



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



WOCAT



Opportunities for the promotion of Farmer Managed Seed Systems using International Treaty on PGRFA provisions

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Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for
Food and Agriculture



E-LEARNING SERIES

Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on
DRYLAND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was adopted by the Thirty-First Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 3 November 2001.

The Treaty aims at:

- recognizing the enormous contribution of farmers to the diversity of crops that feed the world;
- establishing a global system to provide farmers, plant breeders and scientists with access to plant genetic materials;
- ensuring that recipients share benefits they derive from the use of these genetic materials with the countries where they have been originated.

Main Provisions:

- Farmers' rights
- Conservation and Sustainable use of PGRFA
- Multilateral system
- Access and benefit sharing



Supportive provisions Articles 5 and 6

Preamble

Addressing the importance of FR and the importance of promoting it at national and international levels

► Article 5: Conservation

Providing for Contracting Parties to promote/ support farmers' and local communities' efforts to manage and conserve their crop genetic resources on-farm

► Article 6: Sustainable use

Providing for Contracting Parties to enhance sustainable use by promoting participatory plant breeding, use of local varieties, on-farm diversity; and to review and adjust regulations on variety release and seed distribution



Conservation and Sustainable Use

Promoting

Promoting use and conservation of all crops

Encouraging

Encouraging conservation, use and preservation of local/traditional crops

Managing

Management & conservation of biologically diverse production systems

Broadening

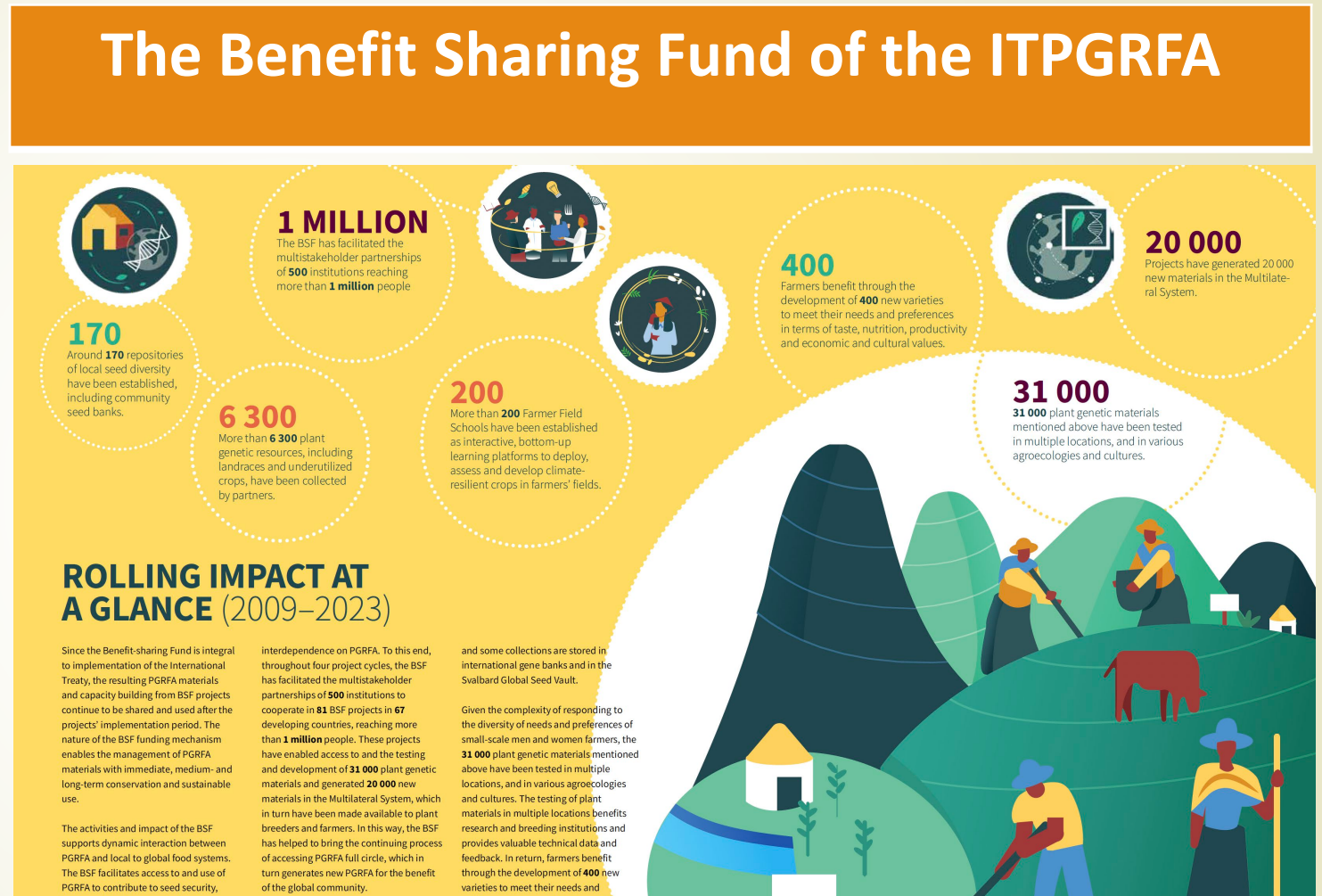
Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers

Strengthening

Strengthening research to enhance, conserve and use biological diversity



➤ Through five cycles since 2009, the Benefit-sharing Fund worked with more than **500 institutions** in **108 projects** in **78 developing countries**, benefitting more than **one million people** with better access to improved seeds and plant genetic diversity.



Background Study 2022

“Bottlenecks and challenges for conservation and sustainable use”

1. Legal, policy and institutional issues

2. Technical and scientific issues

3. Seed distribution and marketing of
landraces and farmers' crop varieties

4. Resource constraints



Article 9 Farmers' Rights

Protection of traditional knowledge

relevant to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
(**Art. 9.2a**).

Equitable participation in sharing benefits

arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food
and agriculture (**Art. 9.2b**).

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 (**Art. 9.1**).

Participation in making decisions,

at the national level, on matters related to the conservation
and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and
agriculture (**Art. 9.2c**).

Rights that farmers have

**to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved
seed/propagating material,**

subject to national law and as appropriate (**Art. 9.3**).



The importance of realizing Farmers' Rights



Promote **on-farm** and **in-situ conservation** of PGRFA



A significant amount of **local crop diversity** can only be maintained in farmer's fields



On-farm management facilitates the **continuous local adaptation** of farmers' varieties over time



PGRFA managed sustainably on-farm serve as a **live repository/ reservoir** and **natural backup** for *ex situ* collections worldwide



Promoting and **sustaining the role of farmers as custodians** of biodiversity



Promoting **food sovereignty**, culture and **cultural diversity**



The importance of realizing Farmers' Rights

Inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights

- A catalogue of measures and practices implemented or in the process of implementation

Types of measures:

- Technical measures
- Administrative measures
- Legal measures
- Other measures



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International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture

Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty



The Options for Farmers' Rights

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the Options is to encourage, guide and promote the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.

NATURE AND SCOPE

The word 'options' means the act or opportunity of choosing, or a thing that can be or is chosen. It implies that there is a discretion or right to choose, and that several alternatives exist from which a choice can be made. This non-prescriptive and discretionary character of the Options distinguishes them from guidelines that are intended to advise on how something should be done.

AHTEG-FR

- Draft assessment of the state of implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty;
- Consider the draft strategy on how the use of the “Options for encouraging, guiding and promoting the implementation of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty” can be promoted;
- provide guidance on possible future activities for the implementation of Farmers’ Rights; and



The importance of realizing Farmers' Rights



The theme of the Second Global Symposium, "*Farmers' Rights: Honouring Heritage, Preserving Biodiversity and Cultivating Food Security for a Shared Future*", highlighted the essential role of smallholder farmers, and local and indigenous communities in managing the plants that feed the world.

Communication and self-learning materials on Farmers' Rights

► Key Highlights

- Development of a Farmers' Rights brochure
 - Farmers' Rights and Conservation and Sustainable Use educational modules
 - Farmers' Rights Options Paper designed for print publication and are available in three languages, and the online version is in the development stage
 - self-learning materials to support outreach and use of the Inventory and Options.
- In addition, the ITPGRFA also produced:
- Conservation and Sustainable Use booklet
 - BSF brochure
 - BSF report 22-23





Thank you for your attention !