



**Statement by  
David Cooper  
Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for  
Food and Agriculture  
29 June 2024**

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It is with heartfelt congratulations that I wish the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture a happy 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Treaty entered into force in 2004, knowing that the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture were key to ensuring that the world could produce enough food to feed growing populations.

And while the world has changed significantly over the last 20 years, that truth has not.

If anything, the Treaty and its objectives have become increasingly relevant and the need for urgent conservation and sustainable use of all plant genetic resources, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, has skyrocketed.

The seeds you have planted over these last twenty years are invaluable.

They have spread; they have grown; they have put down roots.

But they are not done.

With a solid foundation built, it is time to continue to grow and thrive.

Successful implementation of the Treaty will support The Biodiversity Plan

And so, as we celebrate the past twenty years, let us also look forward to the next twenty years with the vision of a world living in harmony with nature.