



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



**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)**

NAMIBIA

(31 January 2023)

**Country Report on the implementation of
the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
NAMIBIA
Update 31/01/2023**

Article 4: General Obligations

Delegate section Collapse

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

✓ Yes

No

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

1. Namibia National Strategic Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2016-2026.
2. Namibia's Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2022
3. Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, No.2 of 2017
4. Seed and Seed Variety Act, No 23 of 2018
5. Namibia Seed Policy 2013
6. Plant Quarantine Act, Act No. 7 of 2008;
7. Environmental Management Act, Act No. 7 of 2007.

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

✓ Yes

No

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

1. Forest Act, Act 12 of 2001

2. Wildlife Management, Utilization and Tourism In Communal Areas Policy 1995
3. Nature Conservation Ordinance 4 of 1975 and amendment 1996
4. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of United Nations, 1992
5. Farmers' Rights and Plant Breeders' Rights Bill (MAWF) 2016 Revised and submitted to Cabinet Committee on Legislation.
6. National Rangeland Management Policy 2012
7. Namibian Agricultural Research Act
8. The Namibian Constitution

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?

✓ Yes

No

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

1. Namibia Agriculture Policy needs to be revised to clearly include the ITPGRFA issues
2. Develop a standalone policy on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
3. The existing Business and Intellectual Property Authority Act, Act 8 of 2016 to address PGR issues including Farmers' Rights.
4. Namibian Agricultural Research Act of 2012. The Act resulted in the establishment of National Commission on Research, Science and Technology that coordinate research issues in the country. However, more still need to be done to strengthen the coordination on research amongst private and governmental organizations.
5. Seed and Seed Variety Act, No 23 of 2018 regulations are in progress. However, implementation of such frameworks leaves much to be desired due to limited human capacity and the absence of monitoring frameworks.

Article 5: Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterization, 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

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

The National Plant Genetic Resources Centre referred to as the Genebank, host 4542 of which 2349 are crop accessions, 266 crop wild relatives and 1927 are wild seed accessions. Multiplication and characterization remain a challenge due to far distant Crop research stations and not having enough land to carry out the activities. Dwindling government budgets to research is the major setback for the past 10 years.

The government of Namibia through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform with a joint Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of the United Nations 2009 initiated research to establish strategies suitable for drought stress mitigation. Subsequently, Technical Co-operation Projects (TCPs) were designed and implemented to develop institutional and personnel capacity through training plant researchers and technicians on the application of nuclear-related technologies to develop high-yielding and drought tolerant mutant varieties, and water- and nutrition-use efficiency practices.

The IAEA's support to Namibia has improved institutional and personnel capacity in crop research in the country. Subsequently, five cowpea mutant varieties ('ShR3P4', 'BrR4P11', 'NkR1P3', 'ShR4P1', 'BrR11P2', and 'ShR10P10') and four sorghum mutant varieties were selected and recommended for drought tolerance.

Currently, the national research program's aim is to apply induced mutation breeding to enhance genetic diversity for the selection of modern varieties with farmers and market preferred traits, and recommend a water-use efficient strategy amenable to soil amendment strategies. Induced mutation breeding objectives are to create genetically diverse breeding populations in locally produced crops and newly induced crops for adaptation to Namibian agro-ecologies. Crops under the breeding programs in Namibia are pear millet, maize, sorghum, cowpea, groundnut, and Bambara groundnut.

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

1. The Genebank is collaborating with Crop Research to characterize the crop accessions of pear millet, maize, sorghum, cowpea, groundnut, and Bambara groundnut under the Crop Improvement Project.
2. The Genebank has also secured a nearby plot from the MAWLR where characterization of germplasm can be done.
3. The Genebank has been in collaboration with Mobile Telecommunication Company of Namibia in establishing a community Seed bank in one of the PGR high diversity area, Kavango West region.

4. The impact of the newly developed seed is not determined due to limitations. However, plans in near future are to carry out an impact assessment on the varieties to establish farmers and the market perception of the new varieties and to document the current status to guide future breeding.
5. With regard to surveying or inventorying of PGRFA, Crop Research is currently developing questionnaires to establish crop production, cropping systems, constraints, and farmers- and market- preferred traits for crops to be improved. Dwindling research funds remain a challenge.

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

✓ 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 minimize or eliminate these threats;
 - Any difficulties encountered in implementing such steps;
1. Open pollinated crops are bound to be affected due to cross pollination (*Pennisetum glaucum*, *Sorghum bicolor*). Furthermore, the intensity and recurrence of drought and heat stress are the major constraints to crop production in the traditional crop-growing regions in Namibia. Low agricultural productivity and climate change are worsening the vulnerability to food insecurity of small-scale farmers.
 2. The Genebank continue to collect farmer's varieties to prevent losses, to maintain genetic diversity on-farm and redistribute local material where needed. The Genebank also continue to create awareness and encourage farmers for the continual cultivation of traditional varieties by mobilizing funds to establish community seed banks in the regions.
 3. In mitigating the threats to the species, some of the taxa are conserved at the Genebank while others are passively protected inside national parks.
 4. Another project aspect is the drip irrigation and organic fertilizer recommended for drought stress mitigation and soil amendment strategies to upscale small-scale farmers' fields. Under this project, the IAEA assisted with the procurement of water and soil monitoring equipment and currently, a water-saving drip irrigation kit is being installed in nine farmers' fields. On-farm research on improved varieties and introduce crops for food security will be conducted in the selected fields.

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

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

Through the On-farm conservation project, the Genebank has collected various landraces which were distributed to the farmers especially those that are rare for re-introduction and continuous cultivation. Gene bank has an open door policy where members of public, farmer's in particular are allowed to deposit their rare/threatened PGRFA in the gene bank. This has increased material deposit by farmers in the gene bank during the recent years.

Crop Research aims is to develop crops with the farmers with the consideration of the preference by stakeholders in the value chain of the specific crops. Thus, demand let breeding will ensure that varieties developed meet the consumer's preference. Questionnaires will be developed to establish crop production, cropping systems, constraints, and farmers- and market-preferred traits for crops to be improved.

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

✓ Yes

No

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

The Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry (MAWF) integrated various programs in efforts to manage and conserve PGRFA on-farm through the On-farm conservation project which is implemented through the Genebank. In addition, the Directorate of Agricultural Research and Development conduct research on crop improvement, diversification and plant – soil-nutrients management in partnership with farming communities. The Directorate also provides technical back stopping to registered seed growers. More efforts are integrated into the agricultural programs through the Directorate of Agricultural and Extension, which provide support and advisory services to the farmers to enhance food production, thus improving food security in the rural areas through various program such as the Dry Land Crop Production Program.

The Ministry has also sourced funds in efforts to manage and conserve PGRFA on-farm through various projects such as Conservation Agriculture, Namibia Agricultural Mechanization and Seed Improvement project (NAMSIP). The Genebank under the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and

Tourism has established a community Seed bank in Kavango West. Further, funds are being sourced to increase the number of Seed Banks in the country. The gene bank has established about 10 on-farm's groups in some of the high plant diversity local communities. The co-aim is to manage and conserve PGRFA on-farm .

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

✓ Yes

No

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

Promote *in situ* conservation in protected areas

Efforts are being made to coordinate sustainable use of Forestry resources in the communities through gazetting of community forests thereby empowering communities. However, there are no specific programs earmarked for conservation of wild plants. The government has embarked on law enforcement to combat wild species poaching (currently at peak) in the country. A catalog with wild species descriptions and images is being developed. The catalog will be provided to the law enforcement agents at existing points for reference.

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

1. Namibia has State forests and community forests (Community Base Natural Resources Management (CBNRM), conservancy's game parks, farms and other protected areas making up 44% of the land mass that is under conservation management (MEFT/NACSO, 2021). We acknowledge that although these will promote crop wild relatives and wild food plants they are not specifically managed for crop wild relatives or wild food plants.
2. Crop wild relatives have been documented in various reports for 2015- 2017, but with no management plans. However, there are records of crop wild relatives and wild food plants accessions in our Genebank.
3. The creation of the Economic Botany section under the National Botanical Research Institute to promote value addition and the sustainable utilisation of Namibia's indigenous plant resources

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

✓ Yes

No

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

- The Genebank is host under the National Botanical Research Institute within the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, conserves genetic materials in the form of seeds. The Genebank holds about 4542 seed accessions from crops, crop wild relatives and wild species. The Division Crop Research and Production also host accessions from various crops to be used as parental material for the Crop Improvement Project.

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

✓ 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:

1. The Genebank is entirely funded by the government of Namibia with four staff members recruited on full time basis.
2. The Government of Namibia has put up a fully equipped facility for conservation of the genetic material in the form of seeds including that which operate under the Division Crop Research and Production. The University of Namibia also conserve some material, but we could not establish the type and quantities.
3. The Genebank forms part of the SADC Plant Genetic Resources network (SPGRC).
4. All activities conducted are documented in the SPGRC information System (SDIS) and reports are generated for the MAWF as well as the SPGRC
5. The Genebank make use of the recommended Genebank International Standards.

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?

✓ yes

No

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

1. Genebank material are periodically tested for viability by conducting seed germinations on the crop seed accessions.
2. Morphological Characterization and pollination control of some crop accessions has been carried to describe the local material and to maintain the integrity of the seed samples.

3. Research by national, regional and international students on the degree of variation in PGR at the Genebank, were conducted and published in various journals.
4. Under the Division Crop Research and Development, crop varieties developed, test for adaptation and pre-released: Pearl millet (4), Sorghum (6), Cowpea (5), Bambara groundnut (1), Groundnut (5), Rice (3), Cassava (3), Sweet potatoes (5). These improved varieties were tested and evaluated both on-station and on-farm and experimental results have proven that they are adapted to the Namibian soils and climatic conditions.

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

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:

1. The Joint Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/ International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) support the Directorate of Agricultural Research and Development in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform
2. Namibia is signatory to the International Treaty on Food and Agriculture and benefited from previous calls under the Benefit sharing fund. A Namibia National Strategic Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2016-2026 resulted from the calls. This calls remain open for Namibia to compete and benefit from the resources under the Multilateral System of the FAO Treaty.
3. Under bilateral agreements regulated through the Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, No.2 of 2017, genetic resources were accessed. This law is administered through the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, thus the number of agreements signed could not be established.
4. Namibia through Crop Research and Production is evaluating 40 Soybean genotypes for adaptability from IITA. More genotypes from various crops were sourced from IITA to be used in crop research.

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

✓ 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 under-utilized 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:

1. The Namibia Agriculture Policy 2015 lacks issues of PGRFA, awareness has been created. Developing a standalone PGRFA policy is on the
2. There is a need to develop a standalone policy on Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture. This initiative has been incorporated in the five year plan 2023-2027 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, for the Division Crop Research and Production and will be developed in partnership with the Genebank staff.
3. The Plant Breeders and Farmers Right Bill (2016) has been resubmitted to Cabinet Committee on Legislation .
4. The Directorate of Agricultural Research and Development started drafting the regulations for the Seed and Seed Variety Act, No 23 of 2018.

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 agriculture and rural development programs and policies?

✓ Yes

No

15A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the integration of such activities into the agriculture and rural development programs and policies:

The Genebank continues to collect, conserve and characterise genetic material conserved.

The Division Crop Research and Production continue to cooperate with ICRISAT, IITA and Tertiary institutions in country with regards to crop research.

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

✓ 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:

1. ITPGRFA/UNDP/Namibia through the Benefit sharing Fund developed the National Strategy on Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture

The Joint FAO/IAEA program supports the Directorate of Agricultural Research and Development in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform with the Crop Improvement Program.

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

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

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

✓ Yes

No

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

Namibia attended various workshops aimed at providing technical assistance for reporting on PGRFA in the country using global systems such as the Global Information System (GLIS), The World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) and the Treaty Online System (OS).

Various meetings were also attended at the regional level to strategies on the domestication of the Treaty

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

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 right to equitably participate in sharing benefit arising from the utilization 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:

1. Namibia has the Seed and Seed Variety Act, No 23 of 2018, and the Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, No.2 of 2017. However, Regulations Seed and Seed Variety Act, No 23 of 2018 is in the process of being drafted. Regulations on the above mentioned ABS under the Act, No.2 of 2017 has been finalized and into force.
2. The Plant Breeders and Farmers' Rights Bill (2016) has been resubmitted to Cabinet Committee on Legislation.
3. Implementation of the Namibia National Strategic and Action Plan on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2016-2026 remain a challenge in some aspects due to lack of awareness, human capacity and financial constraints.

Article 11: Coverage of the Multilateral System

20. Has your country included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS) all PGRFA listed in Annex 1 to the Treaty that are under the management and control of your Government and in the public domain?

- ✓ All
Partially
None

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

None

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:

None

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?

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:

1. The implementation of the Namibia National Strategic and Action Plan on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2016-2026 remain a challenge

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?

✓ Yes

No

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

Namibia has the National Plant Genetic Resources Centre referred to as the Genebank in place.

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 pursuant to the standard material transfer agreement (SMTA)?

✓ Yes

No

23A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide the number of SMTAs entered into:

SMTA has been used for outside requestors mostly for research and development

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

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

Yes

✓ No

24A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the number of such SMTAs entered into:

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?

✓ Yes

No

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

- Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, No.2 of 2017

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

✓ Yes

No

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

1. The Constitution of Namibia
2. Access to Biological and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge Act, No.2 of 2017

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?

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?

☒ Yes

No

28A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of any information made available regarding Annex 1 PGRFA (e.g. catalogues and inventories, information on technologies, results of scientific and socio-economic research, including characterization, evaluation and utilization):

Namibia reports through the World information and Early Warning System (WIEWS), the Global Information System (GLIS), and the Treaty Online System. All these databases contain information on the Namibian PGRFA.

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

If access to technologies was provided, please provide details of the access provided.

Yes

☒ No

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

- Has established or participated in crop-based thematic groups on utilization 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.

29B. If access to technologies was provided, please provide details of the access provided:

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

☒ Yes

No

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

- ✓ Establishing and/or strengthening programs 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:

1. The Joint FAO/IAEA program
2. Namibia benefited from the Benefit Sharing Fund of the ITPGRFA by developing a National Strategic and Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2016-2026.
3. FAO TCP that supports the development of national capacities for the conservation and sustainable utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA)

Article 14: Global Plan of Action

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

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

✓ Yes

No

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

✓ National actions

✓ International cooperation

31B. If the implementation of the plan was promoted, please provide details:

Through the implementation of Namibia National Strategic Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2016-2026 and the Namibia's Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2022

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 Centers 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

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 request was received to date

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

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:

There has been no record of such a request.

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?

✓ Yes

No

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

1. Genebank has established a committee that guides its activities and it comprised of stakeholders from the PGR industry as well legal practitioners.

2. The Director of Agricultural Research and Development (DARD) and who is the Chairperson of the Genebank is also the SPGRC Board member representing Namibia and as such issues pertaining PGRFA are brought to the attention of MAWLR management.
3. Stakeholders including farmers, government institutions such as MAWF, PGRC members participated in the drafting relevant policies such as the Namibia National Strategic Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2016-2026, Seed and Seed Variety Act, No 23 of 2018 , and the Namibia's Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2022; and the Plant Breeders and Farmers' Right Bill 2009;
4. The National focal point to ITPGRFA also reports on decisions taken during Governing Body Sessions

Article 18: Financial Resources

35. Has your country provided and/or received financial resources for the implementation of the Treaty through bilateral, regional or multilateral channels?

✓ Yes

No

35A. If your answer is 'yes', where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved:

1. Benefit sharing fund of the ITPGRFA USD 300 000
2. FAO/ Technical Cooperation Agreement USD 31 000
3. The Joint FAO/IAEA program through fellowships and support through purchases of lab machineries and consumables and any other technologies Namibia deem fit with regard to crop improvement project in the Ministry sharing with Tertiary Institutions. No figures could

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

✓ Yes

No

36A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such national activities and the amount of the financial resources involved:

The On-farm conservation and Ex situ conservation to approximately N\$ 700 000

About this reporting format

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

Yes

✓ No

37A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details on such difficulties:

37B. If you have suggestions for improvement of this reporting format, please share them:

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:

Special funding should be made available for PGRFA Policy development, this will foster implementation.

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:

1. Lack of awareness by decision makers on the ITPGRFA issues
2. Lack of seed systems and coordination for implementation of the Treaty
3. Inadequate legal frame work such as PGRFA Policy
4. Inadequate financial support from the Government for the implementation of 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: