



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)**

**LATVIA**

**(1 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](mailto:PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org).

## **Additional Reporting Information**

Name and contact of the reporting officer

>>> Dainis Rungis

Institution(s) of affiliation

>>> Genetic Resource Centre, Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava"

## 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:

>>> In Latvia, the Plant Treaty was endorsed by a national law: "Par Starptautisko līgumu par augu ģenētiskajiem resursiem pārtikai un lauksaimniecībai" (On the international treaty for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture) (only in Latvian).

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:

>>> - National law: „Ģenētisko resursu izmantošanas likums” (Law on the use of Genetic resources). Entry into force 24.12.2019. (only in Latvian).

- Republic of Latvia Cabinet Regulation No 62, adopted 31 January 2017 „Regulations Regarding Specialisation of State Institutions and Commercial Companies in collection, conservation, characterisation, evaluation and utilisation of Genetic resources of Agricultural plant species” (only in Latvian).

- Republic of Latvia Cabinet Regulation No 899, adopted 22 November 2011 „Provisions concerning mixtures of fodder plant seed intended for the conservation of the natural environment”) (only in Latvian).

- Republic of Latvia Cabinet Regulation No 1247, adopted 27 October 2009 „Regulations regarding the recognition of the variety to be preserved and circulation of seed of the genetic resources of arable crops and vegetables originating in Latvia”) (only in Latvian).

- Republic of Latvia Cabinet Regulation No 288, adopted 24 April 2012 „Regulations about Memorandum of understanding for the establishment of A EUROPEAN GENE BANK INTEGRATED SYSTEM (AEGIS)”) (only in Latvian).

- Republic of Latvia Cabinet Regulation No 326, adopted 17 June 2003 „Provisions regarding the letter of agreement between the Republic of Latvia and the International Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (IPGRI) on the accession of the Republic of Latvia to the European Plant Genetic Resources Cooperation Programme (ECP/GR)”) (only in Latvian).

- Agreement between Latvian State Forest research institute „Silava” and The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food concerning the deposit of seeds in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. Entry into force 23.10.2018.

- Order of the Ministry of Agriculture No 40, adopted 23 March 2020 „On the Council of Genetic Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture”

- REGULATION (EU) No 511/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16 April 2014 on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union

- COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/1866 of 13 October 2015 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the register of collections, monitoring user compliance and best practices

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:

>>>

## 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.

>>> Species/group and number of samples collected in expeditions

Malus spp. 14

Prunus avium 21

Ribes uva-crispa 1

Prunus domestica 3

Viburnum opulus 11

Vitis vinifera 20

Allium sativum 2

Cannabis sativa 3

Perennial grasses and forage legumes 112

Legumes 40

Grasses 1

Forages 19

Origanum vulgare 2

Echium vulgare 1

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;

>>> No particular threats, but some of the old varieties and landraces are not widely cultivated

Threats to Crop wild relatives (CWR): Insufficient funding for surveying and conservation, Changing climate,

Invasive alien species, Weak sectorial interaction between ministries sharing responsibility

Industrialisation of Latvian agriculture and the entry of new high-yield varieties threatens old crop varieties, which store the traditional knowledge of our ancestors and their continued use

Collection and conservation of PGRFA is being undertaken, as well as measures to facilitate utilisation of local varieties. Initial discussions to increase cooperation between Agriculture and Environment ministries started.

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:

>>> The collection of PGRFA and relevant associated information on those plant genetic resources that are under threat or are of potential use are surveyed and collected for inclusion into ex situ collections. Currently, the program is running from 2019-2021, continuation is dependant on competitive grant funding success.

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:

>>>

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:

>>> Surveys and collection expeditions have been funded for 2019-2021. Additional ad hoc studies on particular species or species groups have been done. No in situ conservation areas have been defined to date, but work on an integrated in situ conservation program in Latvia is ongoing.

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:

>>> - the Genetic Resource Centre has been established At the Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava".

The Genetic Resource Centre incorporates the Latvian Gene Bank of Cultivated Plants, the Database and the Genetic Analysis laboratory, and is the holder of the national PGR seed collection of PGRFA.

- Institute of Horticulture is the holder of the national PGR collections of the fruit trees, berries and vegetables;

- Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics is the holder of the national PGR potato collection (field and in vitro).

- National Botanic Garden is the holder of Vaccinium species

- Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies is the holder of the national PGR collections of medicinal and aromatic plants

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:

>>> Ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources takes place under the Genetic Resource Centre, which operates in accordance with international guidelines of the FAO and European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR). Latvia participates in the European Genebank Integrated System, or AEGIS.

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  
>>> Regular monitoring of seed viability is carried out, and most accessions are genotyped when added to the ex situ collection. Seed regeneration is carried out according to international standards.

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:

>>> Latvia is a member of and participate in ECPGR working groups. From 1990, Latvia has close and ongoing cooperation with Nordgen.

## 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:

>>> Republic of Latvia Cabinet Regulation No 1247, adopted 27 October 2009 „Regulations regarding the recognition of the variety to be preserved and circulation of seed of the genetic resources of arable crops and vegetables originating in Latvia”) (only in Latvian)



## 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:

>>> Expeditions to collect PGR for inclusion into ex situ collections and use in breeding have been financed. Also support for characterisation of ex situ collections has been provided. Finance is provided for pre-breeding activities within breeding programs.

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:

>>>

## 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:

>>>

## 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:

>>> Republic of Latvia Cabinet Regulation No 1247, adopted 27 October 2009 „Regulations regarding the recognition of the variety to be preserved and circulation of seed of the genetic resources of arable crops and vegetables originating in Latvia”) (only in Latvian)

Genetic Resource Council, chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture, has representatives from breeding community, NGOs, and provides a forum for discussion of issues relating to conservation and use of genetic resources in Latvia.

## 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:

>>>

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:

>>> No particular difficulties, the letter of notification has been prepared, signatory needs to be decided at Ministry level.

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:

>>> All Annex 1 accessions are held by public institutions, so there are no objections from the holders to include this material in the MLS.

## 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:

>>> All seed accessions held by the gene bank are provided with the SMTA.

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:

>>>

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:

>>> Latvia is active in ECPGR crop-based working groups and all plant genetic holders are co-operating with other public and private partners in research related to PGR.

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

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

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:

>>>

## 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 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:

>>> State funding for conservation of ex situ collections. Project funding for collecting expeditions, characterization of accessions and development of an in situ strategy.

## **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:  
>>>

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

>>> No requests for Latvian Annex 1 PGRFA have been received from IARCs and other international institutions.

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:

>>> No requests for Latvian Annex 1 PGRFA have been received from IARCs and other international institutions.



## 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:

>>> Ministry of Agriculture and Genetic Resource Centre always communicate relevant information to stakeholders regarding international plant genetic resources networks, encouraging them to take part in proposed activities.

Cooperation with NordGen working groups, and with Nordic-Baltic countries. Cooperation in ECPGR working groups.

## 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:

>>> Conservation of PGRFA collections and scientific research projects have been financed under State aid programme. In the periode from 2016 to 2020 total amount was 617 883 EUR.

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:

>>> No particular measures have been implemented

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::

>>>

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:

>>> no particular comments

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:

>>> no particular difficulties

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:

>>> no particular 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:

>>> The reporting format is clear and easy to use, so we have not had technical problems, but the meaning of some of the questions has not been entirely clear, and many questions seem to be very similar, and it is not clear what are the differences in the information requested from different questions.

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

>>>