



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



The International Treaty  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# ITPGRFA

## overview and opportunities for collaboration



COMDEKS Global Knowledge Exchange Workshop  
23-26 January 2017 / San Jose, Costa Rica

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# What is the Treaty?

- The first legally binding international agreement aimed at the:
  - the **conservation and sustainable use** of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and;
  - the fair and **equitable sharing of the benefits arising** out of their use for sustainable agriculture and food security
  - **Recognition of Farmers' Rights**
- In harmony with the **Convention on Biological Diversity** and the **Nagoya Protocol** for sustainable agriculture for food security







# What the Treaty Does?

- Exchange of scientific information through a Global Information System;
- Access to and transfer of technology;
- Capacity development, training programmes, facilities enhancement and scientific research; and
- Sharing of monetary benefits arising from the use of materials accessed from the Multilateral System.

# Key areas of work and opportunities for collaboration

## Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF)



- Support projects and actions responding to **food insecurity, dynamic conservation of PGRFA**, and adaptation to **climate change** to build resilient livelihoods
- Since 2009, 61 projects in 55 countries (1,000,000 farmers have received technical support and training)
- **Priorities of the Benefit-sharing Fund:**
  - sustainable use
  - on farm management and conservation
  - Knowledge management, technology transfer and capacity building



# Key areas of work and opportunities for collaboration

## Sustainable Use



**Contracting parties shall develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA.**

- Promoting and supporting farmers' and local communities efforts to manage and conserve on-farm their Plant Genetic Resources
- Promoting in situ conservation of wild crop relatives, underutilised crops and their knowledge system including in protected areas
- Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers and their communities
- Strengthening research, technology transfer which enhances and conserves biological diversity



## Key areas of work and opportunities for collaboration

# Farmers' Rights

The only legally binding international agreement which recognizes the enormous and continuous contribution of farmers and indigenous communities in the conservation and development of PGRFA

- The protection of traditional knowledge
- The right to equitably participate in sharing benefits and in national decision-making related to PGRFA
- The right farmers have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and propagating material, subject to national law





**Working with governments, partnering with stakeholders; Empowering farmers, local communities...**  
**Strengthening the resilience of agricultural production landscapes to climate change through enhancing access to and use of crop genetic diversity**



**“Our indigenous agriculture is part of our culture and identity. Unfortunately we are losing our rich tradition. Most of our traditional crops, are vanishing. Thanks to the International Treaty for reviving our own identity and for reminding us the value of our crop genetic resources”**

***Ms P. R. Sarrasamma* – leader of a women self-help group and beneficiary of the project in India**





# Synergies

- **Building capacities of farmers and local communities in sustainable management of production landscapes (with PGRFA/landscapes approach mainstreamed at national/local level plans and programmes;**
- **Building capacities on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing;**
- **Increasing compliance/integration of government obligations (CBD, Nagoya Protocol, SDG, etc) into local and national planning processes through enabling activities;**
- **Lessons learned and knowledge sharing (south-south cooperation, north-south cooperation, seed fairs, etc) that could be helpful in shaping policies;**
- **Recognition of Farmers' Rights and translating it into practical activities/actions on the ground**
- **Strengthening partnerships and collaborations**





# An Invitation

**The next Call of the BSF is focused on the following themes:**

- **Food security & Climate Change:** immediate action to help farmers achieve food security and climate change adaptation
- **Co-development & technology-transfer:** enhanced cooperation between agricultural research institutions in the co-development and transfer of technologies
- **Capacity Building:** strengthened programs for scientific and technical education and training in the developing world.



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# Thank you

For more information: [www.fao.org/plant-treaty](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty)

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