



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



**The International Treaty  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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Our Ref.: NCP GB9-016 – Emergency Reserve

Rome, 23 November 2021

## **NOTIFICATION Establishment of the Emergency Reserve for Genebanks**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to the establishment of the Emergency Reserve for Genebanks, jointly established by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Crop Trust. The Emergency Reserve is designed to provide rapid, short-term and urgent support to *ex situ* collections in the Multilateral System, where there is an imminent threat to the collection and no alternative financial support is available.

This initiative responds to the recommendation by the Governing Body of the International Treaty to continue expanding cooperation with the Crop Trust on resource mobilization, in particular on initiatives that are jointly designed and implemented, and targeted to international collections and national genebanks in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Governments of Italy and Norway have become the first donors to support the Emergency Reserve.

The Emergency Reserve will address requests for urgent and critical support and accelerate interventions to safeguard international and national collections. Interventions may include repairing or procurement of equipment or supplies, the evacuation or temporary relocating of a collection, mitigation of the effects of war or civil unrest, and the duplication of unique materials under threat. Field collections are also in the scope of the Emergency Reserve.

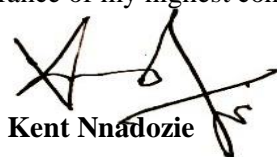
The Emergency Reserve for Genebanks will respond to direct applications submitted via email to either the Secretariat of the International Treaty or the Crop Trust and will not issue calls for proposals. A simplified procedure with the eligibility criteria and the different modalities of operations according to the type of intervention and the amount to be disbursed has been developed (see: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7732en/cb7732en.pdf>).

Both organizations will jointly develop periodic reports, both financial and technical, on the operations of the Emergency Reserve for Genebanks, which will be made available to the Bureau of the International Treaty, and the Donor's Council and Executive Board of the Crop Trust. A summary will be submitted to the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

The [Emergency Reserve was launched](#) during the event, "It Starts With A Seed: Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change", part of the Global Landscapes Forum Climate Conference occurring alongside COP 26 of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change.

For any questions on this notification or requests for additional information, please contact the Secretary of the International Treaty by email at [PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org](mailto:PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org) or the Crop Trust at [info@croptrust.org](mailto:info@croptrust.org).

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

  
Kent Nnadozie



Secretary  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture