



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



**International Treaty  
on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture**

**Country Report on the implementation of the  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)**

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

**Amended in 12/2022**

**Damascus 2019  
2022**

**FIRST COUNTRY REPORT ON  
COMPLIANCE – ITPGRFA  
Amended in 12/2022**

Name and contact details of the reporting officer: Yousef Wjhani  
Treaty Focal Point.

Email: [yowj2015@hotmail.com](mailto:yowj2015@hotmail.com)

[yowj2017@gmail.com](mailto:yowj2017@gmail.com)

Institution: (General Commition for Sceintfic Agriculture  
Reacearch).

Country: Syria

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 ANNEX 2
 

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***STANDARD REPORTING FORMAT PURSUANT TO SECTION V.1 OF THE  
PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE AND  
ADDRESS ISSUES OF NON-COMPLIANCE***

**International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

**Draft**

**Standard Voluntary Reporting Format**

**Introduction**

1. Pursuant to Article 21 of the Treaty, the Governing Body has adopted a resolution that includes, amongst others, provisions on monitoring and reporting (Resolution 2/2011). Pursuant to this Resolution, each Contracting Party is to submit to the Compliance Committee, through the Secretary, a report on the measures it has taken to implement its obligations under the Treaty in one of the six languages of the United Nations (Section V.1).
2. The first report is to be submitted within three years from the approval of this standard format. The Governing Body approved this standard format at its Fifth Session.
3. This standard format has been developed to facilitate reporting and monitoring of the implementation of the Treaty. The use of this standard format is voluntary. A Contracting Party may use another reporting format if it so wishes.

**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:

Law No. 20 of 2009: In accordance with the provisions of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the General Commission for Scientific Agricultural Research in Syria developed this law in cooperation with FAO and aims to:

- 1- Protection, development and utilization of plant genetic resources.
- 2- Regulating access to plant genetic resources from outside the Syrian borders.
- 3- Ensuring equitable benefit-sharing in accordance with Standard Material Transfer Agreements (MTA).
- 4 - Participation of public and private agencies and farmers in the implementation of the law.
- 5 -The state guarantees the rights of farmers and farmers in relation to plant genetic resources.
- 6- Peasants and farmers participate in making decisions related to the conservation of plant genetic resources, and they benefit from part of the benefits to support their efforts

in conserving them. Under this law, strict controls have been set for those who want to obtain plant genetic resources and prohibitions and penalties have been placed to protect them in the event of their wrong use. For this purpose, special models have been developed to obtain genetic material in accordance with the treaty system, as follows:

- 1- Request for the transfer of genetic resources included in the multilateral system.
- 2- Licensing the collection of genetic resources from the natural site.
- 3- Transfer of genetic resources not covered by the Treaty for commercial purposes.
- 4- General request for access to genetic resources not included for research purposes.

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
- 1- Forestry Control Law issued by Legislative Decree No. 41 of 2006.
  - 2- Forestry Law issued by Legislative Decree No. 25 of 2007: pertaining to the protection, management and investment of state forests.
  - 3- Agricultural Quarantine Law No. 237 of 1960: to prevent pests and diseases from leaking into any agricultural consignment, whether during import or export, to protect plant resources.
  - 4- Environmental Protection Law No. 12 of 2012: This law aims to establish the basic rules for environmental safety and protection from pollution, and to achieve environmental development. Environment Law 12 in itself has made progress, as it provides a good basis for the development of the system of reserves in Syria by possessing the following positive features:
    - Authorizing the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment to determine the necessary conditions for the establishment and establishment of reserves and national parks.
    - Provides the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment with the monitoring of these reserves, each according to its components and characteristics at the national level.

While the following notes were recorded on this law:

– Failure to involve the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment in an executive role in the process of managing reserves of all kinds.

– Lack of clarity on the mechanism for declaring reserves between the relevant ministries, and the law did not clearly define the role of the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment.

B- Committees are formed annually to prevent transgressions and peasants on the lands of the desert, and they are given the status of a judicial police. These committees organize the necessary controls against the transgressors, confiscate the machinery and equipment used in the transgression, and refer them to the judiciary to take legal measures against them, but the procedures taken in the courts end with the release of the mechanisms and the failure to Deciding on crop lawsuits only after years, which encourages many to transgress, and the sub-agricultural councils in the governorates often do not adhere to the application of laws and regulations in force to invest the desert lands with irrigated crops on wells in terms of the quality of the crop included in the agricultural plan and the areas determined according to the irrigation capacity of the wells, which increases Among the violations, the articles of Law No. /13/ of 1973 specifying penalties and fines resulting from cultivating the desert lands, which were amended by Law No. /62/ of 2006 (the Law for the Protection of the Badia) are now not deterrent, especially since the judiciary releases confiscations most of the time. , which encourages the recurrence of transgressions.

- 3- Is there any law, regulation, procedure or policy in place in your country that needs to be adjusted / harmonized<sup>1</sup> 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:

**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 plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

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

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

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✓ 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:

Since 1985, genetic resources have been surveyed and collected in Syria through tours of the national staff working in the Gene Bank. Some tours have been implemented jointly with ICARDA and the University of Birmingham.

As for specifying the types, they are shown in the table:

**The most important species that were counted in Syria, and some, but not all, of them were collected and preserved in the Gene Bank**

scientific name	N	scientific name	N
<i>Lens culinaris</i>	83	<i>Aegilops agripyrium</i>	1
<i>Lepidium sativum</i>	84	<i>Aegilops bicornis</i>	2
<i>linum usitiatissimum</i>	85	<i>Aegilops biuncialis</i>	3
<i>Lupinus albus</i>	86	<i>Aegilops caudate</i>	4
<i>Lupinus pilosus</i>	87	<i>Aegilops columnaris</i>	5
<i>Lycopersicum esculentum</i>	88	<i>Aegilops comosa</i>	6
<i>Malva silvestris</i>	89	<i>Aegilops comosa</i> var. heldreichii	7
<i>Neggella sativa</i>	90	<i>Aegilops comosa</i> var. thessalica	8
<i>Nicotina tabacum</i>	91	<i>Aegilops crassa</i>	9
<i>Petroselinum sativum crispum</i>	92	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	10
<i>phalaris oricularis</i>	93	<i>Aegilops geniculata</i>	11

scientific name	N	scientific name	N
<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	94	<i>Aegilops juvenalis</i>	12
<i>Pimpinella anisum</i>	95	<i>Aegilops kotschyi</i>	13
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	96	<i>Aegilops legustica</i>	14
<i>Portulaca olearcea</i>	97	<i>Aegilops leriaristata</i>	15
<i>Raphanus sativus</i>	98	<i>Aegilops longissima</i>	16
<i>Ryce sativa</i>	99	<i>Aegilops lorentii</i>	17
<i>Sesamum Indica</i>	100	<i>Aegilops neglecta</i>	18
<i>Solanum melongena</i>	101	<i>Aegilops ovata</i>	19
<i>Sorghum Technicum</i>	102	<i>Aegilops peregrina</i> var. <i>peregrina</i>	20
<i>Sorghum vulgare</i>	103	<i>Aegilops searsii</i>	21
<i>Spinacia oleracea</i>	104	<i>Aegilops speltoides</i>	22
<i>thymu sp</i>	105	<i>Aegilops squarosa</i>	23
<i>Thymus vulgaris</i>	106	<i>Aegilops tauschii</i>	24
<i>Trichosanthes spp</i>	107	<i>Aegilops triaristata</i>	25
<i>Trigonella sp.</i>	108	<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	26
<i>Triticale</i>	109	<i>Aegilops umbellulata</i>	27
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	110	<i>Aegilops uniaristata</i>	28
<i>Triticum durum</i>	111	<i>Aegilops vavilovii</i>	29

scientific name	N	scientific name	N
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> subsp. <i>aestivum</i>	112	<i>Aegilops ventricosa</i>	30
<i>Triticum boeoticum</i>	113	<i>Aegilops lorentii</i>	31
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> subsp. <i>compactum</i>	114	<i>Allium cepa</i>	32
<i>Triticum monococcum</i> subsp. <i>boeoticum</i>	115	<i>Allium porrum</i>	33
<i>Triticum timopheevi</i> subsp. <i>araraticum</i>	116	<i>Allium sativum</i>	34
<i>Triticum turgidum</i> subsp. <i>dicoccoides</i>	117	<i>Amblyopyrum muticum</i>	35
<i>Triticum turgidum</i> subsp. <i>durum</i>	118	<i>Anisum sativum</i>	36
<i>Triticum urartu</i>	119	<i>Arachis hypogea</i>	37
<i>Vicia aintabensis</i>	120	<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	38
<i>Vicia altissima</i>	121	<i>Beta vulgaris cicla</i>	39
<i>Vicia anatolica</i>	122	<i>brassica napus</i>	40
<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	123	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> <i>botrytis</i>	41
<i>Vicia cuspidata</i>	124	<i>Brassica oleraceae</i> <i>capitata</i>	42
<i>Vicia dionysiensis</i>	125	<i>Brassica rapa</i>	43
<i>Vicia ervilia</i>	126	<i>Cannabis sativus</i>	44
<i>Vicia faba</i>	127	<i>Capsicum annum</i>	45
<i>Vicia glareosa</i>	128	<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	46



scientific name	N	scientific name	N
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	129	<i>Cicer arietinum</i>	47
<i>Vicia hyaeniscyamus</i>	130	<i>Cicer bijugum</i>	48
<i>Vicia hybrida</i>	131	<i>Cicer chorassanicum</i>	49
<i>Vicia johannis</i>	132	<i>Cicer cuneatum</i>	50
<i>Vicia kalakhensis</i>	133	<i>Cicer echinospermum</i>	51
<i>Vicia lathyroides</i>	134	<i>Cicer judaicum</i>	52
<i>Vicia lutea</i> subsp. vestita	135	<i>Cicer pinnatifidum</i>	53
<i>Vicia melanops</i>	136	<i>Cicer reticulatum</i>	54
<i>Vicia michauxii</i>	137	<i>Cicer yamashitae</i>	55
<i>Vicia mollis</i>	138	<i>Cichorium inthybus</i>	56
<i>Vicia monantha</i>	139	<i>Citrulus vulgaris</i>	57
<i>Vicia multijuga</i>	140	<i>Coeniculum vulgare</i>	58
<i>Vicia narbonensis</i>	141	<i>Corchorus olitorius</i>	59
<i>Vicia narbonensis</i> var. affinis	142	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>	60
<i>Vicia narbonensis</i> var. jordanica	143	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>	61
<i>Vicia narbonensis</i> var. narbonensis	144	<i>Cucumis melo</i>	62
<i>Vicia narbonensis</i> var. salmonea	145	<i>Cucumis melo</i> chitonaud	63

scientific name	N	scientific name	N
<i>Vicia noeana</i>	146	<i>Cucumis melo flexuosus</i>	64
<i>Vicia palaestina</i>	147	<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	65
<i>Vicia pannonica</i> subsp. <i>pannonica</i>	148	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i>	66
<i>Vicia peregrina</i>	149	<i>Cucurbita moschata</i>	67
<i>Vicia psedociera</i>	150	<i>Cumin cyminum</i>	68
<i>Vicia qatmensis</i>	151	<i>Dacus carota</i>	69
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	152	<i>Festuca festoriua</i>	70
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>amphicarpa</i>	153	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	71
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>macrocarpa</i>	154	<i>Glycine max</i>	72
<i>Vicia sativa</i> subsp. <i>nigra</i>	155	<i>Gossypium horistrum</i>	73
<i>Vicia sericocarpa</i>	156	<i>Helianthus annus</i>	74
<i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>	157	<i>Hibiscus esculentus</i>	75
<i>Vicia tigridis</i>	158	<i>Hordeum vulgare hexastichon</i>	76
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	159	<i>Hordeum vulgare intermedium</i>	77
<i>Vicia villosa</i> subsp. <i>dasycarpa</i>	160	<i>Hordeum vulgare irregulare</i>	78
<i>Vicia villosa</i> subsp. <i>eriocarpa</i>	161	<i>Hordeum vulgare subsp. spontaneum</i>	79
<i>Vigna ungniculata</i>	162	<i>Hordeum vulgare subsp. vulgare</i>	80

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scientific name	N	scientific name	N
<i>Zea mays</i>	163	<i>Intybus indicum</i>	81
		<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	82

Many clarifications can be found in the country report on the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture in Syria (2016), edited and coordinated by: Dr. Hussein Al-Zoubi, Dr. Mowaffaq Jabbour and Dr. Yousef Wjhani. Audit: Dr. Muhammed Qurebesa. It has been submitted to the Food and Agriculture Organization. A copy of the mentioned report will be attached with this report. Bearing in mind that during the crisis in Syria we lost a lot of genetic resources, and the survey, inventory and collection operations stopped for more than 7 years, and with the loss of the bank, we lost a lot of entries in terms of number and many .species, meaning that the previous table contains more species than the actual ones

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:

- Species exposed to these threats: many species, such as wheat and cultivated and wild barley, as well as a number of types of legumes and vegetables, whether cultivated or wild, are threatened with deterioration and disappearance.

- The sources of these threats, the crisis and the war since 2011, in addition to (what existed before the crisis and at the present time) such as:
- 1- Agricultural, industrial and population expansion.
- 2- Climate changes.
- 3- Overgrazing, logging, and unregulated collection of plants (medical and ornamental) in forests, marginal areas, and the desert.
- 4- Illegal collection of wild species.
- 5- Introduction of alien or invasive species: to ecosystems, especially forests and areas suitable for afforestation.
- 6- Fire: It is one of the destructive dangers to forests.
- 7- Substituting improved and genetically modified varieties in place of local breeds and varieties.
- 8- Irrational use of chemically manufactured production requirements such as fertilizers and pesticides.
- 9- The transition from natural ecosystems to intensive agriculture.
- Steps taken: Before the crisis, many species, especially the threatened ones, were counted and collected, and a copy of the 7,500 entries was placed in Aleppo for safety. During the crisis, we lost part of the entries and some of them to threatened species, and the entries that we were able to save were divided into three parts: part was preserved in ICARDA (Black Box) in the secretariat, part in Damascus, the headquarters of the Commission, and part in Damascus countryside in a research station.
- Difficulties: The crisis that Syria is going through prevented the staff in the Genetic Bank from collecting and counting for 7 years.
- For more details, the report on the State of Biodiversity 2016 is attached.
- 10- The crisis and war since 2011.

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:

Some of the few species of threatened species are preserved with their information, as part of the entries saved during the crisis were saved with the special computer that contains their information. Currently, we are trying to renew the vitality of these species and multiply them for reuse in evaluation and exchange.

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

Yes

No

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

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:

Measures taken to promote in-situ conservation in reserves:

- 1- Increasing the number of reserves in areas with important biodiversity.
- 2- Protecting protected areas from indiscriminate encroachments, such as collecting firewood for heating or using unregulated commercially available useful species.
- 3- Sustainable commercial investment of some species in reserves by local communities.
- 4- Increasing public awareness of the importance of reserves and biodiversity.

Table showing reserves in Syria;

Governorate	Date	Area/H	The name of the reserve	م
LATTAKIA	1996	1350	AL ARZ and Shouh	1
LATTAKIA	1999	1000	OM ATOYOUR	2
LATTAKIA	1999	1500	AL FRONLK	3
LATTAKIA	1999	3000	AL BASEET	4
LATTAKIA	2009	7760	KHORBET SOULAS	5
TARTOUS	1998	1000	AL SHAARA ALSHRKIEH	6
TARTOUS	2009	650	GABEI ALNABI MATA	7
TARTOUS	2012	86	KAEET ALKAHEF	8

Governorate	Date	Area/H	The name of the reserve	رقم
IDLEB	1998	2000	ALARSHANI	9
HAMA	1999	2500	SHEHET MSIEAF	10
HAMA	1999	11000	ABOU KOBIES	11
HAMA	2008	22797	ALBELAAS	12
HOMS	2006	45000	ABOU REJMEEN	13
HOMS	2009	14866	JEBAL HASSIAA	14
Damascus Countryside	2006	205	AL LZZAB	15
SWEEDA	2006	2000	AL ALJAT	16
SWEEDA	2001	653.1	AL DAMNEH	17
KOUNAETRA	2005	133	JBATA ALKHASHSB	18
DEER ALZOUR	2005	450	ABOU HARDOUB	19
DEER ALZOUR	2005	80	AIASH	20
DEER ALZOUR	2009	50	ALSABHA WA ALDAHLE	21
DEER ALZOUR	2009	30	AL SALHEIH	22
AL HASAKEH	2002	49000	JABAL ABD AL AZIZ	23
AL HASAKEH	2009	1160	AL HOUL	24
AL RAKA	1994	590	AL THWRA	25
HAMA	2012	400	AL BOUSTAN	26

Investing in reserves: Weakness in commercial investments is observed in Syrian reserves, which often leads to the loss of optimal investment opportunities for the natural and economic values of reserves. An approach must be adopted that focuses on the environmental commercial concept in managing natural reserves in a sustainable manner, as this helps in generating revenues both to members of the local community (and this is what happens in some reserves) or to the state to help

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it continue to sponsor and maintain the reserves; A national wealth, and therefore there must be sufficient (self-)funding at the site level, as well as at the national level.

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:

We had 13,500 accessions in the Genetic Bank, of which 7,500 entries were taken (as a second copy) and kept in Aleppo (in freezers) as a backup copy to increase safety. Currently, there are about (9000) entries of the following types: grains (cultivated and wild), food and fodder legumes (wild and cultivated), cultivated vegetables, oil crops, maize (yellow, brooms and white).

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:

Before the crisis, many measures were taken to enhance preservation outside the place, as several collection rounds were carried out in all regions of Syria to collect accessions of various species. At a temperature of (-18, -20) C, we were following these inputs in terms of propagation and evaluation, and they were exchanged with research centers and universities. The situation of preservation outside the site was good, and the procedures for preservation outside the site were well followed, and there were opportunities for capacity building and training of the staff working in the bank. In international research centers (ICARDA) or some other international organizations or local training courses.

Before the crisis, a biotechnology laboratory was set up to make a genetic fingerprint of the inputs and to study the relationship between them.

There was an intention to establish a tissue culture laboratory to preserve non-traditional seeds.

Currently, with the beginning of the end of the crisis and reconstruction, a small cold room has been established (for medium-term preservation) because of the weak capabilities and with the existing inputs (about 7,500 entries at the end of the crisis, currently there are 9,000 entries). We are trying to obtain projects from the concerned international organizations to establish a new bank. In 2020, a cold room (for long-term preservation) was established, and work is being done to save part of the inputs in it. Several local training courses were implemented to raise the capabilities of new engineers.

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:

Through the activities and works of the Genetic Bank, variation and changes were monitored through collection tours of the sites previously, and after a period of time for the same site, a change was observed in the distribution and spread of specific genetic materials, especially the old local varieties that are subject to neglect by farmers, as they resort to modern varieties (peasants with large holdings). Smallholder farmers still have some local varieties to benefit from their industrial qualities in the manufacture of some popular local foodstuffs. Hence, we note that the diversity, especially in the local cultivated varieties, decreases and many species, whether cultivated or wild, are subject to deterioration, and the diversity between species or within the species weakens. And it deteriorates.

The activities focused on increasing the number of collection rounds to obtain the largest number of local inputs, especially grains, vegetables and legumes, to protect them from deterioration and neglect. They are preserved in medium and long-term preservation, evaluated, studied, and used in a sustainable way, as they are included in graduate students' graduation projects and in breeding and genetic improvement programs.

A regional project is currently being implemented within the benefit-sharing program of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, which includes Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, under the supervision of ICARDA, under the title of strengthening national capacities and regional integration for the effective conservation of plant genetic resources in the post-conflict region. Propagating, multiplying, and evaluating local genetic resources, even newly approved ones, by involving local farmers by planting in their fields, participating in evaluation, educating them on the importance of genetic material, and involving women in these activities to strengthen national capacities.

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:

There was only cooperation with ICARDA since the eighties of the last century, and the cooperation included collection, preservation, evaluation and training. ICARDA also supervised a project funded by GEF, which is a joint project implemented in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan from 1999 to 2005, as it included mutual visits and training, and each country worked independently.

Currently, as previously mentioned, a benefit-sharing project is being worked on through the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, which includes Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, in



coordination with ICARDA, under the title of strengthening national capacities and regional integration for the effective conservation of plant genetic resources in the post-conflict region, where through the activities of the project Collecting and multiplying local genetic resources, even newly approved ones, and evaluating them by involving local farmers by planting in their fields, participating in evaluation and educating them on the importance of genetic material, and involving women in these activities to enhance national capabilities

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

14- Are there any policy and legal measures<sup>2</sup> 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.

Emphasis is placed on strengthening genetic resources research through evaluation and characterization experiments for accessions preserved in the genetic bank, and introducing good-rated accessions into desirable traits in breeding and genetic improvement programmes. Genetic resources are also used in master's and doctoral theses research.

- Breeding programs are concerned with the use of promising strains and inputs through their programming, and in one of the stages of cultivar elicitation, the farmers participate in the evaluation in their fields and their participation in the work .

- Breeding programs are concerned with the use of promising strains and inputs through their programming, and in one of the stages of cultivar elicitation, farmers participate in evaluation in their fields and work companies.

<sup>2</sup> 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 agriculture and rural development programmes and policies?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the integration of such activities into the agriculture and rural development programmes and policies:

Issuing agricultural legislation and policies through which reserves were established and the local communities participate in protecting them and protecting their biodiversity and using and benefiting from them in a way that does not harm the biodiversity they contain. Genetic protection and the protection of farmers' rights and their participation in decision-making regarding the benefits and optimal use of their genetic resources.

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:

SYRIA

**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

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

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

Yes   
No

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

**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:

Law 20 aims to protect the rights of farmers and peasants, protect their ownership and genetic resources, and give them the right to make decisions in this field.

Measures taken in the field of preserving the rights of farmers: This is done through the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and support for small household projects that help raise the standard of living of farmers. A report was presented on the rights of farmers, in which a number of models of support for farmers were listed.

**Article 11: Coverage of the Multilateral System**

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

- All
- Partially
- None

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

There are no difficulties and all the seeds exchanged were done according to the unified agreement for the exchange of seeds (difficulties are only what results from the crisis in Syria)

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:

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

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:

There are no details.

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:

**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:

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Law (20) of 2009 (mentioned previously) was issued, and different formulas were put in place to obtain genetic material, whether for commercial or research purposes. These formulas guarantee the rights of the owners of genetic material.

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 pursuant to the standard material transfer agreement (SMTA)?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide the number of SMTAs entered into:

There are a good number of SMTAs, but unfortunately they were lost in the crisis, and there are currently a few, and no genetic material is exchanged from the bank except through SMTA.

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

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

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the number of such SMTAs entered into:

25- Does the legal system of your country provide an opportunity for parties to material transfer 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:

I don't know.

26- Does the legal system of your country provide for the enforcement of arbitral decisions related to disputes arising under the SMTA?

Yes

No

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

I don't know.

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-establishment of 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:

The crisis occurred in Syria, and nothing has changed with regard to dealing with the inputs of the first annex.

**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 (e.g. catalogues and inventories, information on technologies, results of scientific and socio-economic research, including characterisation, evaluation and utilisation):

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.

If access to technologies was provided, please provide details of the access provided:

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

Yes   
No

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

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



- 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;
- 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 promoted through:

- National actions;
- International cooperation;

If the implementation of the plan was promoted, please provide details:

At the national level: After developing the global action plan, and in cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Higher Education, and the Ministry of Environment, committees and task forces were formed in Syria from all specializations of biodiversity. The number of natural reserves and prevention areas increased, and the number of complexes belonging to the genetic bank and fruit tree complexes increased (attached table), but the crisis led to the destruction of 90% of the complexes, after 2018 and conditions improved. However, the current circumstances and the sanctions imposed on Syria affect these activities, as there is no capacity-building for new cadres and no technology transfer or support. Currently, a project is being implemented (strengthening national capacities and regional integration for the effective conservation of plant genetic resources in the post-conflict region). .

In terms of international cooperation: The joint cooperation program with ICARDA was developed based on the action plan and included collection, joint evaluation, and training.

The Plant Genetic Bank has established seven genetic pools distributed as follows:

Four Field Gene Bank for wild grains and wild legumes were established in Aleppo (Yahmoul), Damascus countryside (Sargaya), As-Suwayda (Ain Al-Arab) and Quneitra (Ain Al-Nouriyeh).

Three Field Gene Bank of pastoral plants in Daraa (Izraa), Rif Dimashq (Al-Nashabiyah) and Aleppo (Hamima).

In addition, 66 Field Gene Bank for fruit trees, one Field Gene Bank for medicinal and aromatic plants comprising 49 species, and a medicinal and aromatic plant garden comprising 20 species, were established.

عدد مدخلات الأشجار المثمرة ومجمعاتها الوراثية (accessions)

Total	number of accessions	number of varieties	NO. Field Gene Bank	species
160	39	121	5	apple
33	2	31	3	pears
108	18	90	8	olive
21	1	20	3	pistachio
84		84	4	fig
52	2	50	1	nut
8	3	5	2	quince
193	8	185	5	grapes
43	1	42	6	Almonds
5		5	2	berries
22		22	1	Palm
28		28	2	pomegranate
23	1	22	1	apricot

Total	number of accessions	number of varieties	NO. Field Gene Bank	species
31	2	29	3	Cherry
120	1	119	6	goiter
22	1	21	3	peach
4		4	1	pecan
1		1	1	kiwi
6	1	5	1	Acidnia
8		8	2	khaki
129	12	117	2	citrus fruits
8		8	1	cactus
4		4	1	avocado
6		6	1	mango
6		6	1	Guava
1		1	–	jujube
1		1	–	Dragon fruits
1		1	–	smooth caper
<b>1128</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>Total</b>

**A very important note: the previous table represents the Field Gene Bank genetic of fruit trees before the crisis. Currently, these Field Gene Bank are being renewed and their number and diversity increased.**

**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:

مع ايكاردا يوجد تعاون مشترك قديم وتبادل لكلا الطرفين بالموارد الوراثية ويوجد عدد غير محدد من SMTA

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 genetic resources networks?

Yes

No

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

Yes, there were workshops and seminars with the Plant Genetic Resources Network with aarinena

**Article 18: Financial Resources**

35- Has your country provided and/or received financial resources for the implementation of the Treaty through bilateral, regional or multilateral channels?

Yes

No

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

36- 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 details of such national activities and the amount of the financial resources involved:

All activities related to plant genetic resources such as inventory, collection, documentation, evaluation, exchange and conducting research on them are done with financial support from Syria.

37- Have you encountered any difficulties in completing this reporting format?

Yes

No

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

Regarding the topic of the report, there is no difficulty, but I found it difficult to deal with the report (online), so I wrote it in Word format.

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

#### **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:

1 - The obligations of the contracting parties must be obligatory, especially since the amounts are not large, but in the end they give a good number. And the developed parties must be obliged to do what they have to offer in the field of capacity building in the third world countries.

2- Finding a second way (other than supporting research) to provide assistance to the contracting parties to secure farmers' rights directly and better.

39- You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a 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 a broader perspective of measures that could help to promote compliance:

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