



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 France 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 : **external funding – public and private sources**
- Date of submission
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place : **France**
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person)

Ministry of Agriculture – 78 rue de Varenne – 75007 Paris – France
bspic.sdqspv.dgal@agriculture.gouv.fr

GNIS – 44 rue du Louvre – 75001 Paris
francois.burgaud@gnis.fr

- Type of institution/organization (categories): government / ministry, interbranch organisation
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s))

GEVES (<https://www.geves.fr/about-us/>)

On plant genetic resources: audrey.didier@geves.fr

Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

- Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including:
 - Implementing entity and partners: Ministry of agriculture, GNIS, others
 - Summary of core components
 - External funding from both public-private entities,
 - Rural development measures in the framework of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD),
 - EU research projects Horizon 2020,
 - GNIS funding for PGRFA,
 - Ministry of Agriculture funds for PGRFA.
 - Key outcomes
 - Lessons learned (if applicable)

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



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- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

- Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words)
 - Article 28 of the Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) requests Member States to establish measures in order to provide support (Agri-environment-climate payments) for farmers and other stakeholders for the conservation and sustainable use and development of genetic resources in agriculture.
 - Genetic resources and breeding are also considered under the EU research program Horizon 2020 as a societal challenge.
 - The administrative Council of GNIS, the French agricultural interbranch organization for seed, took a common decision as a common contribution of the various stakeholders' organizations which are GNIS members, on an annual voluntary contribution of 175.000€, to the benefit sharing fund of the ITPGRFA to implement in developing countries agreed plans and programs for farmers who conserve and sustainably utilize plant genetic resources, as well as annual voluntary contribution of 175.000€ to support French national PGR collections.
 - Since 2016, the French ministry of Agriculture and later one GNIS, provide temporary funding in order to support stakeholders, networks involved in the conservation and characterization of plant genetic resources, especially those under threat in the framework of call of proposals managed by GEVES.

- 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)
 - Farmers' organizations, farmers' network conducted activities on participatory plant breeding with funding from both public-private entities.
 - In the framework of the EAFRD, such support is implemented regionally in France according to each specificities.
 - Under Horizon 2020, the key themes are Landraces and local products & value chains, genebank management, Coordination and development of biodiversity strategies, Diversifying agriculture and forestry, Plant and animal breeding. For example, one project is establishing the European Network for *In Situ* Conservation of PGR. It will bring together stakeholders and sites across the region and coordinate actions to conserve diversity for crop enhancement and adaptation in the future.
 - In 2019, 11 projects on PGRFA are supported by GNIS, one is directly dealing with a farmers' cooperative.



- The financial support of the French ministry of Agriculture through GEVES represent around 200.000 euros annually for the national conservation structure and 390.000 euros under three launches since 2017, in order to support stakeholders, networks involved in the conservation/characterization of PGR, especially those under threat.
- 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	X	
3	Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA		X
4	Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge		X
5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites		X

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).



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)
- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers⁵: farmers involved in conservation of plant genetic resources as well as in utilisation.
- Location(s) and geographical outreach : France
- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice
External funding from public and private sources.
- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?
 - The financial support of the French ministry of Agriculture since 2017 represent 390 000 euros and financial support of GNIS 175 000 euros in 2019, in order to support stakeholders, networks involved in the conservation/characterization of PGR, especially those under threat through GEVES launches,:
 - Safeguarding existing collections threatened in the short or medium term,
 - Acquiring/improving equipment/infrastructure in order to improve the conservation of collections,
 - Improving knowledge about collections (phenotypic or molecular).

⁴ Including seed houses.

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



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When applying for the call of proposals, the potential beneficiary signs an agreement to provide part of the PGR of its collection into the national collection in order to fulfil the French commitments in contributing to the implementation of the ITPGRFA.

- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)
In total 27 projects have been funded since 2017 for an amount of 390 000 € by the French Ministry of Agriculture and 11 projects in 2019 have been funded for an amount of 175 000 € by the GNIS.
- 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).

By having the voice of stakeholders, including farmers, breeders and amateurs, in various committees in France and in EU, they are taking an active role in the construction of funding opportunities.

Farmers are involved in all stages:

- Contribution to the designing of approach,
- Participation as applicants in various calls of proposal.

France and EU review and adjust periodically implementing measures, including financing, and for that run national and local consultations.

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

The cost of projects for conservation of fruit propagating materiel (maintained in orchards) PGR is more expensive than for PGR maintained by seeds. In addition such fruit species involved frequently amateurs, nursery persons instead of private companies.

Several stakeholders complain for a lack of funding but later on they do not apply in the framework of call of proposals. It is no easy to reach stakeholders, including farmers that are not scientists.



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- 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)

To adapt such system to national needs.

Further information

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice
https://www.reseaurural.fr/sites/default/files/documents/fichiers/2017-11/2017_feader_fiche_mesure_10.pdf
<http://www.horizon2020.gouv.fr/cid133592/publication-d-une-fiche-sur-la-mise-en-oeuvre-du-protocole-de-nagoya-dans-les-projets-horizon-2020.html>
<https://www.gnis.fr/communique/le-gnis-finance-11-projets-sur-la-biodiversite-des-plantes/>
<https://www.geves.fr/news/support-funds-for-plant-genetic-resources-maintained-in-situ-and-collections-2018-2-selected-projects/>