



NOTIFICATION

Announcement of the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights, 27-30 September 2016, Indonesia, and invitation for contributions

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Resolution 5/2015, Implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights, adopted by the Governing Body at its Sixth Session in October 2015, whereby the Governing Body, *inter alia*, "*request[ed] the Secretariat to engage Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to gather information at national, regional and global levels for exchanging views, experiences and best practices on the implementation of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.*"

Article 9 of the International Treaty recognizes the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centers of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, which constitute the basis of food and agriculture production throughout the world.

Article 9 further provides that the responsibility for realizing Farmers' Rights rests with the national governments. Contracting Parties should, in accordance with their needs and priorities, and subject to national legislation, take measures to protect traditional knowledge, participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Article 9 also addresses the issue of farmers' rights to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material.

It is recalled that during the Sixth Session of the Governing Body, a Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights was suggested.

The Government of Indonesia through the Ministry of Agriculture – Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD) has confirmed the hosting of the global consultation on Farmers' Rights from 27-30 September 2016, in Bali, Indonesia. The Government of Norway has also confirmed their commitment to co-organize and co-sponsor the conduct of the Global Consultation.

In light of this recent development, the Secretariat is now preparing the processes in order to facilitate the conduct of the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights:

- Pre-Consultations. The Pre-Consultations will be held back-to-back with other meetings of the International Treaty or with related international meeting in the regions.
- An electronic Survey.

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The results and the outcomes of these processes will be presented at the Global Consultation in September 2016.

I avail myself of this opportunity to invite Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, stakeholder groups and relevant international organizations:

- (i) to support the process and the conduct of the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights;
- (ii) to make financial contribution to enable farmers' organizations' representatives to attend in the consultation and also to cover language interpretation services. An early response to this Notification will help the host Government to facilitate the planning of the Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights.

Any query or request for further information should be addressed to:

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Sincerely,



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