



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
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**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.*



## 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: Protocol on *In-Situ* On Farm Conservation of Traditional Varieties of Crops
- Date of submission; July 2019
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: Philippines
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person): Department of Agriculture
- Type of institution/organization (categories): Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Agricultural Research

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- Type of institution/organization (categories): Government
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): University of the Philippines Lo BANos

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- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): National Agencies, Local Government Units, Non-Government Organizations, State Colleges and Universities, Civil Society Organizations and Private Companies

#### Description of the examples

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

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

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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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The Protocol for *in-situ* on farm conservation of traditional varieties of crops focuses on traditional varieties, farmer varieties and landraces.

*In-situ* on farm conservation refers to the continuous cultivation and management of diverse set of population by farmers in the agroecosystem where the crop has evolved.

The protocol was formulated based on the experience and lessons gained from a project on *in situ* on farm conservation of rice, yam, taro and sweet potato funded by FAO and UNDP, executed by the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) and implemented by the University of the Philippines Los Baños Foundation incorporated (UPLBFI) through the Institute of Crop Science (formerly The Crop Science Cluster), University of the Philippines Los Baños. The protocol was agreed upon and adopted during a national consultation by stakeholders from relevant government agencies including local government units, nongovernment organizations, civil society organizations and private companies.

The Protocol aims to provide guidance to stakeholders and institutionalize *in situ* on farm conservation. For traditional varieties. The Protocol covers two main areas: (i) technical and (ii) institutional.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate ;  
The in-situ conservation started with Project titled “Integrating the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture into Decentralized Landscape Management for Food Security and Biodiversity Conservation in Critical Eco-regions of the Philippines submitted to the Benefit Sharing Fund of the ITPGRFA submitted in January 2011. The project started in June 26, 2013 and funded by the FAO and UNDP. In 2014, a tripartite Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and the University of the Philippines Los Banos Foundation was signed for the implementation of the project.
- Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words)
  - The scope of the Protocol can be divided into two general aspects: Technical and Institutional/Policy.

Technical:

- (i) Site selection covering existing traditional varieties, willingness of community to pursue in situ on farm conservation, and roles of government units at the provincial or barangay level and farming communities.
- (ii) Development of survey instruments/ Conduct and analysis of survey
- (iii) Capacity building of women/men farmers and agricultural technicians through conservation field schools including crop calendar, cultural and environmental management practices, gender roles, appropriate community conservation strategy combining best community and seed supply system.
- (iv) Agreement with the community and municipality on the preferred mode of community genebanking, and agreed roles and responsibilities of stakeholders
- (v) Establishment of appropriate community genebanks.
- (vi) Agreement with the community and municipality on role and responsibilities in the community-based seed/planting material supply system.
- (vii) Establishment of community seed/planting material supply systems.



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- (viii) Assessment of market chains and actors including products and links to the community's cultural identity;
- (ix) Establishment of market chain for products coming from traditional varieties
- (x) Information and communication campaign on the importance and benefits of conserving traditional varieties with the responsible of government stakeholders.

- Institutional

Initiatives to conserve and sustainably use traditional varieties that may guide policy, as follows, among others:

- (i) Inclusion of production and maintenance of traditional varieties in the development plans at the municipal and barangay levels.
- (ii) Inclusion of maintenance of community genebanks and community seed/ planting material supply system.
- (iii) Establishment of duplicate community genebanks at the municipal level.
- (iv) Agreement on complementation of the municipal seed supply systems with the barangay seed/planting material system.
- (v) Agreement on complementation of community genebanking with institutional (national) genebanking.

- 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)

The Protocol was based on data collected in three critical biogeographic regions (Luzon, Negros-Panay and Mindanao in the Philippines.

Political support for initiative/project came from the following;

Barangays of Villa Agullana, Wasis and Jose Ancheta in Quirino providing strong political support in terms of their commitment to continue development of gene banks to support in-situ conservation in the areas; the local government of San Remigio, Antique providing leadership in continuing genebank development by assigning personnel to manage the genebank; LGU Janjuay, Iloilo issuing an executive order for the conservation program and funding included in the agriculture office annual budget; and LGU Banganga, Davao Oriental province in expansion of genebanks and training of staff .

- 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.	*	
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	*	
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 concept and design of the Protocol is on the maintenance of traditional varieties/land races, or farmer varieties in the farming communities.
- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers<sup>5</sup>: Farming communities
- Location(s) and geographical outreach: Nationwide

<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.

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



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- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice: Pilot activity was funded by the UNDP.
- 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:
  - The Indigenous Peoples Right Act (IPRA) of 1997 (RA 8371)
  - The Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001 (RA 9147)
  - Philippine Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?: The Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA) ; A Training Guide for IN-situ Conservation on Far , PGRA 2000
- 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). Local government units expressed their willingness to conserve traditional varieties, continue the practice and provide funds.
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)
- What would you consider conditions for success: LGUs should will for the conservation of traditional varieties *in situ*, provide funds and technical support/personnel .

### **Further information**

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice : [www.bar.gov.ph](http://www.bar.gov.ph)