



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 the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) on 23 July 2019.

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

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropic (ICRISAT)

Basic information

Title of measure/practice:

Germplasm collection in 'gap areas' of the West and Central African region

Date of submission:

July 23, 2019

Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place:

Nigeria, Niger, Burkina and Senegal

Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person):

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Type of institution/organization (categories):

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Mandatory information:

Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including:

In 2013, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), together with national agricultural research organizations of the respective countries, initiated a project aiming to fill gaps in the ICRISAT genebank collections and enhancing utilization of germplasm for food and agriculture. Core components were collection missions targeting pearl millet, sorghum and groundnut. In addition to these crops, national partners collected also other crops that are not part of ICRISAT's mandate crops, such as cowpea, okra, sesame, Bambara groundnut, maize, etc. Trainings were offered to participating staff on collection and conservation techniques; these trainings also addressed Farmers Rights and traditional knowledge. Key outcomes include the collection of 5,057 germplasm accessions; seed samples were distributed across African, USA and European countries, including to researchers, breeders, farmers organizations, agrodealers, processors and students. Key lessons learned include the awareness of the need for communication with and consent from local communities; building trust with local partners: and getting the necessary agreement from local authorities.

Implementing entity and partners

Implementing entity: International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Niamey Niger; Partners: National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NACGRAB), Nigeria, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Kano Nigeria, Institut National de Recherche Agricole (INRAN), Niamey, Niger, Institut de l'Environnement et de Recherches Agricoles (INERA), Burkina Faso, Institut Senegalais de Recherche Agricole (ISRA), Thies, Senegal

Start year

2013

Objective(s)

The objective of the collection missions was to fill the gap of collections conserved in ICRISAT genebank and enhance the utilization of germplasm for food and agriculture.

Summary of core components

Land races are the core components of the germplasm collection for conservation and utilization.

Key outcomes

In total, up to 5057 germplasm were collected and conserved in regional genebank. Duplicates were sent to ICRISAT main genebank India. 7351 seeds samples were distributed across African, USA and European countries. Recipients of seeds samples included researchers, breeders, farmers organizations, agro dealers, processors and students. We received feedback from some of recipients acknowledging the quality of seeds received and the utilization they were doing. We also trained the collection missions participants on how to collect and conserve

sample until it reaches genebank for medium term or long term conservation. The training includes also information and discussions on farmers right and traditional knowledges.

Lessons learned (if applicable)

Communication and participative exploration mission. Get farmers consent and community protocols during meetings (in the presence of community leaders)

Build trust and Network with local partners. Give them useful information when they want to get back their material or any information/knowledge they may need.

Get necessary agreement from authorities, involve the traditional leaders (chief of the village and resources persons).

Insecurity context in some areas

Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

Since 2013 exploration missions for collecting germplasm were organized in west African countries. In each country, areas where collection gaps exist are visited to collect samples of pearl millet, sorghum and groundnut. In addition to these crops, NARS partners collected also non ICRISAT mandate crops like cowpea, okra, sesame, Bambara groundnut, maize, etc.

Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words)

Land races are the core components of the germplasm collection for conservation and utilization.

Indeed, aware of continuous plants genetics resources erosion leading to loss of genetic diversity and the existence of gaps in collected materials conserved in ICRISAT genebank, collecting germplasm/land races in specific areas of West and Central Africa countries will fill the gaps of ICRISAT mandate crops. The collection missions were organized in collaboration with NARS partners. The land races collection will not only increase the diversity in the existing collections but also support breeding and research for food and agriculture.

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)

Although several collection missions were organized in different countries of West and Central Africa, some areas were not explored mainly because of distance, inaccessibility, lack of funding and in the same time the environmental conditions are degrading. So, the germplasm collection missions were implemented following request from NARS to ICRISAT. The two parties agreed to organized collaborative exploration missions, ICRISAT will provide technical support while NARS will conserve copy of collected materials in ICRISAT genebank.

The activity involved farmers, plant genetic resources responsible, researchers, agriculture extension services and breeders in each country. The number varies depending on the area of collection and the country.

In Niger the collection was in Dosso and Tillabery regions. In Burkina Faso it was the regions of Centre and North centre while in Nigeria it was the part of North and East states. The collected locations in Senegal were Thiès, Mbour, Tivaouane, Mbacké-Diourbel and Bambey regions.

To which provision(s) of Article 9 of the International Treaty does this measure relate

Art. 9.1 Yes

Art. 9.2a Yes

Art. 9.2b Yes

Art. 9.2c Yes

Art. 9.3 Yes