



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Views, Experiences and Best Practices as an example of possible options for
the national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty**

Note by the Secretary

At its [second meeting](#) of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG), the Expert Group agreed on a revised version of the [template](#) for collecting information on examples of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights

This document presents the updated information on best practices and measures of implementing Article 9 of the International Treaty submitted by Japan on 1 August 2019.

The submission is presented in the form and language in which it was received.

1. Participation of Farmers in the Decision-Making Process

Basic information

- Title of measure/practice : [Participation of Farmers in the Decision-Making Process](#)
- Date of submission : [31/07/2019](#)
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: [Japan](#)
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person) : [The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan](#)
- Type of institution/organization (categories):[Government of Japan](#)
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)) : –

Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

- Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including:

[Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, farmers participate in several national-level councils as members \(e.g., the Council of Food, Agriculture and Rural Area Policies and the Agricultural Materials Council\) to provide inputs in the decision-making process.](#)
- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

[Both the Council of Food, Agriculture and Rural Area Policies and the Agricultural Materials Council were established in 2001 by reorganizing existing councils.](#)
- Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words)

[The farmers participate in several national-level councils as members \(e.g., the Council of Food, Agriculture and Rural Area Policies and the Agricultural Materials Council\) to provide inputs in the decision-making process.](#)
- Description of the context and the history of the measure/practice is taking place (political, legal and economic framework conditions for the measure/practice) (max 200 words)

[The Council of Food, Agriculture and Rural Area Policies and the Agricultural Materials Council were established under the Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas Basic Act and the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, respectively.](#)
- To which provision(s) of Article 9 of the International Treaty does this measure relate
 - Art. 9.1
 - Art. 9.2a

¹ This mandatory information is required in order for the measure/practice to be included in the Inventory.

- Art. 9.2b
- Art. 9.2c
- Art. 9.3

Other information, if applicable

- Please indicate which category of the Inventory is most relevant for the proposed measure, and which other categories are also relevant (if any):

No.	Category	Most relevant ²	Also relevant ³
1	Recognition of local and indigenous communities', farmers' contributions to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, such as awards and recognition of custodian/guardian farmers		
2	Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds		
3	Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA		
4	Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge		
5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites		
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks ⁴ , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.		

² Please select only one category that is most relevant, under which the measure will be listed.

³ Please select one or several categories that may also be relevant (if applicable).

⁴ Including seed houses.

7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection		
8	Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels	✓	
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation		
10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		
11	Other measures / practices		

- In case you selected 'other measures', would you like to suggest a description of this measure, e.g. as a possible new category?

-
- Objective(s)
 - Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers⁵
 - Location(s) and geographical outreach
 - Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice
 - How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?
 - Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)
 - Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice
 - Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?
 - Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice

Lessons learned

- Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words).
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)
- What would you consider conditions for success, if others should seek to carry out such a measure or organize such an activity? (max 100 words)

Further information

⁵ Any classification, e.g. of the types of farmer addressed, may be country-specific.

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice

2. The NARO* Genebank Project, Japan

Basic information

- Title of measure/practice : [The NARO* Genebank Project, Japan](#)
- Date of submission [31/07/2019](#)
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place : [Japan](#)
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person) :[The National Agriculture and Food Research Organization \(NARO\)](#)

<http://www.naro.affrc.go.jp/english/index.html>

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[Hiroshi KATO, Ph. D. \(Director, Genetic Resources Center, NARO\)](#)

[2-1-2 Kannondai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8602, Japan](#)

- Type of institution/organization (categories) :[National Research and Development Agency](#)
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)) [The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan](#)

Description of the examples

Mandatory information:⁶

- Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including:

[The Genebank Project of Japan's National Agriculture and Food Research Organization \(NARO\), which started in 1985, builds on various previous initiatives. Its activities are directed toward conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, distribution and documentation of PGRFA, including landraces. The project develops and applies advanced-technology to improve genebank operations, e.g. low/ultra- low temperature preservation and reproduction techniques. The Genetic Resources Center continuously develops new cryopreservation techniques for vegetatively propagated plant genetic resources which more systematic procedures are needed for. Genetic resources are distributed, together with relevant information, to users for breeding, scientific studies and educational purposes.](#)

⁶ This mandatory information is required in order for the measure/practice to be included in the Inventory.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

1985 MAFF Genebank Project started as a national project for plants, microorganisms and animal genetic resources

2001 The project was renewed as the National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences (NIAS) Genebank Project when national agricultural research institutes were reorganized as independent administrative organizations

2016 The project was renewed as the NARO Genebank Project when NIAS was merged into NARO

- Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words)

Conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, distribution and documentation of PGRFA, including farmer's varieties/ landraces.

- Description of the context and the history of the measure/practice is taking place (political, legal and economic framework conditions for the measure/practice) (max 200 words)

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan is funding the *NARO Genebank Project*, whose activities are directed toward conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, distribution and documentation of PGRFA. Genetic resources are distributed, together with relevant information, to users for breeding, scientific studies and educational purposes. These genetic resources are contributing to improvements in various agricultural products.

- To which provision(s) of Article 9 of the International Treaty does this measure relate

Art. 9.1

Art. 9.2a

Art. 9.2b

Art. 9.2c

Art. 9.3

Other information, if applicable

- Please indicate which category of the Inventory is most relevant for the proposed measure, and which other categories are also relevant (if any):

No.	Category	Most relevant ⁷	Also relevant ⁸
1	Recognition of local and indigenous communities', farmers' contributions to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, such as awards and recognition of custodian/guardian farmers		
2	Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds		
3	Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA		
4	Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge		
5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites		
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks ⁹ , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.		
7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection		
8	Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels		
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation		
10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		

⁷ Please select only one category that is most relevant, under which the measure will be listed.

⁸ Please select one or several categories that may also be relevant (if applicable).

⁹ Including seed houses.

11	Other measures / practices	✓	
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- In case you selected ‘other measures’, would you like to suggest a description of this measure, e.g. as a possible new category?

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- Objective(s)
 - Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers¹⁰
 - Location(s) and geographical outreach
 - Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice
 - How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?
 - Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)
 - Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice
 - Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?
 - Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice

Lessons learned

- Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words).

Advanced-technology improves Genebank’s operations. This project promotes systematic ex situ conservation of PGRFA through, for example, low/ultra-low temperature preservation and reproduction techniques. The Genetic Resources Center continuously develops new cryopreservation techniques for plants, to which the current techniques are difficult to apply. We can share these techniques with researchers of other countries through collaborative research and/or training.

- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)
- What would you consider conditions for success, if others should seek to carry out such a measure or organize such an activity? (max 100 words)

Further information

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice
https://www.gene.affrc.go.jp/index_en.php

¹⁰ Any classification, e.g. of the types of farmer addressed, may be country-specific.

3. Construction of a Database for Farmer's Varieties/Landracess in Japan

- Name of Country in which the Measure/Practice is Taking Place: [Japan](#)
- Responsible Institution/Organization: [The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan](#)
- Collaborating Institutions: [The National Agriculture and Food Research Organization \(NARO\)](#)

<http://www.naro.affrc.go.jp/english/index.html>

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- Brief History

2018-2023

- Core Components of the Measure/ Practice

MAFF started to create a database for farmer's varieties/landracess in Japan.

- Short Description of the Context and the History of the Measure/Practice

The database will store information on agricultural and consumption-related traits, origin, traditional usage and current conditions, of farmer's varieties/ landracess.

- Objective

We aim to collect information on agricultural and consumption-related traits, origin, traditional usage and current conditions, of farmer's varieties/landracess and utilize the information for conservation, use and breeding.

Basic information

- Title of measure/practice: [Construction of a Database for Farmer's Varieties/Landracess in Japan](#)
- Date of submission:[31/07/2019](#)
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: [Japan](#)
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person) : [The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan](#)
- Type of institution/organization (categories) : [Government of Japan](#)
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)) : [The National Agriculture and Food Research Organization \(NARO\)](#)

<http://www.naro.affrc.go.jp/english/index.html>

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Hiroshi KATO, Ph. D. (Director, Genetic Resources Center, NARO)

2-1-2 Kannondai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8602, Japan

Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹¹

- Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including:

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, in collaboration with the National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO), has started to create a database for farmer's varieties/landraces in Japan. The database will store information on agricultural and consumption-related traits, origin, traditional usage and current conditions of farmers' varieties/landraces, with the aim to utilize the information for conservation, utilization and breeding purposes.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

2018-2023

- Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words)

MAFF started to create a database for farmer's varieties/landraces in Japan.

- Description of the context and the history of the measure/practice is taking place (political, legal and economic framework conditions for the measure/practice) (max 200 words)

The database will store information on agricultural and consumption-related traits, origin, traditional usage and current conditions, of farmer's varieties/ landraces.

- To which provision(s) of Article 9 of the International Treaty does this measure relate

Art. 9.1

Art. 9.2a

Art. 9.2b

Art. 9.2c

Art. 9.3

¹¹ This mandatory information is required in order for the measure/practice to be included in the Inventory.

Other information, if applicable

- Please indicate which category of the Inventory is most relevant for the proposed measure, and which other categories are also relevant (if any):

No.	Category	Most relevant ¹²	Also relevant ¹³
1	Recognition of local and indigenous communities', farmers' contributions to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, such as awards and recognition of custodian/guardian farmers		
2	Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds		
3	Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA		
4	Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge	✓	
5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites		✓
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks ¹⁴ , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.		
7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection		
8	Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels		
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation		

¹² Please select only one category that is most relevant, under which the measure will be listed.

¹³ Please select one or several categories that may also be relevant (if applicable).

¹⁴ Including seed houses.

10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		
11	Other measures / practices		

- In case you selected 'other measures', would you like to suggest a description of this measure, e.g. as a possible new category?

-
- Objective(s)

We aim to collect information on agricultural and consumption-related traits, origin, traditional usage and current conditions, of farmer's varieties/landraces and utilize the information for conservation, use and breeding.

- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers¹⁵
- Location(s) and geographical outreach
- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice
- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?
- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)
- Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice
- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?
- Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice

Lessons learned

- Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words).
- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)
- What would you consider conditions for success, if others should seek to carry out such a measure or organize such an activity? (max 100 words)

Further information

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice
-

