



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
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**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 Italy on 31 July 2019.*

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



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**The International Treaty**  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty

### Implementing the ITPGRFA in Italy The National Programme RGV/FAO

#### Basic information

- Title of measure/practice: **Implementing the ITPGRFA in Italy - The National Programme RGV/FAO**
- Date of submission: **July 2019**
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: **Italy**
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person): **Ministry of Agriculture, DISR III - [disr3@politicheagricole.it](mailto:disr3@politicheagricole.it)**
- Type of institution/organization (categories): **Ministry**
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): **Rete Semi Rurali - Scandicci - [info@semirurali.net](mailto:info@semirurali.net)**

#### Description of the examples

##### Mandatory information:<sup>1</sup>

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

In 2004 Italy started a specific programme on the implementation of the ITPGRFA, including the public gene banks and supporting their conservation activities. From 2007 also the Italian Seed Network (Rete Semi Rurali- RSR) has been involved in the programme, with the aim of promoting sustainable use of PGRFA. This programme is supporting and recognizing the role of seed networks and farmers' organisation on sustainable use and conservation of PGRFA. It is a way of contributing at the same time to protection and re-creation of traditional knowledge and to the involvement of farmers and farmers' networks in policy decision-making.

The support to sustainable use of PGRFA by farmers and farmers' networks can be considered a non-monetary measure of benefit sharing under the framework of article 9 of the IPTGRFA. It also contributes to the support of traditional knowledge, promoting social networks and the exchange of knowledge among different stakeholders. It allows to create a policy and institutional framework for involving farmers' networks in the decision making process. For example, in the agreement between RSR and Ministry of Agriculture the activities foreseen include the support to the national delegation on issues related to articles 6 and 9 of the ITPGRFA.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

In 2004 Italy started a specific programme on the implementation of the ITPGRFA, including the public gene banks and supporting their conservation activities. From 2007 also the Italian Seed Network (Rete Semi Rurali- RSR) has been involved in the programme, with the aim of promoting sustainable use of PGRFA.

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



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

The RGV/FAO project is supporting from one side the maintenance of public ex situ collections and on the other side on farm conservation done by farmers' networks. It is important to note that this is a pluriannual project, that can support the activities in the long term.

- 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)

In Italy there are many public research institutions managing germplasm collections and also many local and regional initiatives of on farm conservation by the civil society. That is the reason why the Ministry of Agriculture in 2004 started the RGV/FAO project, aiming at coordinating and supporting their activities. In the case of civil societies, it was chosen Rete Semi Rurali because is a network of different organisations (40 in 2019) spread at national level.

- 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 <sup>2</sup>	Also relevant <sup>3</sup>
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		

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

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



5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites	X	
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks <sup>4</sup> , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.		X
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		X
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)

The objective of the project is to implement the ITPGRFA in Italy in particular with regard to articles 5, 6 and 9.

- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers<sup>5</sup>

Farmers and other stakeholders are involved through the Italian Seed Network during the year in specific activities. Thanks to the programme each year around 5.000 people participated to on farm trials and activities, including consumers and technicians.

- Location(s) and geographical outreach

Italy

- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice

Each year the Ministry of Agriculture finance a programme of around 50.000€ implemented by Rete Semi Rurali. The overall budget of the project RGV/FAO is around 1 million € per year.

- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?

<sup>4</sup> Including seed houses.

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



Thanks to the programme, RSR has activated collaborations and agreements with many public gene banks in order to multiply and use PGRFA conserved ex situ, start participatory plant breeding programmes and in general increase cultivated diversity in farming systems. This programme also is supporting the maintenance of the Community Seed Banks managed by RSR.

- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)

As said previously this practice promote the long term funding of the Italian Seed Network, allowing the realisation of many activities in Italy referring to articles 5, 6 and 9. It also support activities of raising awareness on the importance of the Treaty and its provisions at national level.

- 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).

The support to sustainable use of PGRFA by farmers and farmers' networks can be considered a non-monetary measure of benefit sharing under the framework of article 9 of the IPTGRFA. It also contributes to the support of traditional knowledge, promoting social networks and the exchange of knowledge among different stakeholders. It allows to create a policy and institutional framework for involving farmers' networks in the decision making process. For example, in the agreement between RSR and Ministry of Agriculture the activities foreseen include the support to the national delegation on issues related to articles 6 and 9 of the ITPGRFA.

- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)

The main challenges are creating trust between social actors and institutions, and recognition by public bodies of the importance of social actors in sustainable use of PGRFA.

- 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)

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It is important to set up a long-term programme supported by public institutions (e.g. the Ministry of Agriculture having in charge the ITPGRFA implementation) in order to guarantee the sustainability of social organisations.

#### **Further information**

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

**[www.semirurali.net](http://www.semirurali.net)**



**Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights  
as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty**

**Innovative decentralised seed-systems for bread wheat evolutionary populations**

**Basic information**

- Title of measure/practice: **Innovative decentralised seed-systems for bread wheat evolutionary populations**
- Date of submission: **July 2019**
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: **Italy**
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person): **Rete Semi Rurali (RSR), via di Casignano 25, 50018, Scandicci (FI); [www.semirurali.net](http://www.semirurali.net); [riccardo.bocci@semirurali.net](mailto:riccardo.bocci@semirurali.net)**
- Type of institution/organization (categories): **NGO - conservation, promotion and education activities on agro-biodiversity**
- Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): **CREA-DC (<http://abp.entecra.it>); Ministry of Agriculture ([www.politicheagricole.it](http://www.politicheagricole.it)); European Commission ([https://ec.europa.eu/commission/index\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/index_en))**

**Description of the examples**

**Mandatory information:<sup>1</sup>**

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

This measure refers to the development of Evolutionary Populations (Eps or Composite Cross Populations - CCPs) through decentralised and participatory plant breeding programme. The project started in 2010 as part of the EU funded research project SOLIBAM ([solibam.eu](http://solibam.eu)). The CCP was constituted at ICARDA, Syria by Salvatore Ceccarelli with the declared aim of providing farmers with a highly diverse population, which would be able to adapt to a wide range of environments and farming practices. The population was constituted by at 2000 crosses stemming from 200 parental lines (cultivars, local varieties, CWR). RSR set up field trials in four different locations in Italy to evaluate this EP, alongside local varieties and variety mixtures, as part of the research activities of EU project DIVERSIFOOD ([diversifood.eu](http://diversifood.eu)). These trials also included participatory evaluation of the crops by farmers and dissemination events, such as farm days and on-farm workshops. More than 350 farmers took part to the participatory evaluation activities over the four years of trials (2015-2018). In 2017, the first batch of certified population seed became available on the seed market and the number of farmers who were able to access the EP (named SOLIBAM tenero) doubled. Furthermore, the EP started to enter both short and long value chain, for the production of flour and baking products (bread, pizza). In 2017 and 2018 21 and 30 tons of certified EP seed were produced and marketed.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

In 2010 as part of the EU funded research project SOLIBAM ([solibam.eu](http://solibam.eu)), RSR distributed to three farmers seed of an EP of bread wheat. The CCP was constituted at ICARDA, Syria by Salvatore Ceccarelli with the declared aim of providing farmers with a highly diverse population, which would be able to adapt to a wide

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





range of environments and farming practices. The population was constituted by at 2000 crosses stemming from 200 parental lines (cultivars, local varieties, CWR). Two of the farmers, one in the region of Tuscany and one in Sicily grew the population continuously, gradually increasing the cultivated area. This highly diverse population attracted the interest of many farmers, and seed of this EP gradually spread through the informal seed system, reaching over 40 farmers all over Italy in 2017. In parallel, RSR set up field trials in four different locations in Italy to evaluate this EP, alongside local varieties and variety mixtures, as part of the research activities of EU project DIVERSIFOOD (diversifood.eu). These trials also included participatory evaluation of the crops by farmers and dissemination events, such as farm days and on-farm workshops. More than 350 farmers took part to the participatory evaluation activities over the four years of trials (2015-2018). RSR also assisted the two pioneering farmers (Floriddia in Tuscany and Li Rosi in Sicily) in registering this population as part of EU temporary experiment on population seed marketing (2014/150 EU) and become certified seed producers. In 2017, the first batch of certified population seed became available on the seed market and the number of farmers who were able to access the EP (named SOLIBAM tenero) doubled. Furthermore, the EP started to enter both short and long value chain, for the production of flour and baking products (bread, pizza). In 2018, a new research project funded by the regional government of Tuscany within the EU EIP-Agri framework started (Cereali Resilienti). Through this project, involving 19 Tuscan farms, the specific adaptation of micro-climatic areas will be evaluated, as well as innovative models for decentralised seed systems.

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

The measure is sets on six pillars:

- 1) Increasing genetic diversity within cultivated crops through the deployment of highly diverse Evolutionary Populations;
- 2) Mitigated the impact of Climate Change thanks to the ability of EPs to compensate inter-annual climatic variability as well as climatic trends (increasing temperatures, decreasing rainfall);
- 3) Empower farmers, providing technical support and training in on-farm selection and seed production;
- 4) Foster the development of decentralised seed-systems and enterprises;
- 5) Foster the development of short or closed value-chains based on bread wheat EP products;
- 6) At policy level, cooperate with regulatory authorities at regional, national and European level to inform decision makers on best practices for EP seed registration and certification, whilst ensuring farmers' rights on EP seeds.

- 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)

Crop varieties specifically bred for organic agriculture are lacking, imposing limits on the uptake and efficiency of organic production systems. The ability of Evolutionary Populations (EP) of crops to evolve and adapt to different agro-ecological environments makes them ideally suited to obtaining specifically adapted plants, allowing farmers to better harness the full potential of organically managed and marginal lands. Furthermore, EPs can adapt to climate change and different agro-ecological environments, increasing farmers' resilience and enhancing on-farm biodiversity. A precondition for the successful deployment of EPs is that the seeds is produced in the same region in which it will be utilized, with farmers playing central roles as both seed users and producers. Thanks to the EU COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (2014/150/EU), providing for certain derogations for the marketing of populations of wheat, barley, oats and maize, this genetically heterogeneous population is now for the first time been marketed as certified



seed. From 2021, thanks to the new EU organic regulation, EPs will become a new category of organic seeds. Interest of both farmers and consumers in sustainably produced foods, combined with the window of opportunity in the European institutional framework offers new opportunities to foster farmers' control on their own seeds, enhance their role in EPs seed production and use and develop new seed-systems models and value-chains.

- 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 <sup>2</sup>	Also relevant <sup>3</sup>
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 <sup>4</sup> , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.		

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Including seed houses.





7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection	X	
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.		X
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)

To promote the development of innovative seed-systems and value-chains based on Evolutionary Populations, which are both economically and environmentally sustainable. To ensure that control over EPs rests with the farmers who cultivate them on their lands.

- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers<sup>5</sup>

Farmers (350); Seed producers (2); Public Seed Certifying Body (1)

- Location(s) and geographical outreach

Italy. Two main locations of bread wheat EP seed adaptation (Peccioli, Tuscany and Raddusa, Sicily); four locations for field trials (the aforementioned two with the addition of San Giuliano di Puglia, Molise and Caraglio, Piedmont); the whole of Italy (farmers growing the bread wheat EP)

- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice

Not applicable. This measure has been founded by EU H2020 projects (SOLIBAM, DIVERSIFOOD, LIVESEED) and EIP-Agri project "Cereali Resilienti".

- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?

This measure has stimulated a great deal of interest by farmers, many of which were already active in growing and conserving local varieties of cereals on their farms and in their communities. The re-skilling and empowering of farmers in Italy (and Europe) are key to their ability to preserve genetic resources on their farms, as well as generate new cultivated diversity through Evolutionary Populations.

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



- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)

Since 2kg of SOLIBAM bread wheat EP seed was distributed to two Italian farmers in 2010, the production cultivation now (2018) interests >80 farmers. In 2017 and 2018 21 and 30 tons of certified EP seed were produced and marketed.

- 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).

The main lesson learned through the implementation of this measure, is that farmer's participation in the process is key to its success. Innovation brokers, such as RSR can achieve this type of results only if farmers and other value-chain stakeholders are involved and take ownership of the process. Furthermore, a crucial aspect to the success of this measure, with concern to the registration and certification of seed, was the constructive relationship established with the regulatory authorities (CREA-DC, MIPAAFT).

- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)

Seed legislation is allowing only the marketing of uniform varieties. Thanks to a specific derogation in the EU seed legal framework, farmers in Italy have been able to market the seeds of populations that are not uniform by definition. RSR with the support of CREA-DC succeed in helping farmers to produce and certify their seeds, creating a new registration and certification framework for populations.

- 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)

The main condition of success is the change of legal seed framework allowing the marketing of non-uniform populations. It should create a specific space for that, with adapted registration and certification procedures. The registration, certification and marketing of the SOLIBAM bread wheat EP is an indicator of the successful cooperation of all actors involved in this measure.

### **Further information**

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

[www.semirurali.net](http://www.semirurali.net)



**Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights  
as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty**

**Creation of a micro value-chain for a local variety of rye, the "Iermana"**

**Basic information**

- Title of measure/practice: **Creation of a micro value-chain for a local variety of rye, the "Iermana"**
- Date of submission: **July 2019**
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: **Italy**
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person: **Regional Agency for Agricultural Development and Innovation (Agenzia Lucana di Sviluppo ed Innovazione in Agricoltura - ALSIA); via Annunziatella 85 - 75100 Matera, Italy - [www.alsia.it](http://www.alsia.it); [domenico.cerbino@alsia.it](mailto:domenico.cerbino@alsia.it)**
  - Type of institution/organization (categories): **Public body of Basilicata regional government whose mandate is research, extension services, knowledge transfer & dissemination and rural development**
  - Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): **National Park: Ente Parco Nazionale del Pollino - Rotonda (PZ); Farmers (custodian farmers doing on-farm conservation) (n=30); Miller: Mulino Arleo, Castronuovo Sant'Andrea (PZ); Baker: Forno Sorelle Palese, Potenza (PZ); On-farm tourism: Agriturismo "La Garavina", Teranova di Pollino (PZ).**

**Description of the examples**

**Mandatory information:<sup>1</sup>**

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

This measure is about the role that local authorities can play for supporting local development through on farm conservation. This activity is not more considered as an open-air museum, but as way to support farming activities in marginal areas. During the period 2013-2014 ALSIA carried out a survey among farmers in the region, to identify rye growers. Four farmers cultivating a total of 2 ha with an old variety called "Iermana" or "Germana" were identified. Then in 2018 ALSIA has succeeded in registering the "Iermana" rye local variety on the Italian National seed catalogue (conservation varieties section). The value-chain creation allowed to increase the "Iermana" rye cultivated area from 2 to 15 ha, as well as the number of farmers from 4 to 30. This success demonstrates the importance of doing conservation through use of PGRFA.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

During the period 2013-2014 ALSIA carried out a survey among farmers in the region, to identify rye growers. Four farmers cultivating a total of 2 ha with an old variety called "Iermana" or "Germana" were identified. At the experimental and demonstrative farm "Pollino" belonging to ALSIA and located in Rotonda, Potenza, this variety was characterised through phenotyping. Subsequently, the seed of this variety was conserved both ex-situ and on-farm. For the in-situ conservation, the seed was taken in by the "Ancient Seed Seedban of Basilicata - Franco Sassone", hosted by the aforementioned experimental ALSIA farm in Rotonda, as well as in the Genebank of the Insitute for Bio-science and Bio-resources of the National

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



Research Council of Bari (CNR IBBR). For on-farm conservation, in 2016 16 farmers were identified (custodian-farmers). Seed was distributed with the agreement that part of the harvest would be returned to ALSIA's the seed bank. In the years that followed, the number increased, reaching 30 in 2019. ALSIA also promoted a micro value-chain, involving three millers in the area, who buy the "Iermana" grain, as well as seven bakers and three on-farm touristic accommodation (agri-tourism)

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

On-farm cultivation of ancient rye local variety "Iermana", seed certification, short value chain from grain to flour and bread.

- 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)

Local rye variety "Iermana" was documented as traditionally grown in the Pollino region already in the 1800's. With the advent of modern agriculture and high yielding DUS varieties, combined with the great exodus from rural areas towards the cities in the 1960's, its use almost disappeared. Thankfully, a few farmers maintained this local variety alive in their farms to this day. The recent appetite by society and consumers for local varieties of grains (the so-called "Grani Antichi" or ancient grains) has sparked a renewed interest by farmers and value-chain holders in growing, transforming and marketing these products. Thanks to EU directive on conservation varieties, these traditional crops can now also be registered on a special section of the National seed catalogue for production of certified seeds, allowing farmers to become seed producers. ALSIA has succeeded in registering the "Iermana" rye local variety on the Italian National seed catalogue (conservation varieties section) in 2018. On-farm and ex-situ conservation can therefore now be also supported by commercial production of this local variety, based on quality certified seed.

- 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 <sup>2</sup>	Also relevant <sup>3</sup>
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		X
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	X	
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		X
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks <sup>4</sup> , 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.		X
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)

Farmers conserving the "Iermana" rye genetic resource have been coached into creating their own value-chain.

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Including seed houses.



- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers<sup>5</sup>

This practice was implemented through a multi-actor approach: a conservation and certification body (1), custodian farmers (30), small millers (3), bakers (7) and agri-tourism structures (3).

- Location(s) and geographical outreach

Italy, Pollino National Park, Basilicata region.

- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice

Financial resources from ALSIA and Basilicata regional government were used to implement this practice, as well as private investments from value-chain actors.

- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?

The value-chain creation allowed to increase the "Iermana" rye cultivated area from 2 to 15 ha, as well as the number of farmers (from 4 to 30). The cultivation of this rye variety is possible in marginal fields above 700m a.s.l. adopting agricultural practices with a very low environmental impact. This also helps to prevent the abandonment of fields in mountainous areas.

- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)

This measure increased the income of the farmers involved, allowing them to remain in their marginal areas. It also achieved to increase the interest of the actors of the value chain on the value of this local variety.

- Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice

In other Italian regions, such as Tuscany and Trentino, similar value-chain exists, with other local varieties of rye.

- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?

No

- Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice

It would be useful to genotype this variety and compare the results with other varieties in Italy.

### Lessons learned

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

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





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The creation of short value-chain is essential to add value and market the produce of these local varieties. This applies for any local variety of any species.

- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)

The greatest difficulty in the implementation of this practice, is convincing all the actor of the new value-chain, that everyone will gain from this experience. Often individualistic approaches, common among farmers and transformers represent an obstacle to cooperation.

- 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)

Getting all the potential actors of the future value-chain engaged through initial meetings.

#### **Further information**

- [Link\(s\) to further information about the measure/practice](#)

**Articles published on ALSIA's magazine "Agrifoglio"; Oral presentation at the XII National Biodiversity Conference in Teramo, Italy (13-15 June 2018)**



**Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights  
as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty**

**Enhancement and protection of the products of local varieties of the Genova's mountain by a  
consortium of farmers called "Consorzio della Quarantina"**

**Basic information**

- Title of measure/practice: **Enhancement and protection of the products of local varieties of the Genova's mountain by a consortium of farmers called "Consorzio della Quarantina"**
- Date of submission: **July 2019**
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: **Italy**
  - Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person): **Consorzio della Quarantina per la Tutela dei Prodotti di Varietà e Razze tradizionali della Montagna genovese – (from now Consorzio della Quarantina) Address: Via N.S. della Provvidenza 3 (c/o Parco Antola) – 16027 Torriglia GE; e-mail address: presidente@quarantina.it; Telephone number 339 8137736**
- Type of institution/organization (categories): **NGO - conservation, promotion and education activities on agro-biodiversity**
  - Collaborating/supporting institutions/organizations/actors, if applicable (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s)): **Institutions: Liguria Regional government; Province of Genova; Actors: members of the association, producers and partners of the Quarantina Consortium, local history and rural culture scholars, other associations as Rete semi Rurali.**

**Description of the examples**

**Mandatory information:<sup>1</sup>**

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

This measure presents the role that local associations can play in the sustainable management of agrobiodiversity. They are particularly relevant in marginal areas to maintain farming activities and therefore guarantee an income to farmers. The establishment of the Consorzio della Quarantina is the result of a research conducted since the mid-'80s by Massimo Angelini, scholar of rural culture, which focuses in particular on research and recovery of a variety of potato traditionally grown in the mountains of Genova, which was known as "Quarantina bianca". The Consortium has 39 members, 23 of whom are farmers. Among these, 15 are producers of the Quarantina white potato for the Consortium. In addition, the association has 2 affiliated shops that buy the Quarantina potato directly from the Consortium and 9 farmhouses and bed and breakfasts with which they collaborate and that the Consortium supply with the Quarantina potato. Even if they started their activities for conserving local varieties, in last years they developed a programme of selection of new varieties obtained from the cultivation of real seed taken from the berry of the white Quarantina variety. This project, also supported by the Liguria Region, is aimed at the genetic improvement of the same Quarantina, in particular as regards to the characteristics of productivity and resistance to the Downy mildew. The activities of comparison between the new lines selected and the white Quarantina have been arranged in 9 different farms, located mainly in the province

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



of Genova, at different altitudes, and for a period of 6 years, leading to the collection of interesting data. This aspect is really relevant because demonstrates how conservation is linked to innovation and how it is possible to create modernity from tradition.

- Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate

The establishment of the Consorzio della Quarantina is the result of a research conducted since the mid-'80s by Massimo Angelini, scholar of rural culture, which focuses in particular on research and recovery of a variety of potato traditionally grown in the mountains of Genova, which was known as “Quarantina bianca”. Hence the idea of creating a Consortium, considering the interest that in the meantime had been created around the recovery of this product. Therefore was born the “Consorzio della Quarantina” on 13 April 2000, on the initiative of 20 agricultural producers in the mountain area of the Province of Genova. After the change of Statute, which took place in 2003, and the creation of a non-profit association in 2006, the Consortium decided to expand its actions in the area with particular attention to the cultivation and breeding of varieties and traditional breeds of agricultural interest, related to the area around Genova, the production and dissemination of products derived from these varieties and breeds, the expansion of the membership base that includes, in addition to producers and affiliates (shops and restaurants), also purchasing groups, supporters, consumers and their families; the extension of the territorial area of interest that goes beyond the borders of central Liguria; the interest in all the products of family farming, linked to the territory and small-scale products for the local market. With the birth of the association the name changes from “Consorzio di tutela della Quarantina bianca Genovese e delle patate tradizionali della Montagna genovese” to “Consorzio della Quarantina per la Tutela dei Prodotti di Varietà e Razze tradizionali della Montagna genovese” .

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

The core components of the consortium's practices, according to the association's Statute, can be summarized as follows:

1. Supporting the rural world to promote and protect family farming, housing and production recovery of the territory;
2. The cultivation, breeding, conservation, exchange and dissemination of varieties and local breeds, and the sale of the products derived from them;
3. To give impulse to the local culture, the manual handcraft, the traditional kitchen, the knowledge of the territory and its communities;
4. To support local knowledge, local practices, collective ownership, community places, the custom handed down to us.

These practices are supported through various activities that the Consortium carries out on the territory in collaboration with the producers, members and affiliates of the association. In particular, it should be noticed the work of recovering six different varieties of potatoes traditionally grown in the mountainous areas of the province of Genova, the organization of the production and reproduction of tubers arranged by the producers of the consortium, the testing of new varieties of potatoes from the berries of the white Quarantina, and the drafting of a Protocol for the cultivation, reproduction and sale of the white potato Quarantina.

- 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 “Consorzio della Quarantina” was founded thanks to an activity of research and recovery of a local variety of potato, the Quarantina bianca, undertaken by Massimo Angelino, a scholar of rural culture, in the '80s. The interest shown by many farmers during the research process led to the establishment in 2000 of a Consortium composed by 20 farmers and in 2006 of a non-profit association called "Consorzio della Quarantina per la Tutela dei Prodotti di Varietà e Razze tradizionali della Montagna genovese".

The various tasks of the association are coordinated by the members who are directly involved in the organization of numerous activities, the main of which is certainly the cultivation, reproduction and sale of the white potato Quarantina. Moreover, in 2011, one of the members of the Consortium, started a work of production of new varieties starting from the real seed extracted from a berry of the variety Quarantina bianca. This path has been recognized and supported by the Regional government of Liguria, which in 2017 granted funds through the Rural Development Plan for the organization of demonstration days in the fields of producers of these new lines of potatoes. Finally, the Consortium is also responsible for promoting and organizing courses in agriculture and traditional cuisine, involving different actors in the area.

- 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 <sup>2</sup>	Also relevant <sup>3</sup>
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	X	
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		X

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

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



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		X
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks <sup>4</sup> , 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.		
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)

The purpose of the association, according to its Statute, is to support the rural world, to promote family farming and the recovery of housing and production of disadvantaged areas of the mountains of Genova, to recover, cultivate, breed varieties or local breeds, to preserve and pass on local knowledge about local varieties / races and peasant culture.

- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers<sup>5</sup>

The Consortium has 39 members, 23 of whom are farmers. Among these, 15 are producers of the Quarantina white potato for the Consortium. In addition, the association has 2 affiliated shops that buy the Quarantina potato directly from the Consortium and 9 farmhouses and bed and breakfasts with which they collaborate and that the Consortium supply with the Quarantina potato. The association also promotes events open to the public, including the organization of the "Mandillo dei Semi", a day of exchange of self-produced seeds, and the event "exhibition of potatoes from the world", an exhibition of 600 different varieties of potatoes from around the world, managed by one of the members of the Consortium. Always in contact and in close collaboration with other associations linked to the Italian rural world, it is worth mentioning in particular the adherence to the themes concerning the legislation on the varieties considered local or of ancient constitution carried out by Rete Semi Rurali.

<sup>4</sup> Including seed houses.

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



- Location(s) and geographical outreach

Italy. The territorial area involving the Consorzio della Quarantina includes several mountain municipalities in the Province of Genova, Liguria Region (Italy).

- Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice

This project has been self-funded by the association.

- How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?

The activities of the Consorzio della Quarantina are mainly focus on the recovery and enhancement of genetic resources at risk of extinction. Since its establishment, in fact, the consortium has provided for the drafting of a set of rules that draws up the guidelines to be followed for the implementation of all the actions necessary to safeguard the heritage of local varieties and breeds in the area. In particular, they can be identified in (following the "Disciplinare della Quarantina"):

- 1) collection of technical and popular documentation produced during the time;
- 2) inventory, location and consistency through the compilation of reporting forms for each access;
- 3) morpho-physiological characterization and evaluation of the distinction between local and commercial varieties, highlighting the characteristics of uniqueness;
- 4) evaluation of the size of the populations and preparation of all the measures for the on farm conservation of the different populations, identifying the areas and a technically correct methodology;
- 5) identification of the propagation material for in situ conservation;
- 6) identification of the areas for ex situ conservation and selection of farm "germplasm banks";
- 7) drafting of guidelines for ex situ conservation;
- 8) all further operations needed for the registration to the National Register of Biodiversity.

- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)

The Consortium has 39 members, 23 of whom are farmers. Among these, 15 are producers of the Quarantina white potato for the Consortium. In addition, the association has 2 affiliated shops that buy the Quarantina potato directly from the Consortium and 9 farmhouses and bed and breakfasts with which they collaborate and that the Consortium supply with the Quarantina potato.

- Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice

No.

- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice?

No

- Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice





Since 2011 a member of the Consortium started a programme of selection of new varieties obtained from the cultivation of real seed taken from the berry of the white Quarantina variety. This project, also supported by the Liguria Region, is aimed at the genetic improvement of the same Quarantina, in particular as regards to the characteristics of productivity and resistance to the Downy mildew. The activities of comparison between the new lines selected and the white Quarantina have been arranged in 9 different farms, located mainly in the province of Genova, at different altitudes, and for a period of 6 years, leading to the collection of interesting data.

### **Lessons learned**

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

The "lessons" learned in this particular path of safeguarding and enhancement a genetic resource can be summarized as follows:

1. The recovery and enhancement of a local variety/race is an arduous task; for this reason, collective management is essential, based on clear, shared and open rules, that is, rules that can be modified over time. This assumption has always been present to the producers of Quarantina, who in fact immediately joined in a Consortium, and have established guidelines for the cultivation, reproduction and sale of Quarantina potatoes according to rules shared by all the members and drawn up in the "Specification of Quarantina", modified over the years.
2. The recovery of a local variety/race cannot be separated from the knowledge related to this resource. Since its establishment, the Consortium's task has been to gather information on the different local varieties by organizing them in technical sheets, to promote the circulation of local knowledge through the organization of meetings and informative courses on family farming and traditional cooking and to seek the support of institutions/other associations for the promotion of their activities in the area.
3. In order to define itself as such, tradition must be innovative: this idea is the starting point for the "Rubra spes Project", which has provided for the selection of different lines of potatoes starting from the real seed extracted from Quarantina berries.

- What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)

The greatest challenges that the Consortium face is mainly organisational, both in terms of cultivation and sale of Quarantina potatoes and in terms of selection of new varieties. This is mainly due to the fact that all the breeding of the potatoes and the trials of the new varieties took place on large, impervious territories and that for the most part the producers couldn't count in external financial support.

- 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)

The main point is to have the participation of farmers in the initiative. They should consider themselves not only client but primary actors of the project.

### **Further information**

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

<http://www.quarantina.it>