



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



**International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture**

Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda

TENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Rome, Italy, 20–24 November 2023

Submission by the Government of India on Future Work on Farmers' Rights

Note by the Secretary

This document contains the submission by the Government of India following the conclusion of the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights held from 12 to 15 September 2023, in New Delhi, India.

In the communication to the Secretary, the Government of India requested to present "the Delhi Framework on Farmers' Rights" for the consideration of the Contracting Parties and Stakeholders towards the future work on Farmers' Rights. It is being provided to the Governing Body in the form and language in which it was received.

Delhi Framework on Farmers' Rights

Preamble

1. Agro bio-diversity and genetic resources are the foundation for our food security since millennia and the farmers and indigenous communities, especially women, have been the inventors and custodians of the seeds and plants globally.
2. Farmers, across different agro-ecologies and cultural practices, continue to select the best seeds for taste, nutrition, cuisine and medicine, and that survive unfavourable weather, pests and diseases thus contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.
3. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture states that Past, present and future contributions of farmers in all regions of the world, particularly those in centers of origin and diversity, in conserving, improving and making available PGRFA is the basis of Farmers' Rights.
4. The Plant Treaty, as a legally-binding international instrument, explicitly acknowledges the enormous contribution and the rights of farmers and indigenous communities to developing and managing crops and other plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
5. Farmers' Rights are realized as right to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and other propagating material; right to participate in decision-making related to PGRFA; and right to fair and equitable sharing benefits arising from the use of PGRFA as well as the associated traditional knowledge.
6. The past global efforts have been fruitful in enhancing the understanding of Farmers' Rights (International Informal Consultation on Farmers' Rights, Lusaka, Zambia, 2007 and Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2010) and guiding the formal process under the aegis of the Treaty (The Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights, Bali, Indonesia, 2016).
7. Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights has proposed an inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.
8. Despite national and international efforts, the actual measures for the recognition, protection, promotion and realization of Farmers' Rights as stated in Article 9 of the International Treaty and in terms of equitable benefit sharing arising out of use of PGRFA appears to be inadequate.
9. Global Symposium on Farmers Rights hosted by India at New Delhi from 12-15 September 2023 provided a forum to share experiences and to discuss possible future work on Farmers' Rights.

As an outcome of excellent discussions that took place during the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights that included sessions on options for realization of Farmers' Rights, Experiences of Best Practices, Legal Measures, Other International Processes and State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, as well as Special Sessions on South-South Cooperation, Farmers' Forum and Community Gene banks and Value Chain.

Government of India is pleased to present the 10-point **Delhi Framework on Farmers' Rights** for consideration of Contracting Parties and Stakeholders towards the future work on Farmers' Rights.

1. Accelerate efforts to implement multiple options as advocated by the Treaty for realization of farmers' rights; Treaty Secretariat to create a handholding and capacity development mechanism in this regard.
2. Establish an institutional mechanism that is responsible for creation of awareness about the Farmers' Rights, capacity building of custodian farmers and farmers' seed systems, and facilitating equitable benefit sharing; Treaty Secretariat to Coordinate such initiatives.
3. Create functional synergy across different UN instruments (ITPGRFA, CBD, UNDROP, UNDRIP, etc.) to facilitate the realization of farmers' rights.
4. Strengthen the Benefit Sharing Fund for supporting farmers and farmers' seed systems to ensure conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA; and for the realization of farmers' rights through enabling environment by national governments, international organizations and incentivize participation of private sector in supporting conservation activities.
5. Create conducive condition for active participation of different stakeholders and building farmer-centric partnership opportunities including South-South, triangular and regional cooperation to accelerate implementation of Farmers' Rights.
6. Formulate a special package as part of climate change adaptation and mitigation funds to directly support *on-farm* conservation activity and custodian farmers, who are the most affected by extreme climatic events.
7. Establish and support farmer-managed seed system for traditional varieties and create self-sustaining seed production and marketing value chain, to enhance farm income of custodian farmers and strengthening of local food systems.
8. Join hands to systematically document traditional knowledge associated with PGRFA, adhering to prior informed consent and respecting the sensibilities of communities; Treaty Secretariat may facilitate the process under ongoing documentation programmes.
9. Encourage application of new science and technologies aimed at conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, taking necessary precautions to avoid negative impact on farmers' rights and ensuring enhanced benefit-sharing opportunities.
10. Create legal and formal provisions in their existing system that recognize and protect Farmers' Rights as envisaged in the Plant Treaty.