



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

COUNTRY REPORT
On the Implementation of the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food
and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

ALBANIA

12/08/2022

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE – ITPGRFA

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Country:

Albania

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Article 4: General Obligations

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

Yes

No

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

- Law no.10235, date 18.02.2010: “On Ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture”. Announced, by decree no. 6456, dated 09.03.2010 of the President of the Republic of Albania. Accession of Albania on 12.05.2010 and entry into force 10.08.2010
- Law no.113/2012: “For the accession of the Republic of Albania to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits”. Announced, by decree no. 7859 date 11.12.2012 of President of the Republic of Albania. Accession of Albania on 12.10.2014

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

Yes

No

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

- Law no.9587, date 20.07.2006 ”On Biodiversity Protection” (amended)
- Law no.10431, date 14.06.2011 “On Environment Protection”
- Law No. 81, date 4.5.2017 “On protected areas”
- Law no.9867,date 31.01.2008 “On determining the rules and procedures for international trade of endangered species of wild flora and fauna”(amended)
- Decision of Councils of Ministers of Republic of Albania no. 31, date 20.01.2016 “ For the approval of the document on strategic policies for biodiversity protection”
- Strategy for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries 2021 -2027. Approved by Decisions of Councils of Minister no. 460, date 29.06.2022

3. Is there any law, regulation, procedure or policy in place in your country that needs to be adjusted / harmonized¹ to ensure conformity with the obligations as provided in the Treaty?

Yes

No

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

The basic laws, which deal with the protection of biodiversity, should be developed further, with by-laws, decisions and instructions, which should determine the rules that have to do with the management of PGRFA in Albania.

These new legal acts, should clearly define, the procedures and responsibilities of the national institutions for conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation and documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, in fully compliance with obligations as provided in the Treaty.

The Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, which is subordinate to the Agricultural University of Tirana, is the main institution in the country, responsible for the conservation and management of PGRFA. This institution should coordinate the work with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment, in order to promote the drafting and approval of these legal acts/by-laws mentioned above.

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?

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

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:

Currently in Albania there are only some partial inventories and surveys, for the main crops and in some specific areas of the country. So, there is not a complete list, of the inventory of genetic resources, for each crop, or for wild crop relatives. Partial surveys and inventories have been carried out for some local cultivars of vegetables, cereals, legumes and fruit trees. The most explored areas, in terms of inventory and collection, are the northern and southeastern areas of the country, as these areas are also richer in terms of genetic resources, important for food and agriculture. The lack of funds for activities related to the inventory, collection and management of PGR, has caused that we still do not have a complete overview (a full list) of the number of cultivars and populations of all local crops , as well as wild crop relatives, in Albania.

Among PGRFA, which are found in the country, local cultivars of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.), cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L.), pepper (*Capsicum annum* L.), onion (*Allium cepa* L.), pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo*) and common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), are of a very high interest. These local cultivars have very good qualities, especially for resistance to diseases and pests as well as to high temperatures and cold.

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:

The biggest difficulty in organizing PGRFA survey and inventory missions, is the lack of funds for these activities. Even those activities, carried out so far, were mainly done with the support of foreign donors such as FAO, GIZ, etc, which during last five 5 years have helped in the inventory and collection of over 350 accessions of local cultivars, which are stored *ex-situ* in the national genebank.

There is an urgent need for a complete inventory and monitoring, of all local cultivars, and should be undertaken the necessary actions and measures for their collection and conservation in the national genebank. (*ex-situ* collections). The most important PGRFA that should be surveyed and inventoried are: local vegetable cultivars, local maize populations, local bean cultivars, local fruit tree cultivars, as well as crop wild relatives, (which are almost 90% uninventorized and unknown).

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

Yes

No

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 main threat for PGRFA in Albania is the genetic erosion which has occurred in the past and is still occurring. The main evidence of this phenomenon is the continued loss of local varieties from farmer's fields. Even though, a systematic assessment of the occurrence of genetic erosion in PGRFA in the country has not been carried out, experts affirm that based on observations, as well comparisons in different periods of time, genetic erosion has already affected almost all plant groups.

Until 1990, the agricultural economy was organized in the form of state farms, where everything was planned by the state and farmers did not carry out any private agriculture activity. In such conditions, the care and the direct support for the conservation and use of the local crop varieties, had been very low. This has caused huge genetic erosion, resulting in losses of the diversity of PGRFA.

Based on observations carried out by agriculture research institutes, and according to the data taken during some collecting missions carried out since 1941 (by German experts), and after 1990 (by Albanian and German experts), it results that during the last fifty years, the genetic erosion of some crop species was estimated about 94% for *Triticum aestivum*; 100% for *Triticum durum*; 100% for *Triticum turgidum*; 83% for *Triticum monococcum*; 76% for *Avena* spp.; 59% for *Hordeum vulgare*; 78% for *Vicia ervila* and 42% for *Vicia sativa*. The main factors of this genetic erosion are:

- The replacement of local varieties by foreign modern varieties and hybrids.
- Over harvest, which for the wild flora, mainly for aromatic and medicinal plants, is one of the main causes of erosion, particularly when harvesting occurs without respecting the plant biological reproductive cycle.
- Social-economic changes, especially abandonment of rural areas, mainly hilly and mountain areas, which are richer in plant genetic resources.

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?

Yes

No

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

The first collecting mission of PGRFA in Albania was carried out in 1941, by the German scientist Hans Stubbe. Later, in the period 1950-1990, several collection missions were organized by scientific research institutes of agriculture, which were located in different agro-ecological areas of the country, and developed their activity according to specific crops such as: cereals, vegetables, fodder, fruit trees and vineyards, corn and rice, etc. Each of these institutes conserved and used for plant breeding needs, the germplasm collected in the different collection missions.

After 1990, especially after the establishment of the national genebank, the responsibility for the collection, conservation and use of PGRFA, passed to the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources. This institute has continuously organized activities related to the promotion of the conservation and use of PGRFA, in particular, it has worked to increase awareness of the importance of these genetic resources have, for food security in the country. Especially in the last decade, this institute has organized several meetings with interest groups, with farmers and local agricultural experts, as well as has organized several collection missions, which have significantly increased the number of germplasm accessions in *ex-situ* storage.

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

Yes

No

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

The on-farm conservation and management of plant genetic resources in Albania is focused only on some farms intending to test varieties for their production capacities and improved cropping techniques. On-farm management activities have been carried out for local vegetables cultivated mainly for family consumption and for market. Some of these crops cultivated on-farm are : onion, cabbage, melon, pepper, tomato, pumpkin, lettuce, leek, garlic, pod beans, etc, We emphasize that this on-farm conservation is an activity undertaken by the farmers themselves, but not directed or supported in a specific way by the institutions, which deal with the conservation and management of PGRFA. In these conditions, it is necessary to provide the necessary funds to encourage the farmers to be interested on on-farm conservation and use of PGRFA

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

Yes

No

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.

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

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

Yes

No

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

Ex-situ conservation of PGRFA in Albania, is organized in the form of base collections stored in the national genebank, and in the form of working and active collections that are managed by five institutions of applied scientific research and extension in agriculture, which are called Agricultural Technology Transfer Centres, and are subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture. Albanian national inventory of base collections includes 4570 accessions. Out of these 3,219 accessions are maintained as seeds under long-term *ex-situ* conservation at the National Genebank. This national inventory consists of: 32% cereals; 25 % fruit trees (field collections), 10 % vegetables, 12 % medicinal plants, 7 % legumes, 9 % industrial crops and 5 % forages. These accessions of the national inventory represent about 160 different plant species.

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

Yes

No

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:

Practically, the PGRFA *ex-situ* conservation system has started to function on a full scientific basis, only after the establishment of the national genebank in the year 1988. Until then, the germplasm collected by agricultural scientific institutions, was stored in the form of active and working collections, since there was no necessary infrastructure and facilities for long-term storage at low temperatures.

Later, with the establishment of the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, within which is the national genebank, the activities related to the *ex-situ* conservation of PGRFA, have been increasing, both in terms of the promotion of PGRFA as well as for development and transfer of technologies. Mainly, in these last ten years, with the support of various projects, financed by foreign donors, it has been possible to organize over 20 trainings and workshops, with farmers, agricultural specialists, professors and students of the Agricultural University, staff of the genebank, and with experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment.

These trainings and workshops aimed to raise awareness about the importance of PGRFA have for food safety, as well as to know the measures that should be taken, for their conservation and sustainable use. Also, during last ten years, about 35 field days have also been organized, with the aim of demonstrating the technologies of conservation, multiplication, characterization and evaluation of PGRFA, which are currently stored in the national genebank.

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

Yes

No

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

The *ex-situ* conservation of accessions in the national genebank is done in full compliance with the international conservation standards, defined in the FAO guidelines (*Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, Rome 2014*)

The national genebank, continuously performs tests for the level of germination of the seed in storage, and when the germination value falls under 85%, then measures are taken for the regeneration of accessions.

Since the establishment of the national genebank (year 1998), until now, about 20% of the accessions in *ex-situ* conservation, have been tested for viability (germination). From the tests, it was found that 20% of the tested accessions, had a germination value below 85%. These accessions (about 150 in total) have been regenerated and returned back to the genebank. Practically, the level of testing of the accessions, as well as their regeneration should be at much higher levels, but this has not been realized until now, due to the lack of necessary funds.

The regenerated accessions are characterized and evaluated according to international standards, with the aim of preserving the genetic integrity of 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?

Yes

No

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 other Treaty)

mechanisms) and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

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

14. Are there any policy and legal measures² in place in your country that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes

No

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.

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

In the Strategy for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries 2021 -2027 , is defined a specific objective: “*Protecting biodiversity, increasing ecosystem services, and preserving habitats and landscape*”. In this context, it is planned to support the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, the promotion of new agricultural systems such as, the cultivation and use of local crops, organic agriculture, etc.

In addition, during last five years, from the Agricultural University (Department of Agronomic Sciences), with the help of an FAO project (Treaty BS Fund), it has been possible to support several activities related to the identification and genetic improvement of some local cultivars of maize and beans. Cultivars, identified as the best and most resistant to climate change, have been selected, multiplied, and distributed to farmers, especially to those who live in remote mountainous areas of the country.

Through such activities, about 1000 farmers, agricultural specialists, students, genebank staff, experts of the Ministries, etc, have been trained, as well as, about 1500 farmers from the northeastern and southeastern areas of the country, have benefited quality seeds of local cultivars.

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?

Yes

No

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:

The basic program of supporting the conservation of biodiversity and conservation genetic resources in agriculture, remains the strategies and programs for agricultural, rural development and fisheries, which are drawn up and implemented on the basis of 7-year periods. In this context, in addition to the support given to the Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, through the annual state budget, in the annual programs of the Ministry of Agriculture, for subsidizing agricultural production, subsidies have also been given to farmers who cultivate some local cultivars of crops, (especially for local vine cultivars).

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

Yes

No

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.

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:

Albania is member of the ECPGR program, and our experts participate in all the working groups of this program. In the framework of grants given by ECPGR, in the last five years, Albania has participated in 3 small projects, for certain crops such as: fruit trees, medicinal and aromatic plants, crop wild relatives, etc. Other European countries have also been included in these projects. (10-12 partners).

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?

Yes

No

Not applicable

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?

Yes

No

Not applicable

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:

The biggest support, which has been given to Albania, during last years, is the support given through the Project financed by FAO (Treaty BS Fund), during the period 2015-2022. This support has influenced a significant increase of technical capacity building, for the preservation and sustainable management of PGRFA, in the transfer of knowledge and technologies in relation to PGRFA, as well as in the increasing the awareness of interest groups, as well as policy making actors, related to the importance that PGRFA have for food security, especially in the poor community areas, which are most affected by the climate change.

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?

Yes

No

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 benefits 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.

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)?

- All
- Partially
- None

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

No any difficulty encountered

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

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

The crops that have been included in the MLS; and

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

If your answer is 'none', please indicate the difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

- Lack of guidelines for the identification and inclusion of material;
- There is no national genebank;
- Lack of catalogue of PGRFA
- 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 I PGRFA to include those resources in the MLS?

- Yes
- No

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

- The natural or legal persons within your jurisdiction that included Annex I 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 I PGRFA in the MLS:

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

Because these legal persons, have lack of specialized human resources and limited economic resources and need for capacity building

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 I PGRFA, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 12.4 of the Treaty?

Yes

No

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

All measures taken to facilitate access to Annex I PGRFA have been in full compliance with SMTA , as well as in compliance with national legislation

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

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

Yes

No

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

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

Yes

No

No, but the issue is under consideration

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

Yes

No

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?

Yes

No

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 I PGRFA for the purpose of contributing to the re-establishment of agricultural systems?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such emergency disaster situations and the Annex I 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?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of any information made available regarding Annex I 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, characterization, evaluation and use of Annex I PGRFA?

Yes

No

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 I PGRFA?³

Yes

No

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;

³ Please note that this question differs from question 15 as it only concerns Annex I PGRFA and is more specific

Carrying out scientific research and developing capacity for such research.

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?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the implementation of the plan was done through:

National actions;

International cooperation;

Other actions

Please provide details:

Institute of Plant genetic Resources is the national institution, responsible for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. National genebank, is included in this institute. This institute also coordinates the work with other institutions, such as Agricultural Technology Transfer Centers, for conservation and of management of PGRFA. Mainly with support from foreign projects, as well as from the annual state budget, the national genebank has organized several collection missions in recent years, increasing by about 20%, the number of accessions conserved *ex-situ*, compared to five years ago. Also, only in these last five years, about 10% of the stored accessions, have been regenerated, characterized and evaluated. The national genebank, through trainings, workshops and meetings with interest groups, has made it possible to increase the level of public awareness, on the importance of biodiversity conservation in the country, and in particular, the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, as a useful instrument for food security in the country.

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?

Yes

No

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:

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

The Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (national genebank) does not have bilateral agreements for such activities with these institutions. (IARCs)

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?

Yes

No

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:

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

The Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (national genebank) does not have bilateral agreements for such activities with these institutions. (IARCs)

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 geneticresources networks?

Yes

No

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

All state institutions, that deal with the conservation and management of PGRFA, such as the national genebank, Agricultural Technology Transfer Centers and the Agricultural University, are included in the ECPGR program. These institutions have their representatives in the working groups of ECPGR, and regularly participate in workshops, meetings, as well as in projects (grants) supported by ECPGR.

Article 18: Financial Resources

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

Yes

No

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

The biggest support for the activities carried out for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, in these last years, has been given by projects financed by foreign donors such as FAO, GIZ, etc. Also, the annual state budget provides every year, some limited funds for such activities. During last five years, the funds received for such activities are approximately 120,000 USD (projects + state budget)

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:

Our country has not developed any strategy or measures to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement the IT.

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

Yes

No

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:

Total amount:

Channel:

Bilateral

Regional

Multilateral

Please provide details:

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

Yes

No

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:

Total amount: 100,000 USD

Channel:

Bilateral

Regional

Multilateral

Please provide details:

In the framework of fourth call for proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund, Albania has implemented the project: *” Identification, evaluation and genetic improvement of some local crop varieties to face with impact of climate change, increase the productivity, food security and on-farm incomes, for poor farmers in remote mountainous areas in Albania”*

Through implementation of this project, about 1100 farmers, 75 agricultural experts, 12 teaching staff, and 30 students have taken part in the processes of characterization, evaluation and selection of local maize and bean populations. Also, about 1000 kg of selected seed of local maize and bean varieties, has been produced and distributed to the farmers.

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 comment

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 comment

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 comment

[--- Question to be administered separately ---]

About this reporting

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

Yes

No

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

No comment

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

No comment
