



## **Second Reporting Cycle**

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

# **CYPRUS**

(03 October 2022)



#### 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 Systems 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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Institution(s) of affiliation

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#### **Article 4: General Obligations**

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<ol> <li>Are there any laws, regulations procedures or policies in place in your country that implement the Treaty?</li> <li>Please select only one option</li> <li>✓ Yes</li> <li>No</li> </ol>
1A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies: >>> Cyprus ratified the Treaty with the Law 13(III) of 2003.
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:  ***********************************
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.  ***********************************
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 wild plant species threatened with extinction are listed to the red data book of the flora of Cyprus (Tsintides et al., 2007). In the red book, several species are included which are considered crop wild relatives. The main threats for each species were identified. Conservations actions have been taken for some of these species. A breakthrough was achieved through the participation to the project Conservation Actions for Threatened Mediterranean Island Flora: ex situ and in situ joint actions. A substantial number of accessions of

threatened plants were collected and conserved ex situ while in situ conservation actions were applied for ten threatened plants including crop wild relatives (e.g. Allium marathasicum). One of the difficulties identified is

is the conservation of populations that are in private land outside protected areas. Local landraces and obsolete cultivars are vulnerable for genetic erosion or extinction when farmers loose their interest for their cultivation. The genebank of the Agricultural Research Institute participated to several activities aiming the surveying, collection and ex situ conservation of local landraces. One recent project, jointly taken by the Agricultural Research Institute, a farmers' union and farmers anticipates the reintroduction of landraces to the local production chain. The project contains actions for surveying and inventorying vegetable landraces, registration to the national catalogue, establishing the seed production system, on farm conservation and promoting activities. 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 □ No 7A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken: >>> A system aiming the systematic collection of PGRFA and relevant associated information has not been established. However, collection of PGRFA and relevant associated information has been taken in the premises of projects. For example, relevant associated information regarding the uses of wild plants grown at the mountainous areas of Cyprus (Troodos) have been collected through the project 3PRO-TROODOS (https://3protroodos.cvi.ac.cv/en/). 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 'ves', please provide details of the measures taken: >>> The Department of Agriculture and the Agricultural Research Institute participates in a program for the reentry to the market of landraces and varieties which are naturally adapted to the local and regional conditions and threatened by genetic erosion. 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: >>> There is no policy in place promoting the in situ conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants. However, threatened wild species considered wild crop relatives and wild plants are subject to in situ conservation due to their threat status. 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 largest seed collection is maintained by the Agricultural Research Institute conserving accessions of wild plants of the flora of Cyprus, local landraces and obsolete varieties. A seed genebank was recently established by the Department of Forests of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment conserving seed accessions of threatened plants and forest species. A seed genebank established by a private university conserves seed accessions of threatened plants of the flora of Cyprus. Field collections were established by the Agricultural Research Institute conserving accessions of olives, carobs, vines and pomegranates.

11. Has the development of an efficient and sustainable system of ex situ conservation of PGRFA been

the need for continuous funding of the activities, especially those related with in situ actions. Another concern

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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 is mainly implemented by the Agricultural Research Institute. Two permanent staff of the Institute are employed to the genebank. The staff of the genebank has access to the laboratories and experimental stations of the Institutes for facilitating regeneration of the genetic material and research purposes for characterization and evaluation. The genebank benefits from a permanent budget provided by national funds. Additional budget and temporary staff are employed in the premises of research projects. Despite the efforts made, more funds should be made available to further develop the current ex situ system in order to effectively conserved ex situ the large biodiversity of PGRFA of the country.
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  >>> The viability of the accessions conserved to the genebank of the Agricultural Research Institute is checked  through germination tests conducted in regular intervals. The degree of variation and the genetic integrity is  checked in the promises of research projects funded by external funds. The number of research studies  concerning genetic and phenotypic variation conducted so far is rather limited taking into account the rich  diversity in PGRFA.
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:

>>> Cyprus has participated to regional networks aiming the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation or documentation of PGRFA. The most important network is the European Cooperative Program for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR - https://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/). The ECPGR is a collaborative programme among most European countries aimed at ensuring the long-term conservation and facilitating the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe. Other networks are the Network of Mediterranean Plant Conservation Centers (GENMEDA - http://www.genmeda.net/) and the European Native

Seed Conservation Network (ENSCONET - http://ensconet.maich.gr/).

#### 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: >>> Since its establishment, the Agricultural Research Institute carries the national breeding program aiming to bred cereal and legume varieties adapted to local conditions. The program has been very successful. The majority of the cereal fields are sown with varieties bred by the National breeding program. The legal framework for variety registration and seed distribution is regulated by European Directives. In pursuance of enforcement of the Agricultural Rural Development Program, policies are in place for the development and maintenance of plant genetic resources such as:  • Crop rotation measures

- On farm conservation and sustainable use of traditional vine varieties and
  Protecting biodiversity and reduction of soil erosion

# **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:  >>> A permanent fund from the budget of the Agricultural Research Institute is dedicated to the collection and ex situ conservation of plant species.
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: Techical 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  No 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: >>> Exchange of emails with the staff of the Treaty.

# **Article 9: Farmers' Rights**

19. Subject to national law, as appropriate, have any measures been taken to protect and promote armers' rights in your country?  Slease select only one option  Yes  No
1.9 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 vorld 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
.9B. 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:  >>> The Agricultural Research Institute notified the secretary of the Treaty, with a letter dated 17 of February 2011, the inclusion to the Multilateral System the PGRFA listed to Annex I and conserved by the Institute
genebank. There was some debate about the inclusion of wild relatives of Annex I species that are threatened with extinction or are endemic to Cyprus. The later will be matter of further discussion in the preparation of the national legislation regulating the access to genetic resources.
20B. If your answer is 'partially', please provide details of:
The extend 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:
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:

>>> There no any substantial collections holding Annex I PGRFA which are held by natural and legal persons.

# 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:  >>> The Agricultural Research Institute notified the secretary of the Treaty, with a letter dated 17 of February 2011, the inclusion to the Multilateral System the PGRFA listed to Annex I and conserved by the Institute genebank.
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:
30. Has your country provided for and/or benefitted from capacity building measures in respect of Annex 3 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:

# 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

nescuren and sener 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: >>> Join collecting missions were organized between the Agricultural Research Institute and ICARDA. The collecting missions were targeting mostly PGRFA listed to the Annex I of the Treaty, however, accessions were collected from PGRFA not listed to the Annex I. In all cases, access was provided based on an SMTA. In total, three SMTAs were signed in 2011, 2014 and 2016. The respective number of accessions were 446, 221 and 138.
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: >>> Please see the comments in question 32.
33B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing access to nor Annex 1 PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body 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:	
>>>	

#### **Article 18: Financial Resources**

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: >>> The estimation of the amount of funds is difficult because there is not centralized national program on PGRFA. Activities related with the conservation and sustainable use are implemented by several stakeholders, most of them by the Departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment and Universities. 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, there is not such strategy in place. 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:: >>> Contribution to the Core Administrative Budget of the Treaty 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: >>>

35. Has your country provided financial resources for national activities for the conservation and

#### 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:

>>>

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:

>>>

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:

>>>

# **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
»»>