



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture

Dear Colleague/Madame/Sir,

We are pleased to share with you our first bi-monthly update from the Treaty Secretariat, providing you with a quick clickable overview of what's been happening and what's coming up. For each of the items, you can Click on a link for more information.

We hope you find this issue of *Plant Treaty Headlines* informative and useful!

Recent Updates:

- ***Eleventh Session of Governing Body will be held in Lima, Peru***
The Government of Peru announces that the Eleventh Session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty will be held in Lima, co-hosted by Peru and Switzerland... [[Click here for full article and photos](#)]
- ***Strengthening Africa's Seed Systems:***
Global food and seed systems stakeholders meet in Zimbabwe for a Workshop promoting farmer-led solutions, exchanging European & African experiences... [[Click here for full article and photos](#)]
- ***Understanding Farmers' Rights:***
The International Treaty Secretariat in collaboration with CGIAR Initiative on Genebanks and the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT organizes a global webinar focusing of smallholder farmers with over 400 participants from 80 countries... [[Click here for full article](#)]
- ***Development of a Key Set of Characterization & Evaluation Descriptors for Olive:***
This initiative supports the Global Information System of the International Treaty, fostering international collaboration and the exchange of vital data for olive tree conservation and use... [[Click here for more](#)]
- ***Cultivating Collaboration with the Food Processing Industry***
The Treaty organizes a special event focusing on the essential relationship between crop diversity and the food processing industry with speakers from various stakeholder groups... [[Click here for full article](#)]
- ***Tenth Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization (SFC-10):***
The Standing Committee on the International Treaty Funding Strategy meet in Rome to discuss issues relating to the strategy's Operational Plan for 2020-2027... [[Click here for full article](#)]
- ***Uruguay Capacity-building Workshop on Accessing International Data & PGRFA:***
A national workshop is held in Uruguay for using tools, international databases and mechanisms to access to plant genetic germplasm... [[Click here for full article](#)]

- **Ukraine Adopts Strategy to Save Crop Diversity:**
Ukraine adopts its first comprehensive strategy to safeguard its plant genetic resources for food and agriculture with the support of international partners, including the International Treaty...[\[Click here for full article\]](#)
- **Strengthening Central Asia's Commitment to Plant Genetic Diversity**
The International Treaty Secretariat supports a Symposium held by the Uzbekistan Research Institute of Plant Genetic Resources on its 100th anniversary on the Role of Plant Genetic Resources in Global Climate Change and Food Security, and extends support to countries in the region to join the International Treaty... [\[Click here for full article and photos\]](#)
- **International Treaty at COP16 of Convention on Biological Diversity:**
The Secretariat of the International Treaty actively participates at the Convention on Biological Diversity's COP16 in Cali, Colombia... [\[Click here for full article and photos\]](#)
- **Colombia Ratifies the International Treaty**
The Republic of Colombia deposits its instrument of ratification to become 153rd Contracting Party to the International Treaty... [\[Click here for full article\]](#)
- **Survey on Key Set of Characterization & Evaluation Descriptors for Peas:**
The Treaty Secretariat invites global experts to review the first draft of global descriptors for *Pisum sativum* L.... [\[Click here for full article\]](#)
- **Memorandum of Understanding with International Organization of Vine and Wine:**
The International Treaty signs a historic MoU with the International Organization of Vine and Wine to promote collaboration on conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources relating to grapes... [\[Click here for full article and photos\]](#)
- **International Treaty Highlights Opportunity Crops:**
The International Treaty engages with youth and other participants at the 2024 World Food Forum through two Side Events at the Forum's Flagship Event... [\[Click here for full article and photos\]](#)
- **Ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee on Conservation and Sustainable Use (ACSU-9):**
Participants of the Ad Hoc Technical Committee discuss the ongoing Conservation & Sustainable Use of PGRFA under the International Treaty... [\[Click here for full article\]](#)
- **Twelfth Intergovernmental Working Group on PGRFA**
The International Treaty Secretariat reports to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture on implementation under Item 7 of the 12th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture... [\[Click here for full article\]](#)

Upcoming Events:

- **24 -28 February 2025: Svalbard Global Seed Vault Deposit**
The Global Seed Vault will open its doors to receive shipments of seeds from genebank from around the world, including from projects supported by the International Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund...[\[Click here for more\]](#)
- **24 – 28 March 2025: Twentieth Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**
The Twentieth Regular Session of the Commission will meet at FAO Headquarters to review developments and discuss policies for the sustainable use and conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use...[\[Click here for more\]](#)
- **Spring 2025: Thirteenth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System**
Continuation of important discussions on enhancement of the functioning of the Treaty's MLS will take place in Spring 2025... [\[Click here for more\]](#)

Did You Know?

The International Treaty gained two new members in 2024, totaling **153 Contracting Parties!**

- **Colombia**
Treaty Membership Grows to 153 [\[Click here\]](#)
- **Bahrain**
Kingdom of Bahrain Joins the International Treaty [\[Click here\]](#)

Stay Connected:

Follow us on social media to never miss an update:



Countdown to the Governing Body 11:

***307 days* until the Eleventh Session of our Governing Body convenes from 24-29 November 2025!**

Thank you for being part of the International Treaty community and for staying connected!

For more information, please visit our [website](#) or feel free to reach out to us directly at pgrfa-treaty@fao.org.

Best regards,
Secretariat of the International Treaty