



SIDE EVENTS

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC
RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

20–24 November 2023 | Rome, Italy

AGENDA

Monday, 20 November, Lunch time (13:15-14:15)	3
The Decentralized Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources	4
Treaty's Value Proposition – Food Processing Industry.....	5
Ukraine special event:” Securing Ukraine’s PGR collection – now and in the future”	7
Tuesday, 21 November, Lunch time (13:15-14:30)	9
Seeds and innovative solutions through the Benefit-sharing Fund.....	10
The grapevine genetic resources: preserving the past to ensure the future.....	11
Removing the bottlenecks: How to create space for farmer managed seeds	12
Tuesday, 21 November, Evening (18:15-19:30)	13
Promoting conservation through use: A focus on value chains for Neglected and Underutilized Species in 5 African Countries.....	14
Documentation of PGRFA and Crop Wild Relatives Inventories	15
Svalbard Global Seed Vault: 15 years of safeguarding crop diversity.....	16
Wednesday 22 November, Lunch time (13:15-14:30).....	17
Strengthening information-based decision-making in PGRFA management: relevance of Global Crop Conservation Strategies and the Plants that Feed the World projects to the International Treaty.....	18
Building a harmonized system to increase benefit sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information ..	19
Launch of the new Crop Calendar	20
Wednesday, 22 November, Evening (18:15-19:30).....	21
DSI in international negotiations: an overview on recent developments at the CBD, ITPGRFA, IGC and PIP Framework/Pandemic Treaty	22
South-South Cooperation for the implementation of Farmers' Rights + Realizing Farmers' Rights.....	23
Capacity sharing projects to support the global system.....	24
Thursday, 23 November, Lunch time (13:15-14:30).....	25
Access and Rights to Genetic Resources – A Nordic Approach (II)”	26
Indigenous Peoples’ and local communities’ in situ conservation initiatives: From the Potato Park to a global network of genetic reserves for climate resilience and Farmer’s Rights.....	27
Seed resilience – what does it mean and how can it be realized?	28
Thursday, 23 November, Evening (18:15-19:30).....	29
What seed systems for a nature positive future? Experiences from East Africa.....	30
The Seed and Knowledge Initiative: A decade of working towards realising Farmers' Rights in southern Africa	31
How to develop a farmers’ variety registration system? Lessons from several country pilots.....	32

**Monday, 20 November,
Lunch time (13:15-14:15)**

The Decentralized Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources

UNIVERSITA' Politecnica delle Marche (INCREASE project)

The event will present the results of the INCREASE project, www.pulsesincrease.eu, focusing on the Citizen Science Experiment, where seeds of more than 1,000 accessions of *Phaseolus vulgaris*, Single Seed Descend derived and molecularly characterized, were distributed to European citizens for three consecutive years in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Over these years more than 16,000 citizens registered using the dedicated INCREASE CSE App. Registration included citizens signing a SMTA listing accession DOIs using the App connected to the Global Information System. Overall, the results indicate that a decentralized conservation of genetic resources could be a crucial strategy to promote conservation and facilitate their sustainable use and the benefit sharing.

Agenda:

Opening Remarks & Welcome

- Introduction, Roberto Papa (UNIVPM)
- INCREASE Citizen Science Experiment, Kerstin Neumann (IPK)
- The International Treaty and INCREASE, Marco Marsella (ITPGRFA)
- The CSApp and AI applications, Emanuele Frontoni (UNIMC)
- The INCREASE project and Decentralized Conservation approach, Roberto Papa (UNIVPM)
- Stakeholder involvement: the Australian GeneBank interest in INCREASE and CSE, Sukhjiwan Kaur (DEECA, AgriBio)
- Discussion and Q&A Session

Closing remarks

Moderator: Mario Marino (ITPGRFA)

Austria Room (C250bis)

Treaty's Value Proposition – Food Processing Industry

Secretariat of International Treaty

The Treaty's engagement strategy with the food processing industry includes efforts to define the Treaty's value proposition for the food processing industry, develop communication tools, and identify entry points and possible models for engagement.

The development of the Treaty's value proposition will be informed by the shared context between the Treaty and the Food Processing Industry and the opportunities and risks for both parties.

The Secretariat had undertaken a series of informal consultations towards developing the outline of the Treaty's value proposition. The consultations involved a wide range of stakeholders including experts, representatives from the food processing industry and members of the Treaty's Funding Committee.

The objective of the side event is to present and discuss the results of the consultations to inform the next steps for the further development of the Treaty's value proposition for the food processing industry.

Agenda:

Welcome Remarks

Contextualizing the Treaty's Engagement Strategy with the food processing industry

Álvaro Toledo, Deputy Secretary of the International Treaty

Presentation of Initial Consultation Results & discussion A perspective from the food processing industry on Opportunities and Challenges for Engagement

Gigi Manicad, Senior Consultant, Treaty Secretariat

Panel Discussion

Stakeholders' perspectives on the Opportunities and Challenges for Engagement

A perspective from a BSF partner on participatory sorghum breeding for the brewing industry

Alexander Bombom, NARO Uganda

A perspective from the seed industry on communicating the vital role of seeds to food

Ludovic Pâris, Lima Grain

A perspective from a youth food movement

Lydia Amenyaglo, Ghana Food Movement

A perspective from farmers as food processors and retailers in farmers' markets

Richard McCarthy, President, World Farmers Markets Coalition

A perspective from a food processing organization

Enrico Battiston International Organization of Vine & Wine

Q&A discussion

Closing Remarks

François Pythoud
Moderator

Iran Room (B116)

Ukraine special event:” Securing Ukraine’s PGR collection – now and in the future”

United States of America, Ukraine, Secretariat of International Treaty

In May 2022, Ukraine’s National Gene Bank in Kharkiv was in imminent danger when shelling damaged infrastructure, agricultural machinery, and some of the working seed collections at field research stations. As the conflict intensified, scientists from around the world contacted the Secretariat of the International Plant Treaty and Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Crop Trust) to sound the alarm on Ukraine’s main national seed collection held in Kharkiv. This unique collection is of global value for the future of food security and sustainable agriculture.

To conserve Ukraine’s agricultural heritage, the Treaty, Crop Trust, FAO and EU joined efforts with Ukraine’s Academy of Agrarian Sciences, to move the collection to a secure location in the west of Ukraine, over 1 000 km away under the project *Enabling the safeguarding and rehabilitation of the Ukrainian Plant Genetic Resources System*. Other partners contributed in complement to the project including the USA, the Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen) and the Novo Nordisk Foundation. Germany, Canada and the European Cooperative Program for Plant Genetic Resources have also contributed technical support.

This side event highlights the joint international efforts that have been made to support and secure the Ukraine PGR collection and provides an overview of the plans for Ukraine’s PGR system in the future, including discussing Ukraine’s possible ratification of the Treaty, which would greatly benefit the country’s future food production and agricultural development.

Light lunch provided from 13.00hrs

Interpretation provided (all languages plus Ukrainian)

Introduction: (5 min)

- Mr Kaveh Zahedi, Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO

Opening Remarks: (15 min)

- Her Excellency, Ms Alexandra Valkenburg, Ambassador, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the UN Organisations in Rome
- Ms Christine Dawson, Director, Office of Conservation and Water (OES/ECW), United States of America
- Mr Yuriy Grynevetskyi, Alternate Permanent Representative of Ukraine to FAO
- Mr Maxwell Sibhensana, Deputy Director, FAO Office of Emergencies

Presentations: (15 min)

- Highlights of Ukraine’s Plant Genetic Resources System, Mr Viktor Riabchun, Deputy director for scientific work with plant genetic resources, Head of the National Center for Plant Genetic Resources of Ukraine, Plant Production Institute, Kharkiv (virtual)
- Highlights from the EU project *Enabling the safeguarding and rehabilitation of the Ukrainian Plant Genetic Resources System*, Mr Pierre Vauthier, Designated Responsible

Officer, FAO Ukraine (virtual)

- Towards a Long-Term Plan for the Ukraine PGRFA System, Mr Luigi Guarino - Chief Scientist, Global Crop Diversity Trust

Roundtable Discussion: (20 min)

Panelists:

- Ms Lise Lykke Steffensen - CEO/Director, NordGen, Sweden
- Mr Viktor Riabchun, Deputy director for scientific work with plant genetic resources, Head of the National Center for Plant Genetic Resources of Ukraine, Plant Production Institute, Kharkiv (remote)
- Mr Luigi Guarino - Chief Scientist, Global Crop Diversity Trust, Germany
- Mr Pierre Vauthier, Designated Responsible Officer, FAO Ukraine

Closing remarks: (5 min)

- Mr Kent Nnadozie, Secretary, ITPGRFA, FAO

Sheikh Zayed Centre

**Tuesday, 21 November,
Lunch time (13:15-14:30)**

Seeds and innovative solutions through the Benefit-sharing Fund

Secretariat of International Treaty

The Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF) is the operational mechanism of the International Treaty that supports projects in developing countries to improve livelihoods, food and nutrition security and adaptation to climate change through the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

The new fifth cycle of the BSF will invest about USD 11 million to support the 28 newly approved projects world-wide. In the roll out of its new programmatic approach, the BSF will be linking the various projects for greater efficiency, reach, outcomes and sustainability. The BSF is improving its knowledge management so that projects can learn from each other, and that the knowledge products, such as PGRFA enhanced and developed in the projects, can be shared more widely with the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders.

This side event brings together some BSF partners to share experiences and innovative approaches in the use of PGRFA. It will be an interactive event and give the opportunity to a wide range of stakeholders to discuss and reflect upon where BSF is heading and how we could best build on the lessons learnt of this funding mechanism and further develop its programmatic approach.

Moderator: François Pythoud, Special Envoy for International Sustainable Agriculture, Switzerland

Co-moderator: Frederic Castell, Senior Natural Resources Officer - Biodiversity mainstreaming, FAO

Co-moderator: Dan Saladino, Journalist BBC

Panelists:

1. Andrew Mushita, Head of the Community Technology Development Organisation
2. Gloria Otieno, Genetic Resources and Food Security Policy Specialist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
3. Alexander Bombom, Senior Research Scientist, National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)
4. Zulhairil Bin Ariffin, Research Officer, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI)

Austria Room (C250bis)

The grapevine genetic resources: preserving the past to ensure the future

International Organization of Vine and Wine

As an intergovernmental organization, the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) is the scientific and technical reference of the vine and wine world. This side event will be an opportunity to present the works and perspectives of the OIV concerning the conservation of the grapevine genetic heritage and the protection of the grapevine species and varieties from an increasing erosion as consequence of the impact of climate changes. In cooperation with MASI Agricola, an Italian wine leading company, this side event will host a wine tasting which will reveal the potential of several ancient native grapevine varieties as source of resilience against less favorable conditions of cultivation.

Agenda:

- Introduction by Mr. Mario Marino, Technical Officer ITPGRFA
- "OIV: the scientific and technical reference of the vine and wine world" Dr. Jean-claude Ruf, Scientific Director of the OIV 13h35 "From the conservation of the grapevine ancient germplasm to the creation of new varieties resistant to diseases" Prof. Luigi Bavaresco, Secretary of the OIV Group of Expert "Genetic resources and vine selection", Professor of Viticulture at Università Cattolica of Piacenza (Italy)
- "Native vine varieties: the commitment of MASI to the conservation of the bio-viticultural heritage" Mr. Alessandro Boscaini, 8th generation of Boscaini family owning MASI Agricola S.p.a.
- Collaboration between ITPGRFA & OIV Dr. Kent Nnadozie, Secretary of the ITPGRFA
- Tasting MASI wines from native vine varieties Ms. Roberta Beber, Agronomist Technical Group MASI Agricola S.p.a

Vermentino Toscana IGT "BelloVile" 2022

Soave Classico Superiore DOCG "Colbaraca" 2022

Oseleta Rosso del Veronese IGT "Osar" 2015

Iran Room (B116)

Removing the bottlenecks: How to create space for farmer managed seeds

SWISSAID, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Development Fund, AFSA, University of Cape-Town

Farmer-managed seed systems are essential for present and future food security in many countries, and for the conservation and sustainable use of crop genetic resources. The *Background Study on the Bottlenecks and Challenges to the Implementation of Articles 5 and 6*, welcomed at GB9, has identified the lack of legal and market space for farmer's varieties amongst the key hindering factors for conservation and sustainable use.

This side event brings together perspectives from research, state actors and civil society. Concrete examples from various regions of the world will be presented, on how more space for farmer managed seed systems can be created. The topic will be further deepened with a panel of Governing Body delegates and presenters to discuss strategies to address the bottlenecks, as suggested by the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use (ACSU). This side event is also relevant for the continued discussions on the implementation of Farmer's Rights under the International Treaty.

Agenda:

- Farmer-managed seed systems and how to promote them – a synthesis of research
Regine ANDERSEN (FNI)
- Recognition of farmers' varieties: 25 Years of experience with Nepal's Seed Act
Santosh SHRESTHA (LI-BIRD)
- South Africa: Introducing an exemption for smallholders in seed regulation and plant breeders' rights
Rutendo ZENDAH (ACBio)
- Panel discussion with delegates from 3-4 regions and the presenters. The audience will be invited to participate.

Presenters and country delegates:

- Issa Zakari MOURTALA (Niger),
- César TAPIA BASTIDAS (Ecuador) (tbc),
- Riccardo BOCCI (Italy),
- Sunil ARCHAK (India)
- Wrap-up and next steps Rachel WYNBERG (UCT)
- Facilitation: Simon DEGELO (SWISSAID)

Ethiopia Room (C285/9)

**Tuesday, 21 November,
Evening (18:15-19:30)**

Promoting conservation through use: A focus on value chains for Neglected and Underutilized Species in 5 African Countries

Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, CTDO Zimbabwe, ZARI-Zambia

From 2021-2023, the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT coordinated an action learning project in Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe with a focus on activities related to the promotion, conservation and sustainable use of neglected and underutilized crop species (NUS); with complementary activities carried out in Ghana supported by the Dutch Embassy in Ghana. The work in Ghana resulted in the establishment of a pilot community seed and field bank in the community of Mangoase, not far from the city of Koforidua, with special attention paid to NUS (for more details, see the report by Nyadanu and Vernooy, 2023).

During the current NUS project, the four country teams of Kenya, Zambia, Uganda and Zimbabwe have done pilot work on the value chain development of identified priority NUS in each site, such as the production of novel (nutritious) composite flours using/mixing amaranth, cassava, millets, yellow (instead of white) maize and sorghum, for particular consumer groups, offering an alternative to the maize-only based flour, which is a staple food in Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe used for porridge and “ugali” (mush or pap). This novel product development takes place in the context of maize production suffering from the impact of climate change across East and Southern Africa. In Kenya, farmers started selling the new composite flours in small quantities individually and through the community seed banks of Kabudi-Agoro and Lower Nyando, while in Zambia farmers were trained to use millet and sorghum flour to produce bakery products. This side event will highlight the results and new steps planned.

Agenda:

- Opening Remarks
The Ambassador, Marcel Beukeboom -Government of Netherlands
- Background of the Topic and summary of 5 countries achievements
Gloria Otieno – Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
- Farmer engagement NUS value chains in Zambia – Achievements and future prospects
Graybill Munkombwe – ZARI, Zambia
- Recipe book Health and Nutrition Technologies for NUS in Zimbabwe
Andrew Mushita, CTDO Zimbabwe
- Reorienting NUS to support Women’s economic empowerment in Kenya
- Q& A and Discussions

Austria Room (C250bis)

Documentation of PGRFA and Crop Wild Relatives Inventories

Secretariat of International Treaty

The Governing Body of the International Treaty has noted the limited availability of national databases of Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) conserved *in situ* and invited the Contracting Parties that have not done so to consider their development with a view to facilitating further research and use.

The Secretariat will present the activities undertaken in recent years to support Contracting Parties in the documentation, including building capacities in data collection from the wild crops and their wild relatives, and in making that information available.

This side event will present the latest global descriptors for CWR, and the brand-new module on CWR materials in the Portal of the Global Information System and explore interest and options to strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties to develop national and regional inventories and information systems. The event will also provide an overview of the latest crop descriptor lists developed in collaboration with a wide range of national and international research institutions.

Agenda:

Opening Remarks & Welcome

Block 1 – A common approach to the documentation of Crop Wild Relatives

- Development of the Descriptors for Crop Wild Relatives conserved *in situ* (CWR) and pilot activities, by Adriana Alercia, ITPGRFA Consultant
- Introduction of the CWR Module in the Global Information System Portal and other recent updates, by Marco Marsella, ITPGRFA Consultant
- Options to strengthen the capacity of Contracting Parties to develop national and regional inventories and information systems, Francisco Lopez, ITPGRFA Technical Officer
- Q&A Session

Block 2 – Updates on the documentation of Crop descriptors– by Adriana Alercia, ITPGRFA Consultant

- Overview of the latest crop descriptor lists developed in collaboration with national and international research institutions.
- The documentation of millets
- Q&A Session

Iran Room (B116)

Svalbard Global Seed Vault: 15 years of safeguarding crop diversity

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Norway, Nordic Genetic Resource Centre, Global Crop Diversity Trust

This side event is to share knowledge about Svalbard Global Seed Vault and raise awareness of the need for genebanks to back up their seed collections.

A successful event leaves the participants feeling they trust Svalbard Global Seed Vault, are informed about its purpose and mission, are aware of the steps they need to take to deposit and will work for their country to deposit (more) seeds.

The target audience would be participants of the Governing Body, particularly focusing on those who haven't deposited seeds in the Seed Vault yet but are interested to do so, one day.

Participants

- Kent Nnadozie, Secretary to the ITPGRFA
- Lise Lykke Steffensen, NordGen Executive Director
- Stefan Schmitz, Crop Trust Executive Director
- Torheim Svanhild-Isabelle Batta, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Sheikh Zayed Centre

**Wednesday 22 November,
Lunch time (13:15-14:30)**

Strengthening information-based decision-making in PGRFA management: relevance of Global Crop Conservation Strategies and the Plants that Feed the World projects to the International Treaty

Global Crop Diversity Trust, Secretariat of International Treaty

In this side event, representatives from the Crop Trust, the Secretariat of the International Treaty, the lead authors of the study "The Plants that Feed the World: baseline data and metrics to inform strategies for the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture" and a white paper on "Mainstreaming Global Crop Conservation Strategies in Plant Treaty Processes", along with other relevant PGRFA experts and stakeholders, will discuss the relevance of the Global Crop Conservation Strategies and the "The Plants that Feed the World" study to the work of the International Treaty, including how the information from these sources can be mainstreamed in the International Treaty processes.

Agenda:

- **Welcome and introduction** - introducing the context of the white paper and the "The Plants that Feed the World" project at GB10 - A **representative** of the Plant Treaty Secretariat
- **Main recommendation in the white paper and the metrics in "The Plants that Feed the World"** - **Colin Houry** (SDBG/CIAT), main author of "The Plants that Feed the World" and co-author of the white paper on "Mainstreaming Global Crop Conservation Strategies in Plant Treaty Processes"
- Summary of the activities of the current project "**Mainstreaming the GCCS in Plant Treaty processes**" - **Peter Giovannini** (Crop Trust), project lead
- Relevance of the GCCS and the metrics in "The Plants that Feed the World" from **CGIAR perspective** - **Charlotte Lusty** (CGIAR), Genebank Platform Coordinator -
- Relevance of the GCCS and the metrics in "The Plants that Feed the World" from a **national genebank perspective** - **Asta M. Tamang (Bhutan) [TBC]**
- **Discussion**

Austria Room (C250bis)

Building a harmonized system to increase fair and equitable benefit sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information

DSI Scientific Network, CGIAR Genbank platform, Leibniz Institute IPK, Leibniz Institute DSMZ, University of Aberdeen.

The integrated use of digital sequence information (DSI) is key to scientific progress and technological innovation in areas as diverse as food security, green energy production, medicine, and biodiversity conservation.

In the international debate on the development of a benefit-sharing framework for DSI, the scientific community favours a harmonized system or systems for access to and benefit-sharing of DSI in order to ensure open access, interoperability, legal certainty, technical feasibility and to avoid hampering the functioning of science at a fundamental level. As new norms for benefit-sharing of DSI are addressed in different UN fora, there is a risk that they will adopt different approaches that are not "in sync" and ultimately undermine research and development.

The purpose of this side event is to highlight the importance of coordinated decisions across multiple fora in determining mechanisms for authorizing and distributing benefits derived from the use and generation of DSI. Speakers will present case studies of how research uses DSI, highlight the implications for the decisions on DSI being negotiated at the Tenth Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA, discuss reasons why harmonized, mutually supportive ABS systems for DSI are crucial, and will outline possible steps towards them.

The event will provide an opportunity for Parties and other stakeholders to hear from those working with DSI how the proposed solutions on ABS for DSI have a concrete impact on the feasibility, efficiency, and effectiveness of research and development; and to explore what decisions and pathways might be available for the Tenth Session, in the light of the experience of the negotiations at the science-law-policy interface on DSI in other fora, and when they exist, outcomes reached.

Panel:

- **Moderator: Pablo Orozco**
- **Introduction by Mr. Orozco**
- **Dr. Jens Freitag** - Together we are less alone! Examples from plant genetic resources and plant research
- **Dr. Mathieu Rouard** - Operational Dynamics and Challenges using DSI across Biodiversity frameworks
- **Prof. Abbe Brown** - Legal paths, practical possibilities?
- **Dr. Michael Halewood** - Options for mutually supportive, harmonized approaches for DSI benefit sharing under the Plant Treaty and KMGBF multilateral mechanism: some heretical thoughts
- **Panel discussion (Orozco, Rouard, Brown, Halewood)**
- **Q&A**

Iran Room (B116)

Launch of the new Crop Calendar

Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO

FAO's Crop Calendar is a tool originally developed in 2009 that provides information on sowing and planting seasons as well as the agronomic practices of the crops cultivated by farmers in specific agroecological zones. The Crop Calendar has been migrated to FAO's current information platform and updated to be integrated into FAO's Hand in Hand Geospatial Platform (HiH – a web-based tool) and the Digital Services Platform (DSP – a mobile application). The event will illustrate the importance of information on planting periods and seed requirements of the major food security crops in the different agroecological zones of the world, including their main agronomic characteristics and adaptation to agroecological conditions, available in a user-friendly way to a wide audience.

Agenda:

Opening remarks

Mr Chikelu Mba, Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP), FAO

Introduction to the Crop Calendar

Ms Arshiya Noorani, Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Team, NSP, FAO

Crop Calendars in Agrometeorology

Mr Sebastian Grey, Applied Climate Services Division, World Meteorological Organization

Developing a Crop Calendar: Experiences from Jordan

Mr Rawad Sweidan, National Agricultural Research Center, Jordan

Crop Calendar: Web-based portal, mobile app and more!

Mr Karl Morteo, Agro-Informatics, Digitalization and Informatics Division (CSI), FAO

Moderated Discussion

Concluding remarks

Mr Dejan Jakovljevic, Digitalization and Informatics Division (CSI) FAO

The side event will be moderated by **Ms Bonnie Furman**, Seeds and Plant Genetic Resources Team, NSP, FAO.

Sheikh Zayed Centre

**Wednesday, 22 November,
Evening (18:15-19:30)**

DSI in international negotiations: an overview on recent developments at the CBD, ITPGRFA, IGC and PIP Framework/Pandemic Treaty

Université Catholique de Louvain

Digital Sequence Information (DSI) remains at the heart of several negotiation fora, crystallizing tensions between actors. This side event provides an updated overview of negotiations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework/Pandemic Treaty. Speakers will identify potential ways forward to overcome the ongoing conundrum. The role played by science in the negotiation and adoption of rights, obligations and policies regulating DSI and Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) will be addressed from different perspectives.

Agenda:

- Introduction to the side event: Christine Frison
- Elsa Tsioumani (Marie Curie Fellow at University of Trento) “Is ABS addressing the real problem? Insights from negotiations on DSI across international processes.”
- Christine Frison (University of Liège) and Sylvain Aubry (University of Zürich) “DSI in the framework of the newly negotiated pandemic treaty”
- Chidi Oguamanam (Ottawa University) “Intellectual property rights, DSI and the WIPO-IGC negotiations”
- Pierre Walckiers (UCLouvain) “DSI as an example of the use of science in international negotiations: an analysis of stakeholders’ discourse at the CBD, ITPGRFA, and PIP Framework”.
- Questions & conclusion

Austria Room (C250bis)

South-South Cooperation for the implementation of Farmers' Rights + Realizing Farmers' Rights

Movimento dos Pequenos Agricultores

The side event aims to be a space for exchange between governments of the Global South and producers' movements to further advance the issue of Farmers' Rights (Article 9 of the ITPGRFA). The opportunity to implement the decision of the Governing Body 9 on South-South cooperation should be used to build a front with activities that will strengthen the capacities of farmers' movements that use seeds in collaboration with governments.

The objective is to come out of the debate with more knowledge of the different roles and with ideas of activities to develop in the next intersessional period of the Treaty.

Agenda:

Moderator: Michael Fakhri (if present) or Georgina Catacora.

- Moderator's introduction
- Introduction by Guy Kastler on the need to work with the countries of the Global South in the implementation of Farmers' Rights, excluding the countries of the Global North.
- Possible way forward on Farmers' Rights. Question to all: what are your needs at national and regional level in the implementation of Farmers' Rights?
- IPC Latin America representative (Marciano from Brazil)
- Government of Brazil
- IPC representative from Africa (Alimata Traore)
- Government of Niger
- IPC Representative from Asia (Tanmay Joshi Sunanda)
- Government of India or Indonesia
- Open discussion
- Wrap-up and conclusion by an IPC farmer from the global South

Iran Room (B116)

Capacity sharing projects to support the global system

CGIAR Genebank Initiative, Global Crop Diversity Trust

Scientists from national and international agricultural research organizations, civil society, and the GCDT and Treaty Secretariat will provide their perspectives on where ‘we are OK’ and where there are outstanding needs for capacity sharing to improve the scale and effectiveness of the global system for PGRFA. They will also reflect on methods for prioritizing future allocation of resources in the years to come. For the purposes of the panel discussion, the Chair will propose a working definition of ‘the global system for PGRFA’ which may also be discussed by panelists and attendees.

Agenda:

Welcome, objectives, and a working definition of the ‘global system for PGRFA’ Chikelu Mba

Capacity sharing in support of an improved Global System: areas where significant progress has been made, outstanding needs, and ways to prioritize going forward

- Sunday Aladele, Director, National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology (NACGRAB, Nigeria) *TBC*
- Pierre du Plessis, African Union
- Sarada Krishnan, Director of Programs, GCDT
- Charlotte Lusty, Senior Director, CGIAR Genebank Initiative, with Biswanath Das, CGIAR Accelerated Breeding Initiative
- Treaty Secretariat (subject to availability)

Reflections on issues raised (or not raised) during the panel discussion Geoff Hawtin

Questions and answers, facilitated discussion Chikelu Mba

Sheikh Zayed Centre

**Thursday, 23 November,
Lunch time (13:15-14:30)**

Access and Rights to Genetic Resources – A Nordic Approach (II)”

Nordic Genetic Resource Centre

The Nordic countries have a long history of collaborating on conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources. In 2003, they adopted the Kalmar Declaration with a series of recommendations on national implementation of international obligations and suggestions for further cross-border collaboration on genetic resources. During the twenty years since the adoption of the Kalmar Declaration, the world has changed. Technological and political advancements made it evident that a new Nordic take was needed. Nordic experts on genetic resources have therefore developed new recommendations. These are presented in the report “Access and Rights to Genetic Resources: A Nordic Approach (II)” which will be discussed at this side event. The report forms the base for a joint Nordic Council of Ministers Declaration which is expected shortly. In this side event, representatives from the expert panel developing the report will present its recommendations and discuss the importance of cross-border collaboration for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

Program:

13:15 Welcome Lise Lykke Steffensen, Executive Director, NordGen

13:20 Background to Access and Rights to Genetic Resources – A Nordic Approach (II) Jens Weibull, Senior Officer, Swedish Board of Agriculture

13.30 The report’s recommendations and the expected Nordic ministerial declaration on access and rights to genetic resources Lise Lykke Steffensen, Executive Director, NordGen

13:40 Farmers’ rights in Norway Torheim Svanhild-Isabelle Batta, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Ministry of Ag. and Food
13.50 The Nordic approach and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Christine Frison, Research Associate Professor, University of Liège

14.00 Reflections on the Nordic approach and thoughts on future benefit-sharing of DSI Michael Halewood, Genetic Resources and Seed Systems Policies Team Leader, CGIAR

14.10 Panel discussion on the Nordic approach to access and rights to genetic resources with the participants above and the audience.

Austria Room (C250bis)

Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' in situ conservation initiatives: From the Potato Park to a global network of genetic reserves for climate resilience and Farmer's Rights

Asociacion ANDES, INMIP, IIED, SwedBio, Nabzi Sayor, SEARICE

Indigenous Peoples and traditional farmers in centers of origin and diversity have domesticated, improved and conserved unique ancestral gene pools, providing vital evolving and co-evolving genetic resources for climate adaptation and food security. Yet this rich genetic heritage is steadily eroding and the traditional farming systems and landscapes that sustain it remain largely unprotected. This event will present community initiatives for PGR conservation on-farm and in situ and linking cultivated and wild gene pools, for climate resilience and protection of Farmers' Rights. It will show how biocultural territory genetic reserves can be scaled out and examine in situ-ex situ linkages.

Agenda:

- Introduction: the role of Indigenous Peoples and traditional farmers, biocultural territories and mountains in conserving and improving PGRs for climate resilience and meeting multiple global goals. Krystyna Swiderska, IIED.
- The Andean Potato Park biocultural territory in situ genetic reserve model: food neighbourhoods, linking in situ and ex situ strategies, protecting Farmers' Rights, and scaling out to establish a global network of biocultural territories. Alejandro Argumedo, Asociación ANDES Peru and International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP)
- The Apple Park and Wheat Park in Tajikistan: Establishing a national network of biocultural territories and seed conservation through community seed banks in centres of origin (eg. apple, pairs, wheat). Askarsho Zevarshoev and Yodgor Qonunov, Nabzi Sayor, Tajikistan.
- The Three Naxi-Moso Village biocultural heritage coalition, NW Yunnan: revitalising traditional terraced farming and farmer seed systems (soybean, rice, millet, Tibetan barley, wheat, sorghum, waxy maize, through community seed banks, Participatory Plant Breeding & ABS mechanisms. Yiching Song, Farmer Seed Network, China
- Indigenous Peoples' and traditional farmers' agrobiodiversity conservation and management initiatives for climate resilience and protecting Farmers' Rights in Southeast Asia. Nori Ignacio, Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE).
- Strengthening the ex situ - in situ interface in food neighborhoods and supporting IPLC's in situ genetic reserves and territories. Hannes Dempewolf, Global Crop Trust
- Closing remarks: Rosalaura Romeo - Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Secretariat, Forestry Division, FAO

Seed resilience – what does it mean and how can it be realized?

International Seed Federation

The global seed sector is committed to contribute to achieving seed resilience through its engagement to provide seed choice and access to high quality seeds for all farmers. In order to put this engagement into practice, ISF, in partnership with Fair Planet, started a seed resilience project in Rwanda aimed at providing an opportunity for small and large-scale farmers to have access to high quality seeds of various modern commercial and pre-commercial varieties; to benefit from technology transfer and receive know-how and training in improved agricultural practices while preserving traditional approaches.

While sharing the concept and methodology behind this project, ISF would like to engage in a discussion with other stakeholders on approaches to seed resilience covering, amongst other, the following questions:

- What is seed resilience? Are there different perspectives? What are those?
- What are the main bottlenecks or hurdles to achieve seed resilience?
- How can we best work together to improve farmers' livelihoods and food and nutrition security?

Agenda:

1. WELCOME

2. ISF PERSPECTIVE ON SEED RESILIENCE

2.1. **INTRODUCTION** – SZONJA CSÖRGŐ, IP & LEGAL AFFAIRS MANAGER, ISF

2.2. **HARNESSING QUALITY SEEDS FOR IMPROVING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN RWANDA** – EMILY TER STEEG, PROJECT LEAD ISF PILOT PROJECT

3. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH:

Gigi Manicad, Independent consultant (TBC)

Kim van Seeters or Martin Brink, the Netherlands (TBC)

Bram de Jonge, Oxfam (TBC)

Andrew Mushita, CTDI, Zimbabwe

Isabel Noriega Lopez, CGIAR (TBC)

Anke van den Hurk, Plantum

TOPIC: WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “SEED RESILIENCE” AND HOW CAN IT BE REALIZED?

Sheikh Zayed Centre

**Thursday, 23 November,
Evening (18:15-19:30)**

What seed systems for a nature positive future? Experiences from East Africa

CGIAR Nature Positive Initiative (Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT)

Conventional agriculture is significantly contributing to several global crises: a nutritional crisis (if we include obesity, more than half of global population is malnourished), a climate crisis (agriculture contributes to 1/3 of GHG emissions), land degradation (40% of agricultural land is degraded due to unsustainable agricultural practices), deforestation and biodiversity crisis (agriculture is responsible for more than 80%). Our agricultural production systems need to be transformed and become more sustainable. Nature positive agriculture is a potential alternative that is emerging and gaining much attention. Promoting ecosystem services, regenerative practices, agroforestry, circular economy and waste management all contribute to nature positive agriculture.

This side event will look at the general features of a nature positive agriculture, showcase of some of the available tools and existing options, and what enabling environment is required to foster and advance the transition to pro-nature agriculture and associated seed systems. We will showcase of examples on how this is advancing in Uganda and Kenya, from the research and PGR system as well as the farmers and the private sector.

Austria Room (C250bis)

The Seed and Knowledge Initiative: A decade of working towards realising Farmers' Rights in southern Africa

University of Cape Town, Zambian Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity, Community Technology Development Trust

For more than 10 years, the Seed and Knowledge Initiative (SKI) has worked towards realizing Farmers' Rights in southern Africa. This side event brings together perspectives from SKI partners who will share their experiences of grounded participatory work in realizing Farmers' Rights in practice - from work on *in-situ* variety development, to community strategies to restore, save and safeguard local varieties, hosting local market days and public awareness seed and food festivals, as well as advocacy for inclusive participation in policy formulation. Case study examples showcase the successes and challenges encountered in securing Farmers' Rights and associated policy support.

Agenda:

- Welcome and introductions - Rachel Wynberg, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Introducing the Seed and Knowledge Initiative - Stephanie Aubin, Seed and Knowledge Initiative
- Festivals and fairs as an approach to affirm Farmers' Rights - Brittany Kesselman, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Realising Farmers' Rights through farmer centred research - Juliet Nangamba, Community Technology Development Trust, Zambia
- The contribution of community seed banks towards realising Farmers' Rights - Fredrick Sanga, Biodiversity Conservation Initiative, Malawi
- Threats to Farmers' Rights in southern Africa - Mutinta Nketani, Zambian Alliance for Agroecology and Biodiversity
- Panel and audience discussion – All
- Wrap up - Rachel Wynberg, University of Cape Town

Iran Room (B116)

How to develop a farmers' variety registration system? Lessons from several country pilots

Oxfam Novib and ESAFF

Many smallholder farmers across the world grow crop varieties that have been developed and maintained by themselves. These are often shared and marketed locally and are of major importance in local seed systems and for food and nutrition security. Still, many have been poorly studied and documented, and the wider use of such varieties is hampered by their absence from registration systems introduced and used for the marketing of new varieties in the formal system. This implies that in many countries, farmers' varieties are confined to the spheres of the so-called 'informal sector': their production, use, exchange, and trade remain unregulated, largely unsupported and their importance underestimated.

By establishing a farmers' variety (FV) registration system, such varieties can be legally produced, exchanged, and commercialized. The benefits of such a system are many. A registration system for farmers' varieties may as such contribute to food and nutrition security, the implementation of Farmers' Rights, and smallholders' resilience to climate change.

But how to establish such a system? What exactly is a farmers' variety? Who should be able to register such variety and according to which criteria? What rights or responsibilities should a registrant receive over the registered variety? During this side event, these important questions will be discussed, and possible answers will be presented on the basis of several country pilots, including recent learnings from Uganda.

Agenda:

- **Mr Marcel Beukeboom**, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations in Rome. (Chair) (TBC)
Welcome and opening of the meeting
- **Ms Bhramar Dey**, Senior Technical Advisor, Catholic Relief Services and Oxfam Novib (Moderator)
Programme of the meeting
- **Mr John Waswa Mulumba**, Curator at the Plant Genetic Resources Centre (PGRC) and ITPGRFA National Focal Point, Uganda (Presenter) (TBC)
Presentation of draft farmer variety registration system in Uganda (Schedule X)
- **Mr Andrew Adem**, Programs Manager, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Uganda (Presenter)
Presentation of farmers' review and testing of Schedule X
- **Mr Bram De Jonge**, Seed Policy Advisor, Oxfam Novib, The Netherlands (Presenter)

Presentation of a general framework for farmer variety registration based on several country experiences.

- **Panel discussion on the learnings from Uganda and proposed framework for farmer variety registration**
 - o **Ms Mary Teddy**, Seed Inspection and Certification, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda

- **Mr Antonio Onorati**, International Planning Committee on Food Sovereignty (IPC) (TBC)
- **Mr Shawn McGuire**, FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP), Rome (TBC)
- **Ms Isabel Lopez Noriega**, Policy Research and Support Unit, Alliance Bioversity International – CIAT

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International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture