



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Second Reporting Cycle
Report on the implementation of the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and
Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

FIJI

(04 May 2021)



ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

Second Report on Compliance of ITPGRFA

Online Reporting System on Compliance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Pursuant to Article 21 of the Treaty, the Governing Body approved, at its Fourth Session, the Compliance Procedures that include, among others, provisions on monitoring and reporting: Resolution 2/2011.

According to the Compliance Procedures, each Contracting Party is to submit to the Compliance Committee, through the Secretary, a report on the measures it has taken to implement its obligations under the Treaty. This Online Reporting System facilitates the submission of such information in electronic format.

Should you need any additional information regarding the reporting on compliance or the use of the online system, please visit the Treaty's Website or contact the Secretariat at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org.

Additional Reporting Information

Name and contact of the reporting officer

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>>> Ministry of Agriculture

Research Division

Republic of Fiji

Article 4: General Obligations

1. Are there any laws, regulations procedures or policies in place in your country that implement the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

1A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:
>>>

2. Are there any other laws, regulations, procedures or policies in place in your country that apply to plant genetic resources?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

2A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

>>> Policy - Strategic Priority 3: Improve the adoption of Sustainable Resource Management and Climate Smart Agriculture

- All germplasm conservation and use activities are covered under this policy strategic priority area.

3. Is there any law, regulation, procedure or policy in place in your country that needs to be adjusted / harmonized to ensure conformity with the obligations as provided in the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

3A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such adjustments and any plans to make those adjustments:

>>> The current policy direction of Fiji Government is very broad and does not specifically address PGRFAs conservation and use. There are no laws in safeguarding Fiji's unique PGRFAs as in other countries. Current exchange and access of PGRFAs is only by the use of SMTA through Center of Pacific Crops and Trees at SPC, Suva Fiji and other international institutions.

Fiji government is also the signatory to the CBD 1993 and the Nagoya Protocol of 2014. The CBD and Nagoya Protocol in Fiji have an organised system with the NBSAP in place for the CBD and the ABS Policy Framework has been in place for Protocol in Fiji.

The Ministry of Agriculture have engaged in consultations with CBD Secretariat on a umbrella ABS Policy to cover CBD and PGRFAs. Currently the ABS Policy is focusing on the access and use on genetic resources under the CBD.

Currently the Research Division of the Ministry of Agriculture in Fiji is mandated to conserve PGRFAs in 8 research stations throughout Fiji with documentations and rationalization of germplasm takes place and genetic erosion, changes in consumer preferences and introduction of new varieties continues to be the contributing factors to erosion of traditional cultivars. The re - introduction of these traditional cultivars from the Ministry to farmers is a on - going process based on demand bases.

The Status of the National PGRFAs report for Fiji as published in the Treaty websites (2004, 2008 and 2016) with the latest publication in 2019 address some of the important areas on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFAs in Fiji. It also stated the Treaty linkages to the CBD and other conservation work by NGOs operating in Fiji such as Conservation International, WCS, WWF, IUCN, FLMMMA.

Fiji needs to develop its own PGRFA Specific National Policies due to the increase in the exchange of germplasm and develop national laws and legislation pertaining to its PGRFAs protection and sustainability.

Article 5: Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterisation, Evaluation and Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

4. Has an integrated approach to the exploration, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) been promoted in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

5. Have PGRFA been surveyed and inventoried in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

5A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of your findings, specifying species, sub-species and /or varieties, including those that are of potential use.

>>> The national PGRFA data are updated on yearly basis from various research stations and on various PGRFAs. The data are normally use to determine the followings:

- Status of the PGRFAs conservation and use
- Identify new introductions in the collections
- Identify and document new collections of diversity within the country
- Rationalization of the collection

Crops like tree crops that are mostly perennial, identifications of hot spots areas has been documented in Fiji e.g. for coconuts diversity - tall population hot spots in Lakeba, Lau, dwarf diversity in Nabeka Estate in Taveuni. The Fiji dwarf variety (Niu Leka) is very unique to Fiji as this has been found to be originally from Fiji and other countries in the 1960s have collected this variety and use it in their coconut breeding program.

For cocoa, Fiji has worked with Cocoa and Coconut Research Institute of PNG and 13 varieties has been identified, characterized and documented as having unique chocolate flavour characteristics. Fiji cocoa has been in the top 50 in the world with good chocolate characteristics.

The last five years Fiji has identify some unique PGRFAs and these has been collected, characterized and included into the national collections.

1. Two new species of yam was collected in 2014 & 2016 *Dioscorea pentephylla*, a wild yam relatives normally called the 5 - leaf yam. The other is the *Dioscorea cayensis* a sub species of *D. rotundata*, now Fiji has a total 7 yam species collected and recorded.

2. Unique diversity of breadfruit accessions identified, marcotted and collected from Natewa, Vanua Levu. They have adapted well to this areas and fruits all year round. Other parts of Fiji breadfruit is seasonal. Fiji has now 13 breadfruit accesions.

3. Collections and characterization of avocado diversity in Fiji, Fiji has identified 10 accessions.

4. In 2014, introduction of taro leaf blight tolerant taro varieties from around the Pacific and Asia and these has been included in the current taro breeding program in Fiji to develop new tolerant varieties and broaden diversity.

5. New crops like Taiwan & Indian guava in 2017 and 2 Dragon fruits varieties has been introduced in 2018 evaluated and released in Fiji for commercial cultivation.

6. Collections of traditional rice variety from Dreketi in Vanua Levu in the northern parts of Fiji that is found to be tolerant to saline conditions.

7. Surveyed of taro diversity in Fiji in 2017, resulted in the collection, characterization and documentation of new taro species in Fiji *Colocasia esculenta* var. *antiquorum*, namely Asian Taro (Satoimo type in Japan). This new species has been further evaluated in Fiji that has good potential for food security, nutrition and processing.

5B. If your answer is 'no', please indicate:

Any difficulties encountered in surveying or inventorying PGRFA;

Any action plans to survey and inventory PGRFA;

The most important PGRFA that should be surveyed and inventoried

>>>

6. Has any threat to PGRFA in your country been identified?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

6A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

The species, subspecies and/or varieties subject to such threats;

The sources (causes) of these threats;

Any steps taken to minimise or eliminate these threats;

Any difficulties encountered in implementing such steps;

>>> The threat to Fiji PGRFAs can be classified into the followings:

- Natural disasters & climate changes impacts on crop production

- Changes in consumer preferences

- Introduction of new varieties with superior traits

- Limited resources - funding, capacity, manpower and infrastructure improvements

Taro - *Colocasia esculenta* - threat is the introduction and release of new hybrids with superior qualities and early maturing resulting the erosion of traditional varieties from farmers. Ministry of Agriculture in Fiji is conserving all traditional varieties through field gene banks, tissue culture and duplicates are conserve in the regional gene bank at the Centre of Pacific Crops and Trees - SPC ,in Suva Fiji.

Breadfruit - threat is mostly by tropical cyclones as Fiji is mostly affected on almost yearly basis. Unique varieties have been collected, marcotted, tissue cultured and co and conserve at different locations to safeguard diversity.

For seeded crops like okra, eggplant, rice, and other vegetables, conservation strategies are in place in seed coolers.

Difficulties - PGRFAs conservation and maintenance is a time consuming and labour intensive work in Fiji, especially when resources is limited (labour, funding & capacity) as most of these PGRFAs especially annual crops requires year in year out maintenance and duplication work.

7. Has the collection of PGRFA and relevant associated information on those plant genetic resources that are under threat or are of potential use been promoted in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

7A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

>>> Promotion of PGRFAs is an on - going process in Fiji, through various means. We have press releases on radio programs, farmers leaflets, annual national agriculture shows and roadshows that are being used to promote PGRFAs in Fiji.

Underutilized species such as edible ferns, *Sacchurum edule* (Duruka) and bele or Aibika and taro leaves have reached the export market through promotional activities. These are nutritious vegetables but underutilized in Fiji. Ministry of Agriculture works with the Ministry of Health - National Food and Nutrition Centre in the promotion of information on PGRFAs that provides food security and nutrition needs.

There is need for more capacity in terms of using the Ministry website to further capacitate the promotion of these PGRFAs to the communities.

8. Have farmers and local communities' efforts to manage and conserve PGRFA on-farm been promoted or supported in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

8A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

>>> The Ministry of Agriculture undertakes awareness, farmers training on on - farm conservation of PGRFAs, seed extraction and storage as part of increasing the awareness on the importance on conservation of crop diversity for future use. Ministry also engaged with private nurseries operators in Fiji on fruit trees and vegetables and also ensures true to type varieties are maintained for farmers use.

Since the private the sector does not take the initiative, government has taken the lead responsibility in the conservation and use of PGRFAs in Fiji.

9. Has in situ conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production been promoted in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

9A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether any measures have been taken to:

Promote in situ conservation in protected areas

Support the efforts of indigenous and local communities

9B. If such measures have been taken, please provide details of the measures taken:

>>> The Conservation International Fiji has declared few areas in Fiji as Protected Areas e.g. Sovi Basin, Naitasiri. In this protected areas wild relatives of PGRFAs are also under protection from exploitation, including genetic resources covered under the CBD.

The other NGOs operating in Fiji like the Birdlife International has also declared areas as Important Bird Areas (IBAs). In these areas are also wild relatives of PGRFAs are also covered under protection due to relationship of birds survival to plants diversity in these areas.

10. Are there any ex situ collections of PGRFA in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

10 A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide information on the holder and content of such collections:

>>> Fiji important PGRFAs are conserved at ex - situ collections such as:

- Field gene banks for root crops, rice, tree crops, spices, traditional fruits & nuts, etc

- Cool storage facilities - vegetables, fruits and rice

- Tissue culture - root crops,

- Nurseries - farmers established nurseries as part of the ex - situ collection especially for traditional cultivars

- Botanical gardens - some traditional fruits and nuts, coconuts are included in the botanical gardens

11. Has the development of an efficient and sustainable system of ex situ conservation of PGRFA been promoted in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

11A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the measures taken to promote ex situ conservation, in particular any measures to promote the development and transfer of technologies for this purpose:

>>> For the last 10 years ex - situ conservation has been strengthened due to its importance after Fiji became the signatory of ITPGRFA, there a Cabinet decision on the approval process. Fiji government continued to support funding support on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFAs in Fiji.

In addition Fiji has worked with Aus Aid, FAO, SPC and other international organizations on projects on the use of PGRFAs in areas on breeding, exchange of germplasm, food processing, trade.

In the past few genetic resources project has been working in Fiji on PGRFAs such as the TaroGen Project, COGENT Project, TANSOA, International Society for Tropical Root Crops, INEA International Networks on Edible Aroids.

In the Pacific Region Fiji has worked with SPC on the promotion of PGRFAs conservation and sustainable use, on networks such as Pacific Agricultural Plant Genetic Resources Network (PAPGREN). This network has really assisted Fiji and Pacific region leading to countries ratifying the Treaty and also strengthened coordination at national and regional level in Fiji.

12. Has the maintenance of the viability, degree of variation, and the genetic integrity of ex situ collections of PGRFA been monitoring in your country?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

12A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the main conclusions of these monitoring activities

>>> This need to be strengthen in Fiji in terms capacity building and available of resources and equipment.

There is a need for the use of genetic diversity clustering so proper rationalization is carried out. Molecular tools needs to be used as a priority for Fiji to assess PGRFAs variations and integrity in the ex- situ collections.

13. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation or documentation of PGRFA?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

13A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the other Contracting Parties with whom the cooperation was undertaken (where additional to cooperation through the Governing Body or Treaty mechanisms) and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

>>> Fiji has cooperated with China, Taiwan, Indonesia, India on rice, pulses and vegetables varieties exchange. Has collaborated research initiatives to explore and use these resources in Fiji, including characterization data that can be used as a research background data in Fiji.

Fiji has worked with Papua New Guinea, Samoa and SPC on the Taro Breeding Program in Fiji. New initiatives on new sweet potatoes varieties from CIP, Peru. New Cassava Varieties from CIAT, Columbia. In addition, there has been donor funded projects funded by the Treaty ABS Project that explore and use Fiji PGRFA for crop improvement programs.

Article 6: Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

14. Are there any policy and legal measures in place in your country that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

14A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such policy and legal measures include:

- Pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources;
- Strengthening research that enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers;
- Promoting plant breeding efforts, with the participation of farmers, that strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;
- Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers
- Promoting the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilised species
- Supporting the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to plant breeding and agricultural development
- Reviewing and adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution

14B. If such policy and legal measures are in place, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

>>> There is no legal binding measures in place on PGRFAs in Fiji, Fiji mostly have policies & strategies to provide guidance on PGRFAs conservation and use.

Article 7: National Commitments and international Cooperation

15. Has the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, documentation and sustainable use of PGRFA been integrated into your country's programmes and policies?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

15A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the integration of such activities:

- Conservation
 Exploration
 Collection
 Characterization
 Evaluation
 Documentation
 Sustainable Use

Please indicate into which type of programmes and policies:

- Agriculture and rural development
 Food security
 Biodiversity conservation
 Climate change
 Other

Additional details:

>>>

16. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

16A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the aim of such cooperation is to:

- Strengthen the capability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with respect to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA
 Enhance international activities to promote conservation, evaluation, documentation, genetic enhancement, plant breeding, seed multiplication, and sharing, providing access to and exchanging PGRFA and appropriate information and technology, in conformity with the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing under the Treaty

16B. If, in addition to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms, your country has cooperated with other Contracting Parties directly or through FAO and other relevant international organizations, please indicate such other Contracting Parties and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

>>> Fiji has cooperated with regional and international organizations such as:

- ICRISAT
- CYMMIT
- IRRI
- CIAT
- CIP
- IITA

Regional level:

- SPC - Centre of Pacific Crops and Trees
- NARI - National Agricultural Research Institute, PNG
- CIRAD

Article 8: Technical Assistance

17. Has your country promoted the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

17A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken

- Exchange of information
- Access to and transfer of technology
- Capacity building

Please explain:

>>>

18. Has your country received technical assistance with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

18 A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such technical assistance:

- Exchange of information
- Access to and transfer of technology
- Capacity building

Please explain:

>>> - Fiji has liaise mostly at regional level with other countries in the Pacific

- Fiji has been a regular attendance to the Treaty Governing Body & other working groups including the Commission activities.

- Fiji has received assistance on the preparation of the Status of the World Biodiversity Report 2016, 2004 & 2008

- Fiji has benefited from the Treat ABS Project 2014 - 16, Fiji research personnel have been trained on root crops breeding on crops such as taro, cassava, sweet potato and yams.

- Fiji currently has a Rice Project with Chinese government from 2015 - 2021. There is also a big rice scheme in Fiji with the Korean Government through the Grace Road Project. India has also provided Fiji with drought tolerant & aerobic rice varieties that are currently under evaluations in Fiji

Article 9: Farmers' Rights

19. Subject to national law, as appropriate, have any measures been taken to protect and promote farmers' rights in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

19 A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

- Recognition of the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources;
 The protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA
 The right to equitably participate in sharing benefit arising from the utilisation of PGRFA
 The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA
 Any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange, and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material

19B. If such measures were taken, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

>>>

Article 11: Coverage of the Multilateral System

20. Has your country notified all PGRFA listed in Annex I to the Treaty that are under the management and control of your Government and in the public domain as included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS)?

Please select only one option

- All
- Partially
- None

20A. If your answer is 'all', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

>>>

20B. If your answer is 'partially', please provide details of:

The extent to which Annex 1 PGRFA have been included in the MLS

The crops that have been included in the MLS; and

The difficulties encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

>>> Most of the important PGRFAs in Fiji that are mostly used for subsistence and commercial use are all included in the Annex 1 of the Treaty.

Fiji does not have any objections on the Annex 1 of the Treaty as it has seen the importance of exchange of germplasm as an important resource in agricultural development in Fiji. It has been a recipient of most of the PGRFAs that have been commercialized and traded in Fiji.

Expansion of the Annex 1 of the Treaty and inclusion of some unique diversity might require Fiji government authorization.

Fiji does not really have any difficulties in the MLS, as most of the PGRFAs we accessed already existed in the regional gene bank at SPC, Fiji. Fiji only sign the SMTA to access these resources.

Accessing & exchange of PGRFAs by country to country is mostly done at bilateral level and cooperation.

SMTA is required to be signed by Contracting Parties.

20C. If your answer is 'none', please provide details of the difficulties encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

- Lack of guidelines for the identification and inclusion of material;
- There is no national genebank;
- Lack of catalogue of PGRFA in the country;
- Lack of specialised human resources;
- Limited economic resources and the need for capacity building;

Other, please explain:

>>>

21. Has your country taken measures to encourage natural and legal persons within your jurisdiction who hold Annex 1 PGRFA to include those resources in the MLS?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

21A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of:

The natural or legal persons within your jurisdiction that included Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS;

The crops that have been included in the MLS by these persons; and

Any difficulties these persons encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

>>>

21B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details, in particular details of any difficulties encountered in encouraging these persons to include Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

>>> Assistance is required in terms of legal issues pertaining to Fiji's PGRFAs.

Building capacity is an area to be explored in Fiji on legal aspects

At the moment Fiji does not have any legal authority over its PGRFAs especially PGRFAs not in the Annex 1 of the Treaty.

Article 12: Facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Multilateral System

22. Has your country taken measures to provide facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 12.4 of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

22A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such measures:

>>> Fiji signs the SMTA for germplasm access and exchange as one of the requirements under the MLS of the Treaty

22B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA:

>>>

23. Has facilitated access been provided in your country to Annex 1 PGRFA using the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA)?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

23B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA using the SMTA:

>>>

24. Has the SMTA been used voluntarily in your country to provide access to non-Annex 1 PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 No, but the issue is under consideration

25. Does the legal system of your country provide an opportunity for parties to material transfer agreements (MTAs) to seek recourse in case of contractual disputes arising under such agreements?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

25A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

>>> The CBD provides this in Fiji and not the Treaty, there has been laws and regulations in place of genetic resources under the CBD

26. Does the legal system of your country provide for the enforcement of arbitral decisions related to disputes arising under the SMTA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

26A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

>>>

27. Have there been any emergency disaster situations in respect of which your country has provided facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA for the purpose of contributing to the re-establishment of agricultural systems?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

27A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such emergency disaster situations and the Annex 1 PGRFA to which access was provided:

>>>

Article 13: Benefit-sharing in the Multilateral System

28. Has your country made any information available regarding Annex I PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

28A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of any information made available regarding Annex 1 PGRFA:

- Catalogues and inventories
 Information on technologies
 Results of scientific and socio-economic research, including characterisation, evaluation and utilisation
 Other

29. Has your country provided or facilitated access to technologies for the conservation, characterisation, evaluation and use of Annex I PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

29A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether your country:

- Has established or participated in crop-based thematic groups on utilisation of PGRFA
 Is aware of any partnerships in your country in research and development and in commercial joint ventures relating to the material received through the MLS, human resource development and effective access to research facilities.

Please provide details:

>>>

30. Has your country provided for and/or benefitted from capacity building measures in respect of Annex 1 PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

30A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

- Establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
 Developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
 Carrying out scientific research and developing capacity for such research.

30B. If your country provided for and/or benefitted from such measures, please provide details:

>>> - Characterization of PGFAs using guidelines in the Treaty crop descriptors and use of minimum descriptors guidelines by other Contracting Parties.

- Strengthened scientific research in areas of use of diversity e.g. Fiji and CSIRO on the Cassava Crop Modelling in 2015 - 16
- Established taro breeding program in Fiji to develop tolerant varieties to the Leaf Blight disease
- Current rice breeding with assistance from the Chinese government
- Plant Mutation Breeding - a project with the IAEA on Rice and Chili in Fiji
- Strengthened research with Taiwan government on Guava and Dragon Fruit in Fiji through varietal development and orchard establishment.
- Cocoa and coconut research development with India, Papua New Guinea

Article 14: Global Plan of Action

31. Has your country promoted the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

Please note that this question differs from question 15 as it only concerns Annex I PGRFA and is more specific.

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

31A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the implementation of the plan was promoted through:

- National actions
- International cooperation
- Other actions

Please provide details:

>>> National level - consultation with stakeholders, NGOs and other Ministries

International level - inclusion of Fiji in the NISM, preparation of the Status Report of PGRFA in Fiji 2004 and 2008 and the Status of World Biodiversity for Food & Agriculture 2016, all these reports have been submitted and published by the Treaty

Article 15: Ex Situ Collections of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other International Institutions

32. Has facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (IARCs) or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

32A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

To which IARCs or other international institutions facilitated access was provided;

The number of SMTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

>>> - For root crops - access from regional gene bank managed by SPC based in Fiji, Fiji so far has signed more than 20 SMTA with SPC on germplasm access.

- Vegetables - mostly from World Vegetable Centre in Taiwan

- Pulses - mostly from ICRISAT

- Potatoes from CIP, Peru

- Cassava - IITA, Nigeria and CIAT Columbia

32B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty

>>>

33. Has access to non-Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to IARCs or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

33A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

To which IARCs or other international institutions access was provided;

The number of MTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

>>>

33B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing access to non-Annex 1 PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

>>> Fiji only sign SMTA on PGRFAs under the Annex 1 of the Treaty

Article 16: International Plant Genetic Resources Networks

34. Has your country undertaken any activities to encourage government, private, non- governmental, research, breeding and other institutions to participate in the international plant genetic resources networks?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

34A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such activities:

- >>> 1. 2014 - 16 Building resilience to Pacific Agricultural Systems through Access to and Use of Diversity (SPC, Fiji, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Palau and Toga)
- 2. ACIAR Project on Cocoa Characterization (SPC and Fiji)
- 3. ACIAR Soil Health Project on island of Taveuni, a major taro producing area.
- 4. Guava and Dragon fruit research and development in Fiji with Taiwan
- 5. Enhancing the Rice varietal characters in Fiji with the Longping Hitech Rice Research Institute in China

Article 18: Financial Resources

35. Has your country provided financial resources for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

35A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide the estimated amount of funds provided during the last five years, including government resources:

>>> Estimated F\$3.5m for the last five years, this includes agro - inputs, labour costs, machinery, fuel and oil, documentation and publications and promotional activities.

Fiji government provides annual budgets for crops research and development and a core activity is the conservation of germplasm and maintenance of these gene banks in Fiji.

35B. Please indicate if your country has developed a strategy or other measures to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement the International Treaty:

>>> Financial measures in place for Fiji for any donor projects or funding from the Treaty funds are directed to government coffers and government allocates fund allocation to track the utilization of funds. Government has separate measures in national level finding and donor funding.

36. Has your country provided financial resources for the implementation of the International Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

36A. If your answer is 'yes', where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved during the last 5 years::

>>> Fiji government provides annual budget to the Research Division that maintain a large collection of the PGRFAS in Fiji. Most of the budget are from the Capital and re - current budgetary allocations.

36B Channel:

- Bilateral
 Regional
 Multilateral

36C. Please provide details:

>>>

37. Has your country received financial resources for the implementation of the International Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

37A. If your answer is 'yes', where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved during the last 5 years:

>>>

37B. Channel:

- Bilateral
 Regional
 Multilateral

37C. Please provide details:

>>>

General remarks on the implementation of the ITPGRFA

38. You may use this box to share any advice you may have arising from your country's experience with implementation of the Treaty:

- >>> - The Treaty has enable Fiji to realize the importance of access and exchange of germplasm to food security, trade, nutrition
- The Treaty implementation has raise the level of awareness to decision making level on the importance of conservation and sustainable use of PGRFAs in Fiji
- Fiji has benefited a lot from introduction of new crops in Fiji and these has been evaluated, commercialized and brings about livelihood improvement for our farmers, increase economic activities and increase agriculture contribution to GDP.
- International cooperation, networking, information exchange has strengthened over the last 10 years after the accession to the Treaty.
- Research capacity has strengthened on PGRFA conservation, documentation, use and management.
- Fiji has been made aware on the mechanisms of the MLS of the Treaty

39. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of difficulties in implementation of the Treaty:

- >>> - Legal aspects of the MLS of the Treaty is one key area Fiji can be assisted on the Treaty
- Fiji needs to develop National Policies and Strategies that are specifically to PGRFAs so Fiji can identify unique diversity and protection of these resources.

40. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of measures that could help to promote compliance:

- >>> - More regular contact and interaction with big players in PGRFAs
- No more comments

About this reporting

41. Have you encountered any difficulties in completing this reporting format?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

41A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details on such difficulties:

>>>

41B. If you have suggestions for improvement of this reporting format, please share them:

>>>