



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

THIRD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Tunis, Tunisia, 1 – 5 June 2009

**REVIEW OF THE MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT BEING USED BY
THE INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRES OF THE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,
FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE NOT
INCLUDED IN ANNEX I OF THE TREATY**

Introduction

1. At its Second Session, the Governing Body endorsed the use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement by the International Agricultural Research Centres, for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture other than those listed in *Annex I* of this Treaty and collected before its entry into force, with an interpretative footnote or series of footnotes that indicated that certain of its provisions should not be interpreted as precluding such use of the SMTA.¹ It also decided that it would review these measures during its consideration of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement at its current session.²

Experience of the International Agricultural Research Centres in the Use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement for Non-Annex 1 Crops

2. Document IT/GB-3/09/Inf. 15, *Experience of the CG Centres with the Implementation of the Agreements with the Governing Body, with particular reference to the Use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement for Annex I and Non-Annex I Crops*, reports on the experience of the International Agricultural Research Centres in this use of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement as endorsed by the Governing Body at its Second Session and contained in *Annex E* of Document IT/GB-3/09/Inf. 15.

3. According to Document IT/GB-3/09/Inf. 15, the IARCs commenced using the SMTA with footnotes on 1 February 2008, and the “Centres still have only limited experience with the use of the SMTA to date”.

¹ Paragraph 68, IT/GB-2/07/Report.

² Ibid.

4. Although the CG Centres have used the Standard Material Transfer Agreement for a relatively short time, “the impression of the Centres is that the SMTA is attracting increasing acceptance by potential recipients as they become more familiar with its terms”.³ During the period covered by this report, no potential recipients explicitly refused to accept materials under the SMTA.
5. The Governing Body is invited to take note of Document IT/GB-3/09/Inf. 15, and to take any decisions necessary.

³

See Document IT/GB-3/09/Inf. 15.