Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The International Treaty ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Treaty Benefit-sharing Fund

Call for funding

Make food security and crop diversity a reality for all

Cover: Georgina Smith / CIAT
FAO / Daniel Hayd

The Treaty

FAO's International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, is a crucial international agreement committed to eradicating poverty, ensuring food security and helping the world adapt to the effects of climate change. It is now a fully operational global system and is supported by 140 Contracting Parties.

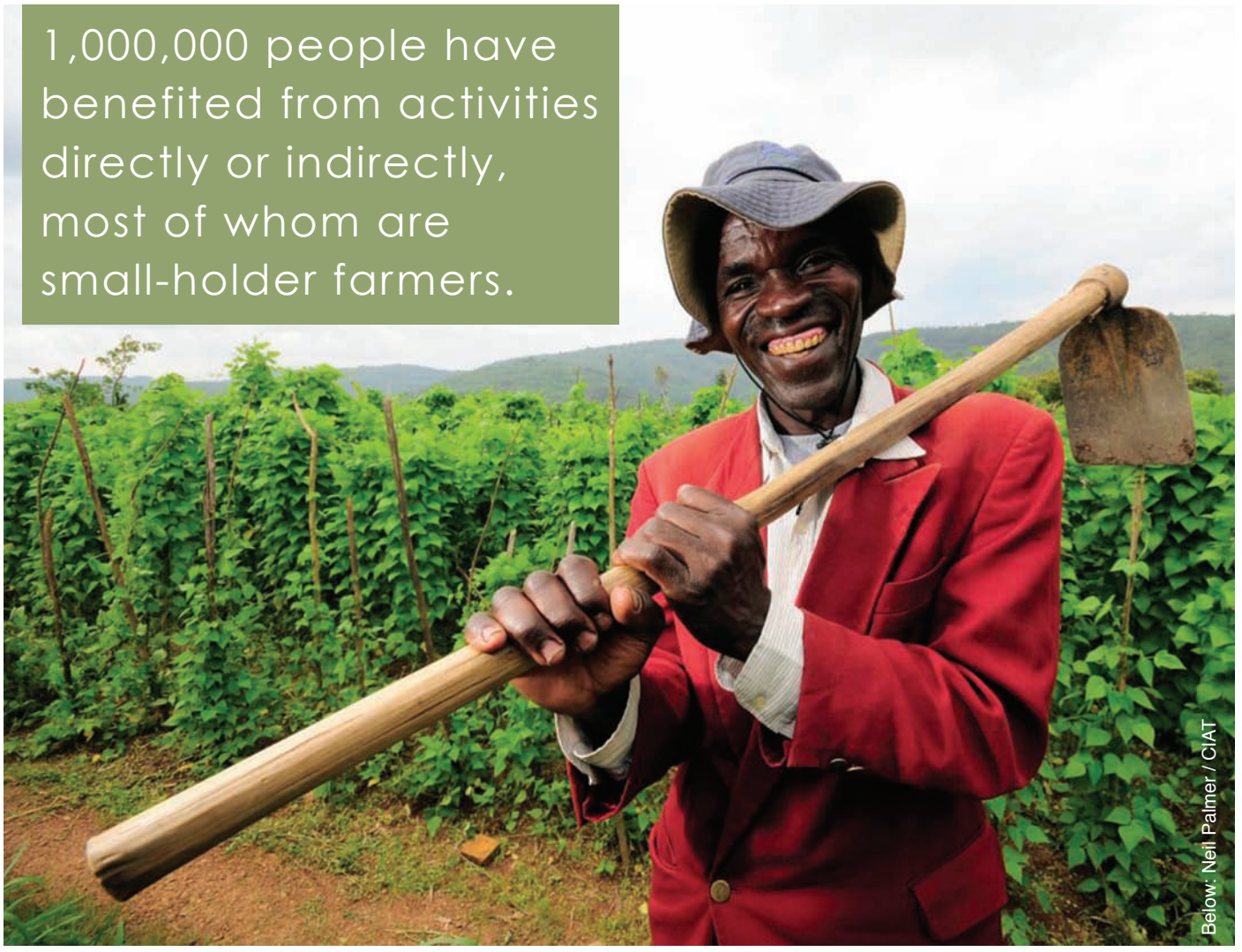
Benefit-sharing Fund

The Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund is a unique mechanism which finances high impact projects supporting farmers in developing countries, addressing food security, adaptation to climate change and agricultural biodiversity.

It gives the international community an opportunity to advance implementation of the Treaty's objectives, progress the SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and transform the lives of small-holder farmers in developing countries.

Call for $10 million funding

The Treaty is calling for $10 million to launch the next crucial project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, which will make a major contribution towards SDG Target 2.5. Read more in this brochure about the Benefit-sharing Fund and how to join the effort for making food security and crop diversity a reality for all.



Treaty Benefit-sharing Fund

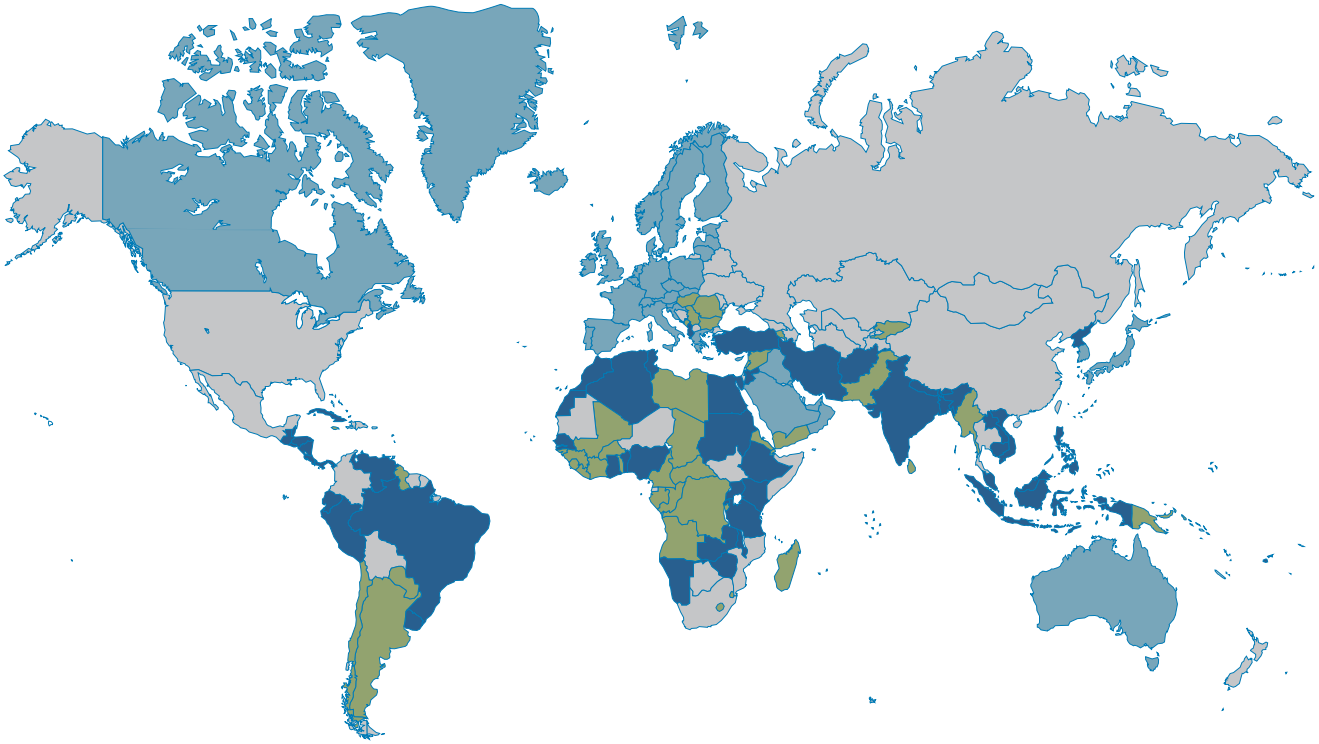
FAO / S. Cespoli

Results for people and the planet

- 1,000,000 people across 45 developing countries have benefited from activities directly or indirectly, most of whom are small-holder farmers.
- 22,000 people in the developing world have been trained in the conservation, management and use of plant genetic diversity.
- 3,000 important food crop varieties have been characterized to help identify valuable traits, particularly those resilient to climate change.
- 3,000 accessions of food crops have been made available to the international scientific community through the Treaty's Multilateral System.
- 200 partners engaged globally including governments, research institutions, NGOs and grassroots organizations.

International reach: supporting projects in over 45 countries

Benefit-sharing Fund map (September 2016)



Countries where projects have been delivered

Countries eligible to apply for funding that have not applied or did not yet receive funding

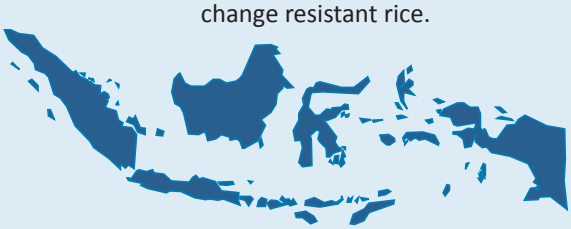
Countries not eligible to apply for funding

Projects in Malawi:
Projects have supported local communities in semi-arid zones on seed production and on-farm management of local food crop varieties more resilient to climate change.

Projects in India:
Projects have supported the establishing of 14 village level enterprises which are now contributing to increased income, particularly for local women.

Projects in Peru:
Current projects are supporting the development and exchange of biodiverse potato varieties in Peru, Nepal and Bhutan.

Projects in Indonesia:
Current projects are supporting the development of biomarker tools for improved yield and climate change resistant rice.



A Global Imperative

"We expect Heads of State and Government to not only endorse the new Agenda but to affirm their strong political commitment to its timely implementation"

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

The international community recently endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement, establishing the ambitious vision and commitments necessary to secure the future of the world's food, in the face of a crisis.

The SDGs recognise the critical need to conserve, exchange and invest in plant genetic resources, providing an enormous opportunity for the international community to work together to achieve global food security and adapt to the pace of environmental change.

In the last century alone, vast quantities of the world's crop diversity disappeared forever. The unique attributes that cultivated plants have acquired over millennia – their ability to survive hot summers or cold winters, to thrive in dry conditions or in areas prone to flood, to withstand pests and disease – have been irrevocably lost, placing the future of global food security at grave risk.

With a rapidly increasing population, devastating losses to crop biodiversity and changing weather patterns, the world needs to act now to ensure food crops and farming systems are resilient and sustainable.

Sustainable Development Goals

Transforming policy into action

SDG Target 2.5: By **2020** maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed.

As well as contributing to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund will make a major contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, particularly **SDG Target 2.5**. It will deliver impact that helps farmers adapt to climate change and ensure food security through the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Results will be shared regularly with donors and can be easily aggregated to accommodate streamlined reporting on progress towards the SDGs.

Food Security & Climate Change

Staying ahead of the climate change curve

The Benefit-sharing Fund finances high impact projects to help farmers achieve food security and adapt to climate change.

Activities include supporting the development, testing and use of climate ready crop varieties to reduce the threat to food security that is anticipated with climate change.

Projects also enable the conservation and exchange of plant genetic resources – an activity critical to achieving global food security.

Crop diversity is expected to play a significant role both in mitigating the adverse effects of, and adapting to, climate change.

Benefit-sharing Fund projects have helped identify and disseminate drought tolerant rice in India, flood resistant rice in Indonesia and drought tolerant sorghum in Tanzania.

Roy Kaltschmidt

Technology Co-development and Transfer

FAO / S. Cespoli

Jon Spaull / FAO

Thirty agricultural technologies are currently under development and will be transferred to 80 research institutions in developing countries through Benefit-sharing Fund projects.

Australian Plant Phenomics Facility

Neil Palmer / CIAT

Building tools and bridging gaps

The Benefit-sharing Fund supports the use of emerging technologies and information tools to transform the livelihoods of farming families, and contribute to more resilient food production systems.

Activities focus on enhancing information exchange and making appropriate technology available to enable developing country researchers to discover and breed crop traits important for food security and climate adaptation. This helps to bridge the gap between advanced research and the needs of resource-poor farmers.

Projects leverage and contribute to existing global mechanisms such as the Treaty's Multilateral System, an innovative system for the access and benefit sharing of plant genetic material which has enabled the exchange of over 3 million accessions.

Over 22,000 researchers and local partners have been trained through the Treaty's Benefit-sharing Fund projects.

Daniel Hayduk / FAO

Capacity Development

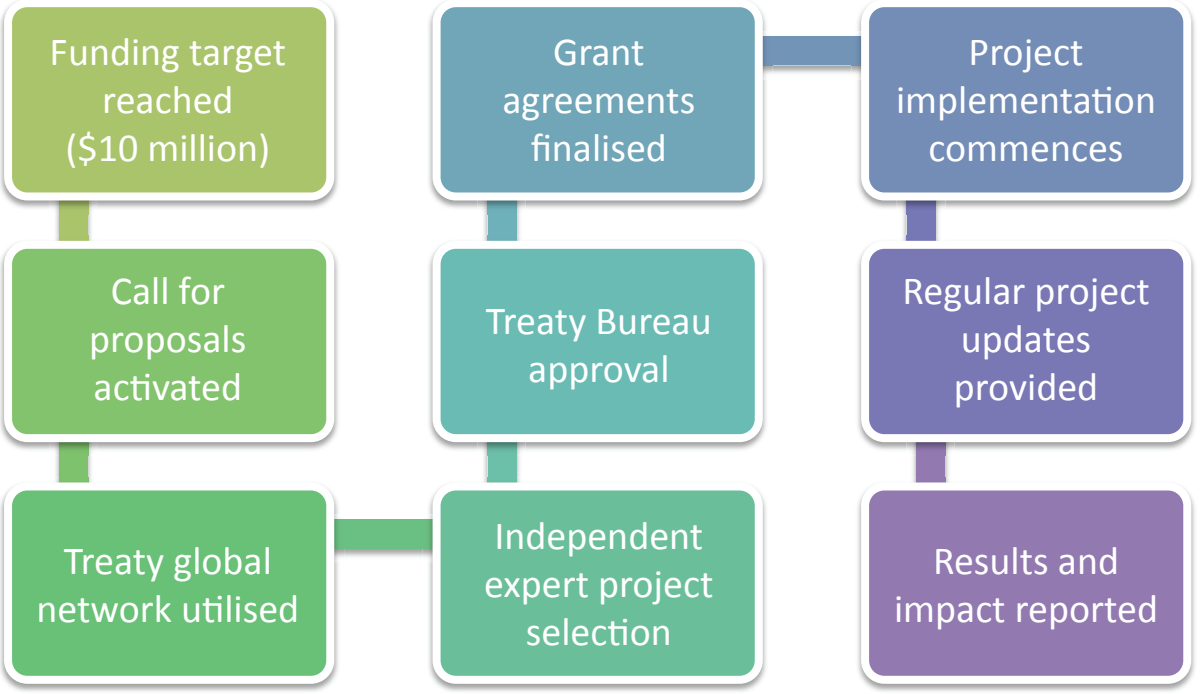
Training a new generation of experts

Benefit-sharing Fund projects support the training of a new generation of scientists and technical experts on plant genetic resources in the developing world. Activities increase capacity and expertise in the areas of germplasm collection, conservation, data management, plant breeding and in the use of new technologies.

For maximum impact, project activities link to existing Treaty initiatives and support the development of networks of Centres of Excellence around the globe.

Benefit-sharing Fund

Grant-making process



The Treaty is committed to a rigorous, objective and efficient grant-making process to ensure projects will deliver practical and measurable results for people and communities in the developing world.

Georgina Smith / CIAT

Call for $10 million funding

Ensuring food security for future generations

Overarching goal: Contribute to SDG Target 2.5
Focus area 1: Food security & climate change
Focus area 2: Co-development & technology transfer
Focus area 3: Capacity Development

The Treaty is calling for $10 million to launch its next crucial project cycle with project selection and implementation commencing in 2017.

Projects will encourage innovative partnerships between research centres, farmers, civil society, and public and private sector leaders all over the world.

Project activities will make a significant contribution to SDG Target 2.5 through high-impact actions focused on food security and climate change, the co-development and transfer of technologies and capacity development.

The Benefit-sharing Fund operates at the highest standard and ensures projects supported have the greatest potential to safeguard crop diversity and deliver food security.

External oversight:
An executive committee (Bureau) of leaders from seven nations, provides oversight, with input and advice from a panel of global experts.

Independent project selection:
The process of project screening and appraisal is undertaken by an independent panel of experts representing each of the seven FAO regions.

Complementarity:
Projects are designed to ensure they complement existing initiatives, bodies and programs in the field of plant genetic resources to enhance synergies and avoid overlap.

Sound management and transparency:
Rigorous systems are in place to ensure the highest level of transparency in governance, mobilising and management of resources for the Fund, and awarding grants.

Monitoring and evaluation:
The project portfolio is monitored and evaluated following rigorous processes to guarantee successful implementation and local ownership of results.

Contribution to the SDGs:
Funding is clearly demonstrable as a contribution to progressing the SDGs and to supporting the conservation and use of plant genetic resources, especially by farmers in developing countries.

Multilateral approach:
Genetic diversity and information resulting from projects funded is made available to other countries and stakeholders to use in solving their own agricultural challenges, through the Multilateral System of the Treaty.

Impact:
Projects are selected that will deliver practical and measurable results for people and communities in the developing world and that can be scaled up across different agro-ecological zones around the world.

Call for funding: FAQs

➢ What will contributions be focused on?

- **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.

➢ What is the expected impact of contributions?

Projects are expected to make a major contribution to the achievement of SDG Target 2.5 through implementing high impact actions that help farmers ensure food security through the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

➢ When will results be seen?

It is anticipated that project activities will commence in 2017. Results are expected from 2017.

Neil Palmer / CIAT

Neil Palmer / CIAT

➢ **Can contributions go towards a particular region or crop focus?**
Yes. Since late 2015, for the very first time, it is possible to assign contributions to a particular region or crop priority focus*.

➢ **What is the expected contribution of each donor?**
$10m is needed to launch the next project cycle. Multi-year financing tiers have been calculated to guide Contracting Parties on individual contribution levels. Contact the Treaty Secretariat today for more information.

➢ **What are the steps required to make a contribution?**
The Treaty Secretariat has dedicated staff available to support donors with their contributions. Speak to someone today for more information about your contribution. Email: pgrfa-treaty@fao.org Telephone: +39 06 570 55430.

➢ **How is this contribution unique from those to other agro-biodiversity programs?**
This Fund has a special focus on in-situ (on-farm) use and conservation. Contributions support activities that ensure that local crop varieties of importance to global food security are preserved, reintroduced, developed and maintained in farmers' fields, so that they remain available to farming communities.

* upon approval by the Treaty's Bureau

Treaty Secretariat

E-mail:
pgrfa-treaty@fao.org

Phone:
+39 06 570 55430

Website:
www.fao.org/plant-treaty

Address:
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 1
00153 Rome, Italy