



**Views, Experiences and Best Practices as an example of possible options for the national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty**

*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 International Seed Federation (ISF) on 31 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: Fair Planet
- Date of submission 31/07/2019
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place Ethiopia
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person) Fair Planet; Dr. Shoshan Haran:  
<https://www.fairplanetseeds.org/presentation>
- Type of institution/organization (categories) NGO
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)) A number of private seed companies

#### **Description of the examples**

##### **Mandatory information:<sup>1</sup>**

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

Fair Planet is a non-profit organization partnering with several private seed companies with a mission to develop a vital agriculture business economy in rural areas of Africa, increase food security and provide new economic opportunities to smallholder farmers in developing countries, through access to high-quality seed varieties and training for improved farming practices. Together with Haramaya University, Ethiopia, and the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture, and in cooperation with private seed companies, they have developed a unique extension model since 2012. Core components include technology transfer and capacity development of local experts and trainers; local teams continue training the farmers to implement improved production practices. As a result, more than 16,000 smallholder farmers in the project regions have increased food production and received better nutrition due to better seeds and improved farming practices. In some cases, yields have increased dramatically: 4 times greater in tomato, and 8 times greater in hot pepper.

The Fair Planet initiative helps develop a vital agriculture business economy in rural areas of Africa and provides interesting and profitable work for young people looking for better opportunities in their own country.

**Implementing entity and partners** Private seed companies / Fair Planet organization

**Start year** 2012

**Objective(s)**

One of the main goals of the project is to improve farmers' livelihoods through offering them better choices and economic opportunities.

**Summary of core components**

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



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Technology transfer and capacity building of local experts and trainers is a key part of the programme and the local teams continue training the farmers to implement better production practices.

#### Key outcomes

- Farmers' yields have increased dramatically: 4 times greater in tomato, and 8 times greater in hot pepper.
- More than 16,000 smallholder farmers in the project regions have increased food production and received better nutrition due to better seeds and improved farming practices, and the goal is to reach 50,000 farmers.

#### Lessons learned (if applicable)

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

Together with Haramaya University and the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture, they have developed a unique extension model that has trained hundreds of Lead Farmers annually on how to improve their productivity, with minimal changes to their traditional production practices.

Many of the farmers have doubled their annual income from their small plots in only one production season. Technology transfer and capacity building of local experts and trainers is a key part of the programme and the local teams continue training the farmers to implement better production practices. The farmers have gradually shifted from subsistence farming to an agribusiness mode of operation. They benefit from sustainable economic growth and their families benefit from increased income, allowing better education for their kids and a better future for the next generations.

The Fair Planet initiative helps develop a vital agriculture business economy in rural areas of Africa and provides interesting and profitable work for young people looking for better opportunities in their own country. Fair Planet is seeking partners who are willing to join this successful and exciting initiative and who can support its efforts in helping millions of farmers in need, in as many countries as possible.

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

See above.

- 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 <sup>2</sup>	Also relevant <sup>3</sup>
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		
2	Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds		
3	Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA		
4	Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge		
5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites		
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks <sup>4</sup> , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.	X	
7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection		
8	Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels		
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation	X	
10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		
11	Other measures / practices		

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Including seed houses.



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- 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)
- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers<sup>5</sup> Smallholder farmers in developing countries
- Location(s) and geographical outreach  
Ethiopia
  
- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice
- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?
- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)
- Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice
- 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  
Farmers should have the opportunity to make informed choices about which seeds they plant to best suit their personal circumstances, whether protected by intellectual property rights or not. Enhancing a farmer’s ability to make an informed choice requires the availability of suitable seed options and knowledge of any limitation that may restrict the use of varieties chosen.  
It is critical that farmers of all sizes have the opportunity to choose the seed that best meets their needs.

### **Lessons learned**

- Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words).
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)
- 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)

### **Further information**

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice

<https://www.fairplanetseeds.org/>

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