



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The 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)
SWITZERLAND

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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.

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Article 4: General Obligations

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

Please select only one option

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

>>> The Treaty was approved by the Swiss Federal Assembly on 18 June 2004, the instrument of ratification was deposited by Switzerland on November 22, 2004 and the Treaty entered into force for Switzerland on February 20, 2005. (Traité international du 3 novembre 2001 sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture)

In Switzerland, the Treaty is implemented by the 916.181 Ordinance of 28 October 2015 on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Ordonnance sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (ORPGAA)), which entered into force on 1 January 2016. The ordinance regulates the role of the Swiss government in the conservation and promotion of the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. It regulates as well the access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the Swiss National Genebank (Banque de gènes nationale RPGAA) and the sharing of benefits arising from the use of such resources.

Since 1999, the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in Switzerland has been under the auspices of the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Plan d'action national pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (PAN-RPGAA))

The National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture together with the National GenBank from Agroscope (Banque de gènes nationale RPGAA) represents the major of the Swiss undertakings in the conservation of PGRFA. The focus is on the conservation and utilisation of old plant varieties and accessions for food and agriculture and on the promotion of national and international collaboration. The measures taken encompass:

- the elaboration and provision of basic information and fundamentals
- various programmes and collections for conservation and sustainable utilization
- awareness-raising programmes

The actual period 2023-2026 represents the seventh phase of the National Plan of Action. (Priorités du PAN-RPGAA Phase VII 2023-2026_(1).pdf)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Priorités du PAN-RPGAA Phase VII 2023-2026 \(1\).pdf](#)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Traité international du 3 novembre 2001 sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture](#)
[Ordonnance sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture \(ORPGAA\)](#)

[Banque de gènes nationale RPGAA](#)

[Plan d'action national pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture \(PAN-RPGAA\)](#)

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:

>>> Other Swiss laws and regulations applying to plant genetic resources are:

- The 451 Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA) (Loi fédérale sur la protection de la nature et du paysage (LPN))
- The 451.61 Ordinance of 11 December 2015 on the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (Nagoya Ordinance) (Ordonnance sur l'accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de leur utilisation (Ordonnance de Nagoya, NagO))
- the 232.16 Federal Law on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (Loi fédérale sur la protection des obtentions végétales))
- The 232.161 Ordinance on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (Ordonnance sur la protection des obtentions végétales (Ordonnance sur la protection des variétés))
- The 232.14 Federal Act on Patents for Inventions (Loi fédérale sur les brevets d'invention (Loi sur les brevets,

LBI))

- The 232.141 Ordinance on Patents (Ordonnance relative aux brevets d'invention (Ordonnance sur les brevets, OBI))
- The 916.151 Ordinance on the Production and Entry into Free Circulation of Plant Propagating Material (Ordonnance on Propagating Material) (Ordonnance sur la production et la mise en circulation du matériel végétal de multiplication (Ordonnance sur le matériel de multiplication)). The ordinance includes aspects on niche-varieties, providing a base to enable the sustainable use of diverse varieties.
- The 916.20 Ordinance on the protection of plants against particularly dangerous pests (Ordonnance sur la protection des végétaux contre les organismes nuisibles particulièrement dangereux (Ordonnance sur la santé des végétaux, OSaVé))
- The 910.13 Ordinance on Direct Payments to Agriculture (Ordonnance sur les paiements directs versés dans l'agriculture (Ordonnance sur les paiements directs, OPD))

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Loi fédérale sur la protection de la nature et du paysage \(LPN\)](#)

[Nagoya Ordinance, NagO](#)

[Loi fédérale sur la protection des obtentions végétales](#)

[Ordonnance sur la protection des variétés](#)

[Loi sur les brevets, LBI](#)

[Ordonnance sur les brevets, OBI](#)

[Ordonnance sur le matériel de multiplication](#)

[Ordonnance sur la santé des végétaux, OSaVé](#)

[Ordonnance sur les paiements directs, OPD](#)

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.

>>> For the inventory, a basic distinction was made between on farm and in situ. On farm, the most relevant crops were already inventoried in the beginning of the National Plan of Action PGRFA, which started in 1996. During the reporting period, the inventory of additional minor and neglected crops has been continued. By the end of 2019, all relevant crop species in Switzerland had been inventoried extensively. The on-farm inventory includes about 38'000 accessions.

On farm

Switzerland has made big efforts in on farm survey and inventory PGRFA. In the early period of the framework of the National Plan of Action on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA, important foundations were established as part of the first measure (elaboration and provision of basic information and fundamentals). Literature studies were used to determine whether varieties and accessions are of Swiss origin and/or whether the material is of national, cultural or local significance and value. The available diversity has been provisionally secured and traced. For the time being, the inventory has been completed to a large extent. At present, various efforts for the characterization of the secured material are under way. All information on the plants and on the old varieties of the collections is made publicly available online in the Swiss National Database for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources www.pgrel.admin.ch. An interactive map of Switzerland shows the conservation collections.

a) All varieties/accessions which have been inventoried, i.e. which have been either a) considered for conservation, b) might be considered for conservation or c) have not been designated for conservation can be found in the Swiss National Database.

b) Varieties/accessions which have been surveyed and inventoried in Switzerland and which are currently designated for conservation (conservation status 'yes') can be found in the Swiss National Database for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources.

In situ

Crop wild relative (CWR) inventory was compiled in Switzerland and published in 2023 (Petitpierre et al., 2023 Importance of agriculture for crop wild relatives conservation in Switzerland - ScienceDirect). The new CWR list includes 2227 species. 285 taxa were classified as priority for conservation, of which one-third are classified as endangered. Of the 285 priority CWR taxa, 92 species are also on the National Priority Vascular Plant Species List (Liste des espèces et des milieux prioritaires au niveau national). This list includes nationally threatened species for whose conservation Switzerland has a special responsibility and which should be protected with species conservation programs.

Information on the distribution of plant species in Switzerland - including CWR - can be found in the National Data and Information Center of the Swiss Flora www.infoflora.ch. CWR are found both on agricultural land, which accounts for about a quarter of the country's land area, and outside it. According to current estimates half of the priority CWR taxa occur on agricultural land. Outside of agricultural land, about 30% of CWRs occur in nature conservation zones of national importance. The area of these zones has increased from 1.8% to 2.2% of the national territory since 2012. Contracts ensure conservation and maintenance measures that are appropriate to the habitat in question. If these measures are implemented, the quality of the habitats can be increased. In 2018, the measures were fully or almost fully implemented on about a quarter of the areas (source: [Rapport_de_2018_sur_l'état_de_la_mise_en_oeuvre_des_biotopes_dimportance_nationale.pdf](#)).

A Swiss peculiarity is the large proportion of natural meadows and pastures, which account for one third of agricultural land. This resulted in a high genetic diversity within his forage crops and a genetic hotspot. Among the CWR, the forage plants on these natural meadows and pastures are of particular importance. A separate inventory and conservation system was established for forage plants: the conservation of eight different autochthonous plant associations was performed on about 2500 ha. Such surfaces will be specifically

preserved as in-situ conservation areas.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Rapport de 2018 sur l'état de la mise en œuvre des biotopes d'importance nationale.pdf](#)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Swiss National Database for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources](#)

[Petitpierre et al., 2023 Importance of agriculture for crop wild relatives conservation in Switzerland - ScienceDirect](#)

[Liste des espèces et des milieux prioritaires au niveau national](#)

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;

>>>

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

☒ Yes

☐ No

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

>>> The majority of the threatened PGRFA are in collections for conservation (collections de conservation). All relevant associated information is stocked in the National Information system on PGRFA: www.pgrel.admin.ch.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[National Information system on PGRFA](#)

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 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

>>> The National Plan of Action for the Conservation and the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Plan d'action national pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (PAN-RPGAA)) orientates itself on the Global Plan of Action for PGRFA of the FAO. The National Action Plan PAN-RPGAA is implemented in collaboration with various private and public organizations involved in the conservation of PGRFA. Under a collaborative umbrella, public-private partnership projects are undertaken with the aim to collect, conserve, characterize and sustainably use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. This includes also on-farm conservation. Since 1999, projects can be submitted by conservation organizations. Information on projects within the framework of the PAN-RPGAA is publicly available and can be retrieved following the weblink <https://www.pgrel.admin.ch/pgrel/#/project/list>.

Since Switzerland is regarded as hot spot for forage and fodder species diversity, the involvement of farmers plays an important role with regards to the in-situ conservation in intensive to semi-intensive grassland. The goal is the long-term conservation of the major genotypes in designated in situ conservation sites by farmers. The knowhow of the farmer for the fodder production in the particular location of the conservation site plays an important role for genotype diversity.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

<https://www.pgrel.admin.ch/pgrel/#/project/list>

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:

>>> Particularly in the domain of forage plants, Switzerland hosts a great genetic diversity (Hotspot). Based on Art. 147 of the Agriculture Act, Switzerland has introduced an in situ contribution (as defined in Art. 2, let. F, ORPGAA (RS 916.181)) to promote the genetic diversity of wild forage plants (Directive relative à la conservation in situ de la diversité génétique des plantes fourragères (directive in situ) Directive_relative_a_la_conservation_in_situ_f.pdf)).

Implementation of the contribution began in 2018 and the first contributions were paid for the first time in 2019. 2,750 hectares of conservation areas throughout Switzerland where native and locally adapted plant species are present can receive an annual in situ contribution. The maximum conservation area has not yet been reached, and new suitable areas are being sought in 2022.

Other projects:

- Inventory and prioritization of Crop Wild Relatives in Switzerland: PGREL - 05-NAP-P57 - Inventaire et priorisation des "Crop Wild Relatives" en Suisse
- Habitat conservation for priority Crop Wild Relatives species : PGREL - 06-NAP-P57 - Conservation des habitats des espèces Crop Wild Relatives prioritaires
- Seed bank of priority CWR species : PGREL - 06-NAP-P58 - Banque de semences d'espèces CWR prioritaires

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Directive relative a la conservation in situ.pdf](#)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[05-NAP-P57 - Inventaire et priorisation des "Crop Wild Relatives" en Suisse](#)

[06-NAP-P57 - Conservation des habitats des espèces Crop Wild Relatives prioritaires](#)

[06-NAP-P58 - Banque de semences d'espèces CWR prioritaires](#)

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 legal bases for the National GenBank of PGRFA is defined by article 3 of the Ordinance on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Ordonnance sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (ORPGAA)).

Within its National Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (NAP-PGREL) and the framework provided by the National Genebank PGREL, Switzerland pursues ex situ conservation of various collections of its genetic resources through a collaboration between several private and public conservation organisations. Information on these collections, including an interactive map with the ex-situ collections of Switzerland, is available on the Swiss National Database for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources. Another important part of the Swiss National Gene-Bank for PGRFA is the National Gene-Bank from Agroscope, the Swiss Federal Centre of Excellence for Agricultural Research (Cereal Gene-Bank). This Genebank is more than 120-year-old. Landraces of cereals that were collected at the beginning of 1900 are still conserved and available. The genebank currently contains nearly 14,000 accessions and 144 different botanical species are represented. The conservation techniques allow the long-term preservation of an important number of species as available under the weblink above. Seed-saved crops are also sent to Svalbard Global Seed Vault for back-up.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Swiss National Database for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources](#)

[Ordonnance sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture \(ORPGAA\)](#)

[Cereal Gene-Bank](#)

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

>>> The National Plan of Action for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA (PAN-RPGAA) is implemented together with various private and public conservation organisations in the form of public-private partnerships. The aim is the collection, conservation, characterisation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Since 1999, projects can be submitted by conservation organisations within the framework of the National Plan of Action (PAN-RPGAA). The collaboration with private organisations also promotes sustainable use and on-farm conservation. Information on projects within the framework of the PAN-RPGAA is made publicly available on the Swiss National Database for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources.

The Swiss National Database for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources www.pgradmin.ch makes the data on PGRFA collections and about the PGRFA themselves publicly available. This Database therefore makes a major contribution to the promotion of PGRFA.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Swiss National Database for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources

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

>>> In Switzerland, the safeguarding of the quality of the ex-situ collections of PGRFA, i.e. the viability, degree of variation, and the genetic integrity, is an ongoing task. Maintaining and ensuring genetic integrity is a particular challenge for ex situ genebanks. Depending on the conservation strategy, this is monitored, for example, by tracing material exchange between collections and genetic marker analysis.

In order to ensure and maintain viability, the accessions maintained in the National Genebank of Agroscope in Changins (Nyon) are multiplied regularly, depending on the longevity of the germplasm of the species.

The National Genebank is maintaining a herbarium voucher specimen collected from the initial accessions.

The cereal herbarium collection includes samples of intact spikes of each accession. During multiplication of open pollinating species, the recommended distances between two accessions are respected.

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:

>>> The National Genebank PGRFA, provides data to EURISCO, a European Web search catalogue, which receives data from the European National Inventories (NI). It provides information at the accession level of PGR conserved in European genebanks or other collections. EURISCO is maintained on behalf of the Secretariat of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) (standardized multi-crop passport data). The ECPGR is a collaborative programme among most European countries aimed at ensuring long-term conservation and facilitating the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe. With regards to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the answer to this question would be 'No'. The SDC does not directly support Contracting Parties from the South through bilateral or regional channels. However, SDC does support various projects addressing Article 5-related issues in different priority countries or for specific plant varieties through other channels, such as through international organizations, research institutes and non-governmental organizations, with the involvement of Contracting Parties.

Art. 6-related activities addressing the Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources are also supported by SDC in various projects in different countries, as well as the promotion of Technical Assistance (Art. 8) and Capacity Building (Question 30). Some projects with a focus on Art. 6 activities also include Art. 5 activities and vice versa. It is therefore difficult to divide the projects and to allocate the activities to a specific Article in this questionnaire. The main support activities and the most important projects are listed under question 16 (Art. 7).

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

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:

>>> Various measures for the promotion of the sustainable use of PGRFA are supported within the framework of the Ordinance on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Ordonnance sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (ORPGAA)).

In 2015 Switzerland elaborated a national plant breeding strategy for the time horizon 2050. This involved a working group focusing on the sustainable and fair access to PGRFA, as well as their sustainable use in the long term. However, two measures have just been implemented: (i) financial support of about 3 million Swiss Francs annually for project-based plant breeding and variety performance testing activities and (ii) legal basis for a central infrastructure for the implementation of new methodology and material into breeding programmes (Swiss Plant Breeding Center).

Within the Swiss legal framework regarding plant varieties, the commercialization of productive material of most of the varieties for food and agriculture is not allowed unless the variety is listed in a (National) catalogue. Since July 2010, it is possible, however, to get varieties authorized for niche markets if they do not meet the exigencies to be listed in the National Catalogue (Ordonnance sur la production et la mise en circulation du matériel végétal de multiplication (Ordonnance sur le matériel de multiplication)). So far, there have not been as many demands for locally adapted crops and old varieties as was initially expected.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Ordonnance sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture \(ORPGAA\)](#)

[Ordonnance sur la production et la mise en circulation du matériel végétal de multiplication \(Ordonnance sur le matériel de multiplication\)](#)

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:

>>>

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:

>>> Switzerland does not cooperate directly with other Contracting Parties through bilateral or regional channels in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA (see Question 13).

The Swiss support on conservation and the sustainable use of PGRFA takes place through relevant international organizations, such as the Crop Trust and the CGIAR System, including regular funding for the gene bank program, but also IFAD and other IFI's, GEF and GCF which might support specific Treaty-related activities.

In addition, Switzerland supports specific projects in various countries. The most relevant projects that are closely related to Article 6 and 5 are briefly summarized below. Moreover, there are several projects focusing on agricultural value chain development, the promotion of agroecology, healthy nutrition, which also contain activities related to Article 6, but not as main goals or outcomes. These projects are not listed.

The Seed and Knowledge Initiative in Southern part of Africa (Zambia, Zimbabwe) addresses food insecurity and environmental degradation by promoting crop diversification and environment-friendly approaches. It is implemented by a partnership of 15 community-based organizations and their regional partners. The emphasis is to spread agro-ecology and farmer-led seed systems. The project overall goal is farming communities have improved food sovereignty through resilient farmer-led seed systems and more biodiverse and multifunctional landscapes.

The promotion of consumption of resilient orphan crops and the products for healthier diets in Tanzania, Tchad, Niger and India. The agroecological production and sale of neglected and underutilized species offers nutritional and health benefits for consumers, market opportunities for farmers and contribute to the sustainable use of biodiversity.

The vegetable production and marketing project in Mongolia promotes adapted and highly productive varieties of healthy vegetables. Farmer associations in collaboration with national authorities select the most

promising varieties for the specific conditions of the country and then start to multiply seeds in conformity with international standards. The multiplied seeds are then distributed according to market principles. Beside promoting vegetable production, the project makes also awareness building among consumers in order to boost vegetable consumption favouring a more balanced diet.

The BioCultura programme in Bolivia focuses on the economic, social and cultural development of the Andes' indigenous and farming communities, whilst guaranteeing the long-term preservation of local ecosystems. Tens of indigenous and farming communities (representing a tenth of the municipalities in the Bolivian Andes) have, so far, been able to benefit from the project, which is based on four specific priority objectives: Conserving biodiversity; Increasing agricultural production and ensuring the population's food security; Improving local management of natural resources; Promoting traditional knowledge as added value.

In Lao PDR "The Agrobiodiversity Initiative" (TABI) supports the conservation and sustainable economic use of agro-biodiversity (ABD) and promotes better livelihood for uplands farmers. The challenge is how to adapt the use of the country's agro-biodiversity and rice-based farming systems to meet the national development goals— including the reduction of poverty and support to rural livelihoods —to provide an attractive alternative to industrial crops.

In Nepal the Vegetable Seed Project aimed to improve food security and income for the poor and disadvantaged households in remote areas with following objectives: Farm families from poor and disadvantaged groups produce and sell quality seeds and National Seed Board, Nepal Agriculture Research Council and Department of Agriculture enforce decentralized seed production and quality control through public and private institutions.

Contribution to the Pan African Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) with the overall goal to enhance food security, income and health of resource-poor farmers and urban poor in sub-Saharan Africa through research and development of the bean sub-sector.

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?

Please select only one option

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not 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:

>>> The projects listed under Question 16 in this questionnaire contain the provision of technical assistance to a certain extent. Depending of the project and the stakeholders involved, the technical assistance differs from project to project.

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:

>>>

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?

Please select only one option

- ☒ 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 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

19B. If such measures were taken, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

>>> During the legislative procedure in Switzerland, all stakeholders and interested individuals have the opportunity to participate, express their opinion and make suggestions.

According to the federal law on the protection of plant varieties, farmers who have acquired propagating material from a protected agricultural variety put in circulation by the holder or with his or her consent, may, on their holdings, propagate the harvested material they have obtained by growing such material. The farmer's privilege applies to 23 species. Farmers do not exercise this right much, since they prefer to buy certified seed. A parallel provision is contained in the Federal Act on Patents for Inventions, which contains a farmers' privilege with regard to patented plant or animal reproduction material. However, neither the exchange nor the selling of this farm-saved seed / plant propagating material is foreseen in the current legislation.

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:

>>> Switzerland has not encountered any difficulties regarding the inclusion of Annex I PGRFA in the MLS. Difficulties could theoretically arise when material of species listed in Annex I is provided by a country not party to the Treaty. In this case, Switzerland could not share this material under the MLS.

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:

- ☐ 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:

>>> Through the process of the inventory of the PGRFA in Switzerland, the discovered accessions and varieties were included in the National Genebank. Material pursuant to Article 4 of the Ordinance on the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA (PGRELV) entering the National Genebank is made available under the framework of the Multilateral System. In general, this means that all the material maintained in the National Genebank is included in the MLS and can be ordered. By proceeding in this way, Switzerland is also able to feed into the MLS new genetic material, which has previously not been under the management or control of the government. Furthermore, private collections can make their material available to the MLS, should the stakeholders wish to do so.

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:

>>>

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:

>>> PGRFA which entered the National Genebank according to Article 4 of the Ordinance on the conservation and the sustainable use of PGRFA (ORPGAA) are made available through standard material transfer agreements (SMTA). Annex I PGRFA are part of the MLS.

Since 2019 a new Version of the National Information System on PGRFA is on-line. This National Database is available under www.pgrel.admin.ch. This Internet-based search information system provides all available information on the material maintained in the National Gene-Bank on PGRFA. External users can retrieve information about the Genebank material (passport as well as characterization and evaluation). Through this information system, the material is made available under the MLS with a ordering process, using a click-wrap method. This new Database replaced the old Version which was established in 2003.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Swiss National Database](#)

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:

>>> If the parties choose an arbitration body in Switzerland, the Swiss Code of Civil Procedure is applicable. Part 3 of the Code deals with arbitration in particular.

- 272 Swiss Civil Procedure Code (Code de procédure civile (CPC)), 19.12

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Code de procédure civile \(CPC\)](#)

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:

>>> The opening of the arbitration decision of a Swiss arbitration body has the effect of a final and enforceable

judicial decision (Article 387 Code of Civil Procedure).

According to article 194 of the Federal Law on Private International Law, the 1958 New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards shall apply for the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards.

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 1 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:

>>> The activities and projects supported listed under Question 16 contain, to a certain extent, capacity building measures.

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:

>>> The National Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PAN-RPGAA) has been underway since 1999.

Various measures are being taken to conserve the varietal diversity of agriculturally important plants. These measures can be divided into three categories: providing the basis, conservation and sustainable use, and raising awareness. Implementation takes the form of collaborative projects with various organizations, most of which are active at regional or national level. Over 600 projects have already been supported. The list of projects can be found in the RPGAA national information system (RPGAA-SIN). PGREL (admin.ch)

Legal base : Ordonnance sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture : RS 916.181 - Ordonnance du 28 octobre 2015 sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (ORPGAA) (admin.ch)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Ordonnance sur la conservation et l'utilisation durable de ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture \(ORPGAA\)](#)

[Swiss National Database for the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources](#)

Article 15: Ex Situ Collections of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other International Institutions

32. Has facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (IARCs) or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

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:

>>>

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

>>> We have not encountered any particular difficulties. We have not provided facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA, as we have not received any requests.

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:

>>>

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:

>>> We have not encountered any particular difficulties. We have not provided facilitated access to non-Annex I PGRFA, as we have not received any requests.

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:

>>> Switzerland participates in the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) that aims at ensuring the long-term conservation and utilization of PGR in Europe. Stakeholders collaborate to conserve ex situ and in situ PRFA and to provide access and increase sustainable use.

Article 18: Financial Resources

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

>>> National within Switzerland: The financial resources for the implementation of the National Plan of Action on PGRFA are about 4 Mio.CHF per year.

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:

>>>

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::

>>> Financial resources for the implementation of the Treaty were provided by Switzerland to the following organizations: - Crop Trust: approximately 2 Mio USD - CGIAR: approximately 18 Mio USD / year, including 1.5 Mio for managing and sustaining crop collections (gene banks) - European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR): USD 111'347 (2017-2021) The financial contribution to the projects listed under Question 16 (Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?) was approximately CHF 15.0 Mio. per year. In terms of treaty contributions, we have paid approximately USD 735'000 between 2017 and 2021.

36B Channel:

- ☒ Bilateral
☒ Regional
☒ Multilateral

36C. Please provide details:

>>> Multilateral Channel (see answer to question 36A)

- Crop Trust
 - CGIAR
 - ECPGR
 - Contributions to the Treaty
- Bilateral channel and regional
- Projects listed under question 16

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:

>>>

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:

>>> For the reporting on international cooperation and ODA projects the questions are formulated to narrow (i.e. has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties) and to detailed (i.e. questions are raised Article by Article). How to answer these questions, if projects address various issues mentioned in different Articles and these projects don't cooperate directly with other Contracting Parties through bilateral or regional channels?

41B. If you have suggestions for improvement of this reporting format, please share them:

>>> A future reporting format should ask the questions related to international cooperation more with an international cooperation and ODA perspective.