



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Second Reporting Cycle
Report on the implementation of the International
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and
Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

SAUDI ARABIA

(May 2021)

STANDARD REPORTING FORMAT
COUNTRY REPORT ON COMPLIANCE – ITPGRFA

Name and contact details of the reporting officer:

Institution: Seeds and Seedlings Centre

Country: Saudi Arabia

Date of submission: 05/2021

Article 4: General Obligations

1. Are there any laws, regulations procedures or policies in place in your country that implement the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

- Cabinet Resolution No. 555 was issued on 10/26/1439 AH approving the system for dealing with plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- The issuance of the executive regulations for the system of dealing with plant genetic resources for food and agriculture according to Ministerial Resolution No. (783111/1340/1440) dated 10/27/1440 AH.

2. Are there any other laws, regulations, procedures or policies in place in your country that apply to plant genetic resources?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

A national committee for the management of plant genetic resources has been set up to set controls related to plant genetic resources and monitor their implementation. It is the reference in relation to the supervision of plant genetic resources. The committee also has a general secretariat for the management of plant genetic resources, and it undertakes many tasks, including monitoring plant genetic resources, And exploration, conservation and optimal use of them, regulation of access to and circulation of plant genetic resources, benefits sharing, and encouragement of farmers' efforts to manage and maintain their plant genetic resources.

3. Is there any law, regulation, procedure or policy in place in your country that needs to be adjusted / harmonized¹ to ensure conformity with the obligations as provided in the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such adjustments and any plans to make those adjustments:

The kingdom has two laws: A law in benefit sharing according to the Nagoya Protocol and the second law in a benefit sharing according to ITPGRFA, now both of the two laws are under the cover of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, and we are in the process of implementing a law that includes both treaties.

¹ For the purpose of this report, a Contracting Party may choose whichever term (adjusted or harmonized) is appropriate in relation to their legal systems

Article 5: Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterisation, Evaluation and Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

4. Has an integrated approach to the exploration, conservation and sustainable use of plantgenetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

5. Have PGRFA been surveyed and inventoried in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of your findings, specifying species, sub-species and/or varieties, including those that are of potential use:

Triticum vulgare, T.durum, Hordeum vulgare, Vicia fabe, Sorghum biocholor, millet, Alfa alfa, lentils, okra

If your answer is 'no', please indicate:

Any difficulties encountered in surveying or inventorying PGRFA;

Any action plans to survey and inventory PGRFA;

The most important PGRFA that should be surveyed and inventoried:

6. Has any threat to PGRFA in your country been identified?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

The species, subspecies and/or varieties subject to such threats;

The sources (causes) of these threats;

Any steps taken to minimise or eliminate these threats;

Any difficulties encountered in implementing such steps:

Triticum Spp. Landraces and farmer's varieties as they are susceptible to broomrape parasitic weed (Orobanche crenata), The field crops research institute have registered a tolerant new variety which has been registered and released commercially. There is a breeding program to develop such varieties and screening the available genatic resources against chocolate spot virus addition to Orobanche tolerance and resistance.

7. Has the collection of PGRFA and relevant associated information on those plant genetic resources that are under threat or are of potential use been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

Seed and Seedling Center is starting to implement a national program to produce new commercial varieties of wheat landraces that adaptive to the kingdom conditions

8. Have farmers and local communities' efforts to manage and conserve PGRFA on-farm been promoted or supported in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

Seed and Seedling Center is supporting the farmers in implementing a plan to survey all Seedling around the kingdom to protect and conserve all local genetic resources also, seed and seedling center implement different collection trips to conserve local varieties

9. Has in situ conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether any measures have been taken to:

Promote in situ conservation in protected areas;

Support the efforts of indigenous and local communities.

If such measures have been taken, please provide details of the measures taken:

10. Are there any ex situ collections of PGRFA in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide information on the holder and content of such collections:

Plant Genetic Resources Bank was established in 1434AH and holds around 1300 accessions of different species of PGRFA.

11. Has the development of an efficient and sustainable system of ex situ conservation of PGRFA been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the measures taken to promote ex situ conservation, in particular any measures to promote the development and transfer of technologies for this purpose:

The Seed and Seedling Center and Plant Genetic Resources Bank is mandated to survey, collect, characterize, evaluate, generate, and store PGRFA. Also preparing a national database to conclude all informations of PGRFA.

12. Has the maintenance of the viability, degree of variation, and the genetic integrity of ex situ collections of PGRFA been monitored in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the main conclusions of these monitoring activities:

As we mentioned previously the Seed and Seedling Center is starting to implement a national program to produce a new commercial variety from wheat landraces by evaluating 100 genotypes, in the same time we have cooperating with different research institutes and universities to make cytological analysis and chemical analysis for all genotypes.

13. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation or documentation of PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the other Contracting Parties with whom the cooperation was undertaken (where additional to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms) and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

Article 6: Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

14. Are there any policy and legal measures² in place in your country that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA?

- Yes
- No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such policy and legal measures include:

Pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources;

Strengthening research that enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers;

Promoting plant breeding efforts, with the participation of farmers, that strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;

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

Promoting the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilised species;

Supporting the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to plant breeding and agricultural development;

Reviewing and adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution.

If such policy and legal measures are in place, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

² For the purpose of this report, legal measures may include regulations.

Article 7: National Commitments and International Cooperation

15. Has the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, documentation and sustainable use of PGRFA been integrated into your country's programmes and policies?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the integration of such activities:

Conservation

Exploration

Collection

Characterization

Evaluation

Documentation

Sustainable use

Please indicate into which type of programmes and policies:

Agriculture and rural development

Food security

Biodiversity conservation

Climate change

Other

Additional details:

16. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the aim of such cooperation is to:

√ Strengthen the capability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with respect to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

√ Enhance international activities to promote conservation, evaluation, documentation, genetic enhancement, plant breeding, seed multiplication, and sharing, providing access to and exchanging PGRFA and appropriate information and technology, in conformity with the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing under the Treaty.

If, in addition to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms, your country has cooperated with other Contracting Parties directly or through FAO and other relevant international organizations, please indicate such other Contracting Parties and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

Article 8: Technical Assistance

17. Has your country promoted the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

Exchange of information

Access to and transfer of technology

Capacity building

Please explain:

18. Has your country received technical assistance with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such technical assistance:

- Exchange of information
- Access to and transfer of technology
- Capacity building

Please explain:

Article 9: Farmers' Rights

19. Subject to national law, as appropriate, have any measures been taken to protect and promote farmers rights in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

- 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;
- The protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA;
- The right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilisation of PGRFA;
- The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- Any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange, and sell farm-saved seed / propagating material.

If such measures were taken, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

Article 11: Coverage of the Multilateral System

20. Has your country notified all PGRFA listed in Annex I to the Treaty that are under the management and control of your Government and in the public domain as included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS)?

All

Partially

None

If your answer is 'all', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

If your answer is 'partially', please provide details of:

The extent to which Annex I PGRFA have been included in the MLS;

The crops that have been included in the MLS; and

The difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

If your answer is 'none', please indicate the difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

Lack of guidelines for the identification and inclusion of material;

There is no national genebank;

Lack of catalogue of PGRFA in the country

Lack of specialised human resources;

Limited economic resources and the need for capacity building;

Other, please explain

21. Has your country taken measures to encourage natural and legal persons within your jurisdiction who hold Annex I PGRFA to include those resources in the MLS?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of:

- The natural or legal persons within your jurisdiction that included Annex I PGRFA in the MLS;
- The crops that have been included in the MLS by these persons; and

- Any difficulties these persons encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

If your answer is 'no' please provide details, in particular details of any difficulties encountered in encouraging these persons to include Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

The need to pass the law to implement the provision of the treaty through the Prime minister

Article 12: Facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Multilateral System

22. Has your country taken measures to provide facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 12.4 of the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such measures:

Access is provided based on the signing of the SMTA.

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA:

23. Has facilitated access been provided in your country to Annex I PGRFA using the StandardMaterial Transfer Agreement (SMTA)?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA using the SMTA:

24. Has the SMTA been used voluntarily in your country to provide access to non-Annex IPGRFA?

Yes
No

No, but the issue is under consideration

25. Does the legal system of your country provide an opportunity for parties to the materialtransfer agreements (MTAs) to seek recourse in case of contractual disputes arising under such agreements?

Yes
No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

A national committee for the management of plant genetic resources has been set up to set controls related to plant genetic resources and monitor their implementation. It is the reference in relation to the supervision of plant genetic resources. The committee also has a general secretariat for the management of plant genetic resources, and it undertakes many tasks, including monitoring plant genetic resources, And exploration, conservation and optimal use of them, regulation of access to and circulation of plant genetic resources, benefits sharing, and encouragement of farmers' efforts to manage and maintain their plant genetic resources.

26. Does the legal system of your country provide for the enforcement of arbitral decisions relatedto disputes arising under the SMTA?

Yes
No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

A national committee for the management of plant genetic resources has been set up to set controls related to plant genetic resources and monitor their implementation. It is the reference in relation to the supervision of plant genetic resources. The committee also has a general secretariat for the management of plant genetic resources, and it undertakes many tasks, including monitoring plant genetic resources, And exploration, conservation and optimal use of them, regulation of access to and circulation of plant genetic resources, benefits sharing, and encouragement of farmers' efforts to manage and maintain their plant genetic resources.

27. Have there been any emergency disaster situations in respect of which your country has provided facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA for the purpose of contributing to the re-establishmentof agricultural systems?

Yes
No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such emergency disaster situations and the Annex I PGRFA to which access was provided:

Article 13: Benefit-sharing in the Multilateral System

28. Has your country made any information available regarding Annex I PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of any information made available regarding Annex I PGRFA:

Catalogues and inventories

Information on technologies

Results of scientific and socio-economic research, including characterisation, evaluation and utilisation

Other

29. Has your country provided or facilitated access to technologies for the conservation, characterisation, evaluation and use of Annex I PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether your country:

Has established or participated in crop-based thematic groups on utilisation of PGRFA;

Is aware of any partnerships in your country in research and development and in commercial joint ventures relating to the material received through the MLS, human resource development and effective access to research facilities.

Please provide details:

30. Has your country provided for and/or benefitted from capacity building measures in respect of Annex I PGRFA?³

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

Establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

Developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

³ Please note that this question differs from question 15 as it only concerns Annex I PGRFA and is more specific

√ Carrying out scientific research and developing capacity for such research.

If your country provided for and/or benefitted from such measures, please provide details:

Article 14: Global Plan of Action

31. Has your country promoted the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the implementation of the plan was done through:

√ National actions;

International cooperation;

Other actions

Please provide details:

Article 15: Ex Situ Collections of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other International Institutions

32. Has facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (IARCs) or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

To which IARCs or other international institutions facilitated access was provided;

The number of SMTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

ICARDA 35 accession , CIMMYT 21 accession

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

33. Has access to non-Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to IARCs or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

- Yes
- No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

To which IARCs or other international institutions access was provided;

The number of MTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing access to non-Annex I PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

Article 16: International Plant Genetic Resources Networks

34. Has your country undertaken any activities to encourage government, private, non-governmental, research, breeding and other institutions to participate in the international plant geneticresources networks?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such activities:

Article 18: Financial Resources

35. Has your country provided financial resources for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide the estimated amount of funds provided during the last five years, including government resources:

30 million SAR

Please indicate if your country has developed a strategy or other measures to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement the International Treaty:

36. Has your country provided financial resources for the implementation of the International Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved during the last 5 years:

Total amount:

Channel:

Bilateral

Regional

Multilateral

Please provide details:

37. Has your country received financial resources for the implementation of the International Treaty?

Yes

No

√

If your answer is 'yes', where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved during the last 5 years:

Total amount:

Channel:

Bilateral

Regional

Multilateral

Please provide details:

General remarks on the implementation of the ITPGRFA

38. You may use this box to share any advice you may have arising from your country's experience with implementation of the Treaty:

39. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide an broader perspective of difficulties in implementation of the Treaty:

40. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide an broader perspective of measures that could help to promote compliance:

[--- Question to be administered separately ---]

About this reporting

41. Have you encountered any difficulties in completing this reporting format?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details on such difficulties:

If you have suggestions for improvement of this reporting format, please share them: