



SURVEY ON CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. With the entrance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the "Treaty") into its operational phase, Contracting Parties now have to set up the policy and legal frameworks to enable the national implementation of the Treaty's provisions; and they have to establish the functional and administrative procedures for the operationalization of the Treaty's systems at the national level. Many Contracting Parties do not have all the necessary capacities to meet this challenge and consequently called for assistance in building their capacities during the Second Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty in 2007.

2. To respond to this request, effective capacity building strategies and programmes will have to be developed, which address the real needs and priorities of the Contracting Parties. A first step in this process is the identification of the specific needs and priorities of Contracting Parties and other stakeholders for the national and regional implementation of the Treaty.

3. One way to systematically gather information on these capacity building needs and priorities is through surveys and questionnaires. An exploratory survey had been conducted by the Secretariat of the Treaty before the Second Session of the Governing Body in 2007. Based on this preliminary survey and on the deliberations of the Governing Body during its Second Session, an "Enhanced survey on capacity building needs and priorities for the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture" was developed. The results of this survey are described in this document.

4. This survey is one of many means to gather information on required capacity building for Treaty implementation. It does not claim to fully assess the particular capacity building needs and priorities of every Contracting Party, but rather aims at providing a general overview on required capacity building at a global and regional level. Information from multiple other sources, such as stakeholder workshops, direct requests from Contracting Parties and information gathered through the National Focal Points of the Treaty, will be added in order to draw a complete picture of the specific needs and priorities of all Contracting Parties and stakeholders.

II. METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY

5. The survey, as given in *Appendix A*, is composed of three main parts, namely:
 1. capacity building needs and priorities;
 2. means to address the capacity building needs;
 3. past or on-going activities for Treaty implementation.

6. In the first part, respondents are asked to rank in order of priority (from “most needed” to “least needed”) the following capacity building needs:
 - A. Assessment of existing laws, administrative practices and capacities related to PGRFA, and of their conformity with the International Treaty;
 - B. Identification of relevant national stakeholders that are concerned by the implementation of the International Treaty;
 - C. Comprehensive stakeholder consultations (Government, NGOs, scientific community, genebank managers, farmers' organizations, extension agents, etc.);
 - D. Public awareness;
 - E. Assessment of legal and policy options in the implementation of the Treaty;
 - F. Preparation and establishment of a comprehensive national legal framework;
 - G. Establishment of functional and administrative procedures (implementation of the Multilateral System, Benefit sharing provisions, Farmers' Rights);
 - H. Information technology (software and hardware for SMTA management, search and ordering tools, reporting on SMTAs to the Governing Body);
 - I. Regional coordination;
 - J. Respondents are given the opportunity to add any additional needs.

7. Responses to this part of the survey will contribute to build a general understanding of the priority capacities needed by Contracting Parties for the effective national implementation of the Treaty.

8. In the second part, respondents are requested to complete a proposed matrix, by ranking in order of priority (from “most suitable” to “least suitable”), for each of their capacity building needs, the following means:
 1. Human resources development;
 2. Research/studies;
 3. Conferences/meetings;
 4. Networks/associations;
 5. Technical assistance;
 6. Support materials, tools and equipment.

9. Together with the responses provided in the first part of the survey, information provided in this part will facilitate the planning and the development of strategic measures to address the essential capacity building needs of Contracting Parties for the successful implementation of the Treaty.

10. In the third and last part, respondents are asked, through open questions, to report on past and ongoing activities for each capacity building need. This part particularly aims at assessing the opportunities and challenges for future capacity building activities for Treaty implementation.

11. The Secretary of the Treaty sent the survey to all National Focal Points of the Treaty on March 4, 2008 and kindly requested them to also distribute it to other relevant stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Treaty. The deadline to submit the questionnaire was March 17, 2008, which was extended to April 18, 2008. Surveys received after this date have not been considered in the analysis presented in this document.

III. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Description of responses

12. As of April 18, 2008, respondents from the following 64 countries had submitted a survey to the Secretariat of the Treaty: Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Mauritius, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

13. Since National Focal Points were asked to distribute the survey amongst all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Treaty, the Secretariat received more than one survey for nearly 25 percent of all countries that responded to the questionnaire. The responses of these countries were averaged before being included in regional analyses.

14. The vast majority of the responses were provided by representatives from the government, national research institutes and national gene banks (82 percent), followed by universities (6 percent) and the private sector (2 percent). A more in-depth analysis of the submitted responses by government officials revealed that a remarkable variety of ministries is involved and concerned with the implementation of the Treaty. Next to the ministries of agriculture, questionnaires were also submitted by ministries of environment, of trade and industry, of justice and of education.

Results and analysis of responses

15. The synthesis of all responses leads to the following prioritization of capacity building needs for the national and regional implementation of the Treaty, by order of priority (1 = most needed ; 9 = least needed):

Capacity Building Need	Priority Level
A. Assessment of existing laws, administrative practices and capacities related to PGRFA, and of their conformity with the International Treaty	1
E. Assessment of legal and policy options in the implementation of the Treaty	2
C. Comprehensive stakeholder consultations (Government, NGOs, scientific community, genebank managers, farmers' organizations, extension agents, etc.)	3
F. Preparation and establishment of a comprehensive national legal framework	4
G. Establishment of functional and administrative procedures (implementation of the Multilateral System, Benefit sharing provisions, Farmers' Rights)	5
B. Identification of relevant national stakeholders that are concerned by the implementation of the International Treaty	6
D. Public awareness	7
H. Information technology (software and hardware for SMTA management, search and ordering tools, reporting on SMTAs to the Governing Body)	8
I. Regional coordination	9

16. In terms of the preferred means to address the respective capacity building needs, the overall results are as follows (1 = most suitable ; 6 = least suitable):

Needs	Means	Human Resources Development	Research & Studies	Conferences & Meetings	Networks & Associations	Technical Assistance	Support Materials, Tools and Equipment
A. Assessment of existing laws, administrative practices and capacities		1	2	4	6	3	5
E. Assessment of legal and policy options		1	2	4	5	3	6
C. Comprehensive stakeholder consultations		2	4	1	3	5	6
F. comprehensive national legal framework		1	3	4	6	2	5
G. Establishment of functional and administrative procedures		1	3	5	6	2	4
B. Identification of relevant national stakeholders		3	4	1	2	5	6
D. Public awareness		2	6	1	4	5	3
H. Information technology		3	4	6	5	2	1
I. Regional coordination		3	5	1	2	4	6

17. Evidently, countries have different capacity building needs and priorities with respect to the national implementation of the Treaty. However, when it comes to existing activities related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the availability of financial and technical resources, Contracting Parties from the same region often face very similar challenges, involving comparable needs and solutions. Therefore, it seemed useful to mainly analyze the responses at regional, rather than at national level. And, when appropriate, responses from developing country Contracting Parties were compared with those from developed country Contracting Parties.

18. All regions consider the assessment of existing laws, administrative practices and capacities related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and of their conformity with the International Treaty (A), important¹. However, while most developing countries consider it the most critical capacity building need for Treaty implementation, developed countries tend to regard the assessment of legal and policy options (E) more important. These results could very well indicate that many countries from the developing world are still in the process of assessing their existing laws and policies, and prefer to complete this assessment before considering, as a subsequent step, concrete legal and policy options for the national implementation of the Treaty. For these developing countries, the need to assess legal and policy options would clearly become more relevant at a later stage. In contrary, the majority of the developed countries already seem to be in the position to consider new laws and policies that may be required for the effective implementation of the Treaty.

19. All regions consider *human resources development, research and studies* and *technical assistance* essential to strengthening their capacity in assessing existing laws, administrative practices and capacities related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. However, when it comes to defining the most suitable means to review legal and policy options in their countries, regions are relatively divided. Although they all agree on the importance of *human resources development*, Africa and the Near East clearly give priority to enhancing *research and studies* in this area, while Asia indicates *technical assistance* as the most suitable mean.

20. Overall, holding comprehensive stakeholder consultations including Government officials, NGOs, the scientific community, genebank managers, farmers' organizations, and extension agents (C), is ranked as the third most significant capacity building need. This result clearly shows that Contracting Parties duly recognize the importance of involving all relevant stakeholders in the implementation process of the Treaty. At the same time, it reflects the strong commitment and motivation of stakeholders to contribute to the implementation process and to make the Treaty work. While all regions unanimously consider *conferences and meetings* the most suitable mean to organize comprehensive stakeholder consultations, countries from Europe and from Latin America and the Caribbean believe the *development of human resources* is equally important.

21. With the exception of a limited number of African Contracting Parties, all developing countries consider the capacity building need to prepare and establish a comprehensive national legal framework (F) very important. This is a clear indication that many of these countries seek more guidance as to how to implement the Treaty in legal terms. To fulfill this need, the concerned Contracting Parties essentially require *technical assistance* and *human resources development*.

¹ see Annex I

22. Most countries from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Southwest Pacific attach high importance to the establishment of functional and administrative procedures for the operationalization of the Treaty's systems (G). Each of these regions has ranked this need amongst their three most critical ones. These results could indicate that a number of countries in these regions are past the stage of seeking basic advice and support on the Multilateral System and are actually ready for its application. All regions concerned consider the *development of human resources* the most suitable mean to strengthen capacity in this area. But while countries from Europe and Africa also require *technical assistance*, countries from Asia and the Southwest Pacific rather call for the organization of *conferences and meetings* in relation to this matter.

23. Africa and the Near East are the only two regions to have ranked the identification of relevant national stakeholders that are concerned by the implementation of the International Treaty (B) amongst their most critical capacity building needs. Most countries from both regions believe *conferences and meetings* are the best way to meet this need.

24. Average results would suggest Contracting Parties are hardly in need of information technology, such as software and hardware for the management of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (H). Yet these figures are relatively misleading. When looking at the responses on a case to case basis, it actually turns out that for nearly one third of the African Contracting Parties the need for information technology is the most critical one. The majority of these countries believe *support materials, tools and equipment*, but also *technical assistance*, are the most suitable means to strengthen their capacity in this area.

25. Contrary to developed countries, a large number of developing countries wish to strengthen their capacity to raise public awareness for the implementation of the Treaty (D). African Contracting Parties in particular, believe the *development of support materials, tools and equipment* are key to improve their capacity in this area, while countries from other regions think the organization of *conferences and meetings* and building up *networks and associations* are more suitable to this end.

26. The majority of the regions, with the exception of the Southwest Pacific, do not consider capacity building for regional coordination (I) as one of their key priorities. The Southwest Pacific region highlights *conferences and meetings* and *networks and associations* as the most suitable means to enhance regional coordination.

27. In addition to the capacity building needs suggested in the survey (A to I), countries were given the opportunity to mention other needs they consider important for the implementation of the Treaty. The following four main capacity building needs were identified by clustering the various responses:

1. Strengthen capacity for *ex-situ* conservation and plant breeding;
2. Establish national coordination system related to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture/ Strengthen national PGRFA network/ Coordination between stakeholders;

3. Harmonization between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity (at local level and beyond);
4. Include matters related to the implementation of the Treaty in the curriculum of universities.

Overall, the newly added needs were not considered priorities for the implementation of the Treaty.

Regional Synthesis

28. Responses to this survey have clearly indicated that countries from the same region often have to deal with similar challenges, especially when it comes to the availability of human, financial and technical resources to enhance the effective national implementation of the Treaty.

29. For most countries from the Near East the most urgent capacity building need is the assessment of all existing structures that are of relevance to the implementation of the Treaty. This includes the assessment of existing laws, administrative practices and capacities; and the identification of relevant stakeholders. In a subsequent step this information will be helpful in assessing concrete legal and policy option in the implementation of the Treaty and in holding comprehensive stakeholder consultations, as envisaged by the region.

30. In terms of the prioritized needs, what holds true for the Near East is equally true for Africa. Additionally, many African countries believe in the importance of public awareness raising for the successful national implementation of the Treaty. They also give a high priority to starting the establishment of functional and administrative procedures for the implementation of the Treaty's systems and strategies.

31. With the prioritization of the assessment of legal and policy options and the establishment of functional and administrative procedures for the implementation of the Treaty, the European region seems to emphasize the operationalization of the Treaty and its systems, including the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing. Within this process many countries regard the involvement of stakeholders through comprehensive consultations especially important.

32. Countries from Latin America and the Caribbean region have focused on the legal aspects of Treaty implementation in the selection of their capacity building priorities. Beside the assessment of existing laws, administrative capacities and legal and policy options they consider the preparation and establishment of a comprehensive national legal framework to be crucial for the implementation of the Treaty. They also see the importance of comprehensive stakeholder consultations in this process.

33. The capacity building priorities from Asia correspond to those from the Southwest Pacific region. The most urgent needs are the assessment of existing laws, administrative practices and capacities related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; and the establishment of functional and administrative procedures for the implementation of the

Treaty and its systems. Besides putting into practice the Treaty's systems, many countries in both regions see the importance of establishing a comprehensive national legal framework.

IV CONCLUSIONS

34. The results of the survey reflect the strong need of Contracting Parties for capacity building for the national and regional implementation of the Treaty. This need had already been expressed by Contracting Parties during the Second Session of the Governing Body, and has now been reiterated by the respondents of the survey.


35. This survey is a first step to systematically identify the capacity building needs and priorities of Contracting Parties and other stakeholders concerned by the implementation of the Treaty. It provides a starting point for a targeted, coherent and effective planning process of capacity building activities for Treaty implementation, that is driven by the actual needs and priorities expressed by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders.

36. Nevertheless, the results of the survey provide only an initial analysis and a general overview of required capacity building at the global and regional level. Additional information will need to be gathered from other sources to further differentiate the specific needs of all Contracting Parties and stakeholders. As the implementation of the Treaty and the operationalization of its systems progresses, the needs and priorities for capacity building will evolve. Therefore a continued process for the periodic assessment of capacity building needs and priorities by the Secretariat is foreseen. Results from this continued assessment of capacity building needs and priorities will be provided to the participants of the Capacity Building Coordination Mechanism at its future meetings and on the Treaty website.



Annex 1: Prioritization of capacity building needs by region (from 1 (most needed) to 9 (least needed))

Capacity building needs	Regions					
	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America/ Caribbean	Near East	South West Pacific
A. Assessment of existing laws, administrative practices and capacities related to PGRFA, and of their conformity with the International Treaty	1	1	3	2	1	2
B. Identification of relevant national stakeholders that are concerned by the implementation of the International Treaty	2	6	7	7	2	4
C. Comprehensive stakeholder consultations (Government, NGOs, scientific community, genebank managers, farmers' organizations, extension agents, etc.)	5	7	4	4	4	3
D. Public awareness	4	4	9	6	6	4
E. Assessment of legal and policy options in the implementation of the Treaty - Priority level (1 to 10)	8	5	1	1	3	2
F. Preparation and establishment of a comprehensive national legal framework	7	3	5	3	5	2
G. Establishment of functional and administrative procedures (implementation of the Multilateral System, Benefit sharing provisions, Farmers' Rights)	3	2	2	5	7	1
H. Information technology (software and hardware for SMTA management, search and ordering tools, reporting on SMTAs to the Governing Body)	6	8	6	8	9	2
I. Regional coordination	9	9	8	9	8	3

Appendix A



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



IT/CB-CM/08/Q1

<http://www.planttreaty.org>

**ENHANCED SURVEY ON
CAPACITY-BUILDING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

The following survey has been created to collect information on the capacity building needs at the national level **for the implementation of the International Treaty** on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

It is organized so that it can be answered very briefly, in about 10 minutes.

It is divided in three parts:

- the first part is dedicated to the prioritization of capacity building needs for Treaty implementation;
- the second part is dedicated to the prioritization of the means to address each of the identified needs;
- the third part relates to past or ongoing activities for Treaty implementation, which future capacity-building activities could build upon.

In each part, a blank line is provided for making it possible to add other items that have not been mentioned.

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<http://www.planttreaty.org>

I. Capacity-building needs

Please rank your capacity-building needs for the implementation of the International Treaty from 1 (most needed) to 10 (least needed) by selecting the respective level (1 to 10) for every capacity building need (A to J). Please note that every priority level should only be used once and that no field should be left blank.

Capacity-building needs	Priority level (1 to 10)
A. Assessment of existing laws, administrative practices and capacities related to PGRFA, and of their conformity with the International Treaty	
B. Identification of relevant national stakeholders that are concerned by the implementation of the International Treaty	
C. Comprehensive stakeholder consultations (Government, NGOs, scientific community, Genebank managers, farmers' organizations, extension agents, etc...)	
D. Public awareness	
E. Assessment of legal and policy options in the implementation of the Treaty	
F. Preparation and establishment of a comprehensive national legal framework	
G. Establishment of functional and administrative procedures (implementation of the Multilateral System, Benefit sharing provisions, Farmers' Rights)	
H. Information technology (software and hardware for SMTA management, search and ordering tools, reporting on SMTAs to the Governing Body)	
I. Regional coordination	
J. Other (please specify)	

II. Means to address the capacity-building needs

For each capacity building needs (A to J), please rank by order of priority the means to address the respective need from 1 (most suitable) to 6 (least suitable). Please do so by selecting the appropriate priority level (1 to 6) for every mean. Please note that within one row, every priority level should only be used once.

Needs \ Means	Human Resources Development	Research/ Studies	Conferences/ Meetings	Networks/ Associations	Technical Assistance	Support Materials, Tools and Equipment
	(Priority level 1-6)	(Priority level 1-6)	(Priority level 1-6)	(Priority level 1-6)	(Priority level 1-6)	(Priority level 1-6)
A. Assessment of existing laws, administrative practices and capacities related to PGRFA, and of their conformity with the International Treaty						
B. Identification of relevant national stakeholders that are concerned by the implementation of the International Treaty						
C. Comprehensive stakeholder consultations (Government, NGOs, scientific community, Genebank managers, farmers' organizations, extension agents, etc...)						
D. Public awareness						
E. Assessment of legal and policy options in the implementation of the Treaty						
F. Preparation and establishment of a comprehensive national legal framework						
G. Establishment of functional and administrative procedures (implementation of the Multilateral System, Benefit sharing provisions, Farmers' Rights)						
H. Information technology (software and hardware for SMTA management, search and ordering tools, reporting on SMTAs to the Governing Body)						
I. Regional coordination						
J. Other (please specify)						

III. Past or on-going activities for Treaty implementation

Please provide for each capacity building need, information—if any— on past or ongoing activities for Treaty implementation, which future capacity-building activities could build upon.

Capacity-building needs	Past or on-going activities for Treaty implementation
A. Assessment of existing laws, administrative practices and capacities related to PGRFA, and of their conformity with the International Treaty	
B. Identification of relevant national stakeholders that are concerned by the implementation of the International Treaty	
C. Comprehensive stakeholder consultations (Government, NGOs, scientific community, Genebank managers, farmers' organizations, extension agents, etc...)	
D. Public awareness	
E. Assessment of legal and policy options in the implementation of the Treaty	
F. Preparation and establishment of a comprehensive national legal framework	

G. Establishment of functional and administrative procedures (implementation of the Multilateral System, Benefit sharing provisions, Farmers' Rights)	
H. Information technology (software and hardware for SMTA management, search and ordering tools, reporting on SMTAs to the Governing Body)	
I. Regional coordination	
J. Other (please specify)	

IV. Contact details

E-Mail Address (field required):

*Country (field required):

Name:

Title/Position:

Organization:

Please, provide your address.

Name:

Company:

Address:

Address 2:

City/Town:

State/Province:

ZIP/Postal
Code:

Country:

In your Country, you are from:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Science, research & academic sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Private Sector | <input type="checkbox"/> The National Focal Point of the Treaty |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A gene bank or ex situ collection of PGRFA | <input type="checkbox"/> A regional or international organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A farmer, farming community or farmers' association | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |