaken any activities to encourage government, private, non- governmental, research, breeding and other institutions to participate in the international plant genetic resources networks?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

34A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such activities:

>

Article 18: Financial Resources

35. Has your country provided and/or received financial resources for the implementation of the Treaty through bilateral, regional or multilateral channels?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

35A. If your answer is 'yes', where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved:

>

36. Has your country provided financial resources for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

36A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such national activities and the amount of the financial resources involved:

> The Government of Rwanda support all the costs of the National Gene bank

About this reporting format

37. Have you encountered any difficulties in completing this reporting format?

Please select only one option

Yes

>

No

37A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details on such difficulties:

>

37B. If you have suggestions for improvement of this reporting format, please share them:

>

General remarks on the implementation of the ITPGRFA

38. You may use this box to share any advice you may have arising from your country's experience with implementation of the Treaty:

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39. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of difficulties in implementation of the Treaty:

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40. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of measures that could help to promote compliance:

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