



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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**SUBMISSIONS SENT BY CONTRACTING PARTIES, OTHER
GOVERNMENTS, AND RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS AND
ORGANIZATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6**

Note by the Secretary

This document presents the submission on how to improve sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including on sectoral policies and best practices for sustainable agriculture, submitted by Finland on 15 March 2013.

The submission is presented in the form and language in which it was received. Minor editorial changes include the full rendering of acronyms and the correction of spelling.

CONTRACTING PARTIES

Finland

Reply for the request:

“By Resolution 7/2011, Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources, adopted at its Fourth Session, the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture requested, *inter alia*, the Secretary to invite submissions from Contracting Parties, other governments and relevant institutions and organizations on **how to improve sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including on sectoral policies and best practices for sustainable agriculture.**”

Our suggestions:

- 1) Increased use of plant genetic resources for pre-breeding needs
 - good genotypic and phenotypic evaluation of the existing landraces and varieties, including crop wild relatives, to find the interesting traits and alleles
 - support needs to be aimed also for cultivar breeders to cope with the longer breeding programmes while using pre-breeding material
- 2) Improved development of the new landrace-based products by:
 - finding suitable genotypes for making attractive products
 - collecting and utilizing farmer-based indigenous knowledge and evaluation data
 - building easy access to the existing information, as a base for planning process for those who have interest to develop special niche products
 - developing user-friendly bureaucracy and not too complicated legislation
- 3) Support aimed for starting small-scale production and other infrastructure needed (like small mills etc.)
- 4) Sustainable raw material production for enabling landrace-based product making
 - EU support for the farmers maintaining landraces and local varieties
- 5) Contribution aimed also for marketing (raw material, products) and value
 - producing and using diverse foods
 - socio-economical view
 - proudness of the local landraces and traditional food making practices
 - niche markets, multifunctional farmers