



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 Italy on 31 July 2019.

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



**Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights
as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty**

**Implementing the ITPGRFA in Italy
The National Programme RGV/FAO**

Basic information

- Title of measure/practice: **Implementing the ITPGRFA in Italy - The National Programme RGV/FAO**
- Date of submission: **July 2019**
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: **Italy**
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person): **Ministry of Agriculture, DISR III - disr3@politicheagricole.it**
- Type of institution/organization (categories): **Ministry**
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): **Rete Semi Rurali - Scandicci - info@semirurali.net**

Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

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

In 2004 Italy started a specific programme on the implementation of the ITPGRFA, including the public gene banks and supporting their conservation activities. From 2007 also the Italian Seed Network (Rete Semi Rurali- RSR) has been involved in the programme, with the aim of promoting sustainable use of PGRFA. This programme is supporting and recognizing the role of seed networks and farmers' organisation on sustainable use and conservation of PGRFA. It is a way of contributing at the same time to protection and re-creation of traditional knowledge and to the involvement of farmers and farmers' networks in policy decision-making.

The support to sustainable use of PGRFA by farmers and farmers' networks can be considered a non-monetary measure of benefit sharing under the framework of article 9 of the IPTGRFA. It also contributes to the support of traditional knowledge, promoting social networks and the exchange of knowledge among different stakeholders. It allows to create a policy and institutional framework for involving farmers' networks in the decision making process. For example, in the agreement between RSR and Ministry of Agriculture the activities foreseen include the support to the national delegation on issues related to articles 6 and 9 of the ITPGRFA.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

In 2004 Italy started a specific programme on the implementation of the ITPGRFA, including the public gene banks and supporting their conservation activities. From 2007 also the Italian Seed Network (Rete Semi Rurali- RSR) has been involved in the programme, with the aim of promoting sustainable use of PGRFA.

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



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

The RGV/FAO project is supporting from one side the maintenance of public ex situ collections and on the other side on farm conservation done by farmers' networks. It is important to note that this is a pluriannual project, that can support the activities in the long term.

- 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)

In Italy there are many public research institutions managing germplasm collections and also many local and regional initiatives of on farm conservation by the civil society. That is the reason why the Ministry of Agriculture in 2004 started the RGV/FAO project, aiming at coordinating and supporting their activities. In the case of civil societies, it was chosen Rete Semi Rurali because is a network of different organisations (40 in 2019) spread at national level.

- 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 ²	Also relevant ³
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		

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

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



5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites	X	
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks ⁴ , 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		X
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation		
10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		
11	Other measures / practices		

- 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)

The objective of the project is to implement the ITPGRFA in Italy in particular with regard to articles 5, 6 and 9.

- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers⁵

Farmers and other stakeholders are involved through the Italian Seed Network during the year in specific activities. Thanks to the programme each year around 5.000 people participated to on farm trials and activities, including consumers and technicians.

- Location(s) and geographical outreach

Italy

- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice

Each year the Ministry of Agriculture finance a programme of around 50.000€ implemented by Rete Semi Rurali. The overall budget of the project RGV/FAO is around 1 million € per year.

- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?

⁴ Including seed houses.

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



Thanks to the programme, RSR has activated collaborations and agreements with many public gene banks in order to multiply and use PGRFA conserved ex situ, start participatory plant breeding programmes and in general increase cultivated diversity in farming systems. This programme also is supporting the maintenance of the Community Seed Banks managed by RSR.

- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)

As said previously this practice promote the long term funding of the Italian Seed Network, allowing the realisation of many activities in Italy referring to articles 5, 6 and 9. It also support activities of raising awareness on the importance of the Treaty and its provisions at national level.

- 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

Lessons learned

- Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words).

The support to sustainable use of PGRFA by farmers and farmers' networks can be considered a non-monetary measure of benefit sharing under the framework of article 9 of the IPTGRFA. It also contributes to the support of traditional knowledge, promoting social networks and the exchange of knowledge among different stakeholders. It allows to create a policy and institutional framework for involving farmers' networks in the decision making process. For example, in the agreement between RSR and Ministry of Agriculture the activities foreseen include the support to the national delegation on issues related to articles 6 and 9 of the ITPGRFA.

- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)

The main challenges are creating trust between social actors and institutions, and recognition by public bodies of the importance of social actors in sustainable use of PGRFA.

- 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)

-

It is important to set up a long-term programme supported by public institutions (e.g. the Ministry of Agriculture having in charge the ITPGRFA implementation) in order to guarantee the sustainability of social organisations.

Further information

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

www.semirurali.net