



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 Philippines on 27 July 2019.

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



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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: East-West Seed's Best Practices on the Implementation of Article 9 (Farmers Rights) of the ITPGRFA

Date of submission: July 2019

Name(s) of country: Philippines

Responsible institution/organization: East West Seed, National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory (NPGRL) Institute of Plant Breeding, University of the Philippines at Los Banos

Type of institution/organization (categories): Private and Government

Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): National Agencies, Local Government Units and relevant stakeholders

Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

- Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including:
 - Implementing entity and partners
 - Start year
 - Objective(s)
 - Summary of core components
 - Key outcomes
 - Lessons learned (if applicable)
- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate
- 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)

Support to the National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory-Institute of Plant Breeding

East-West Seed has strong ties with national gene banks in the area of genetic resource conservation and capacity building. A Memorandum of Understanding has been forged between East-West Seed Co. Inc.-Philippines (EWPH) and the National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory (NPGRL)-Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB) of the University of the Philippines to collaborate on crop germplasm conservation, research and training. Under this public-private partnership, EWPH will assist NPGRL in reviving its old germplasm collection by regenerating these materials at EWPH cost, cooperate in characterization and training related to germplasm conservation. This cooperation contributes to increased awareness and building capacity of young researchers in understanding genetic resource conservation and

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



management. It also contributes to making the vegetables and other crops accessible to farmers through the distribution of seeds.

Active engagement of farmers in evaluating new vegetable varieties

East-West Seed has a pool of smallholder farmers known as PDS or Product Development Support farmers who conduct on-farm trials of newly bred vegetable varieties. They are given training on data collection and cultural management practices. These PDS farmers take an active role in deciding which newly-bred vegetable varieties will be introduced in the market.

Knowledge Transfer to Smallholder Vegetable Farmers

East-West Seed founded its first extension activities in the Philippines in 2000. Since then, teams have been established in Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, India and Tanzania to share knowledge on improved vegetable practices with smallholder farmers. Knowledge Transfer works to increase the income of smallholder vegetable farmers by sharing the knowledge and skills to improve their productivity. We organize farmer field schools, set up demonstration farms, conduct field days and harvest festivals with the aim of teaching farmers profitable and sustainable production practices. Farmer field schools run for 14 weeks with each week devoted to one day theoretical and four days practical/hands-on lessons right in the farm. The concept and techniques of natural farming system are taught i.e. preparation of biopesticides using natural ingredients, vermicomposting, etc.

Knowledge Transfer activities focus on:

- Sustainable and profitable solutions which enable smallholder farmers to grow their business
- Building demand for higher quality inputs leading to the development of competitive input markets
- Long-term economic development in rural communities
- Better access to high-quality and safe-to-eat vegetables for consumers

● 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
-----	----------	----------------------------	----------------------------

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).



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 ⁴ , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.		
7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection	X	
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		

- 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)
To support the national genebank in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources through a public-private partnership. To assist in the regeneration, characterization and evaluation of selected vegetable germplasm.
- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers⁵
National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory staff and eventually vegetable farmers
- Location(s) and geographical outreach
Institute of Plant Breeding, University of the Philippines at Los Banos and Hortanova Research Center, East-West Seed, Lipa City
Nationwide

⁴ Including seed houses.

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



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice
Research facilities like greenhouses, nurseries, laboratory, farming inputs
- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?
It ensures that vegetable germplasm are regenerated, evaluated and characterized for further use in breeding and propagation.
- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)
305 accessions of bittergourd, snake gourd, wax gourd, snap beans and cowpea were received from the national genebank for regeneration. These were planted at the greenhouses of East-West Seed research station. The staff of the genebank paid several visits and together with the Genetic Resources Manager of EWS evaluated/curated the germplasm. Capacity-building was achieved as the partnership allowed sharing of best practices and new technology.
- 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?
This measure relates to the Sustainable Development Goals – Zero Hunger, Life on land
- 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).
Public-private partnership is an effective and efficient way of achieving the objectives of conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. What the government lacks in funding, the private sector can fill the gap. This partnership is built on trust and goodwill and on the common objective of making plant genetic resources available for generations to come. It takes patience and perseverance as the impact of this project can only be realized in the long term.
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)
The bureaucratic procedures delayed the implementation of the project. Also, the poor condition of the seed storage in the national genebank resulted in low germination of seeds.
- 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)
Success factors include finding the right partner for the project, building trust among the stakeholders, shared objectives, good teamwork and strong support from the organizations' leaders.

Further information

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

For more information, please visit the website of East-West Seed at: www.eastwestseed.com