



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda
INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
THIRD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY
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COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS SENT BY CONTRACTING PARTIES, OTHER GOVERNMENTS, AND RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6

1. At its First Session, the Governing Body recognized the importance of Article 6 of the Treaty (*Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources*) and stressed that the Contracting Parties will assume the major role in enhancing the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). Options for the implementation of Article 6 include capacity-building, awareness-raising and education, cooperation with other institutions, and integration with other initiatives. The Governing Body decided that the implementation of Article 6 should be a component of its programme of work, and a standing item on its agenda as a priority and decided to engage in an in-depth consideration of the sustainable use of PGRFA following a staged approach beginning at its the Second Session.

2. The Governing Body invited Contracting Parties, other governments, and relevant institutions and organisations to submit to the Secretary information on policy and legal measures relevant to Article 6.1 of the Treaty, as well as other relevant information, for example on workshops or studies. The Governing Body decided that the compilation of such information, together with information on relevant measures undertaken in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and by the International Agricultural Research Centres (IARCs), as well as other relevant institutions, should serve as a basis to assess progress in implementing Article 6, at a future session of the Governing Body.

3. The Governing Body emphasized the need to avoid duplication of efforts, especially in light of the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and preparations by the

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Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for the second *Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

4. As of 1 August 2007, the Secretary had received submissions from Australia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Germany, Lesotho, Madagascar, Niger, Pakistan, Seychelles, Syria, Sweden, Tanzania and Uruguay. A compilation of submissions was contained in *Annex 1* to document IT/GB-2/07/15¹. The Governing Body also examined the information document, *Information Received from Relevant Organizations Concerning the Implementation of Article 6*².

5. At its Second Session the Governing Body invited Contracting Parties, other governments, and relevant organizations to send submissions on Article 6 and “urged and improved process for information gathering on the sustainable use activities, including means such as surveys, conceptual frameworks, inter-sessional meetings and workshops”.

6. As of 31 August 2008, the Secretary has received and compiled submissions from Ecuador, Germany, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Syria and Zambia, included as *Annex 1* to this document.

7. The Secretary has also prepared the working document IT/GB-3/09/16 on the status of Implementation of Article 6.

¹IT/GB-2/07/15, Compilation and analysis of submissions by Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations concerning the implementation of Article 6, <ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agp/planttreaty/gb2/gb2w15e.pdf>

² IT/GB-2/07/Inf.8, Information received from relevant organizations concerning the implementation of Article 6. Contribution from the System-wide Genetic Resources Programme (SGRP) on behalf of the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), <ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agp/planttreaty/gb2/gb2i8e.pdf>

***ANNEX I: COMPILATION OF SUBMISSIONS SENT BY CONTRACTING PARTIES,
OTHER GOVERNMENTS, AND RELEVANT INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6***

INTRODUCTION

This annex is a compilation of the submissions sent by Contracting Parties, other governments, and relevant institutions concerning the implementation of Article 6 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

All submissions contained in this annex were received by the Secretariat of the Treaty before 31 August 2008.

The majority of the submissions have been inserted into this annex in the form and language in which they were received. Minor editorial changes include the full rendering of acronyms and the correction of spelling.

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I. ECUADOR

En la Asamblea Constituyente se acaban de aprobar los artículos de soberanía alimentaria, en donde se refiere al uso de los recursos fitogenéticos para la agricultura y la alimentación. Los artículos que se enuncian a continuación, estarán en la nueva Constitución del Ecuador si en el referéndum obligatorio se acepta por parte del pueblo ecuatoriano, dicha Constitución, cuyo plazo esta previsto para el 2008.

Art.- (1) Soberanía Alimentaria.- El Estado ecuatoriano reconoce, garantiza y promueve el derecho de las personas, las comunidades y los pueblos a la Soberanía Alimentaria, para alcanzar la autosuficiencia de alimentos sanos y culturalmente apropiados, sustentada fundamentalmente en la pequeña y mediana producción campesina, familiar y en la pesca artesanal.

Art.- (2) Obligaciones en relación a la Soberanía Alimentaria.- La soberanía alimentaria constituye un objetivo estratégico de la sociedad ecuatoriana para lo cual el Estado está obligado a:

1. Impulsar y facilitar la producción, transformación, agroalimentaria y pesquera de las pequeñas y medianas unidades de producción, comunitarias y de la economía popular solidaria, a fin de que se destinen fundamentalmente al consumo local y nacional mediante la generación de sistemas de distribución y comercialización.
2. Adoptar políticas fiscales, tributarias y arancelarias que protejan el sector agroalimentario y pesquero nacional, para evitar la dependencia de importación de alimentos.
3. Tomar medidas necesarias para erradicar la pobreza rural, garantizando a través de políticas redistributivas el acceso de los campesinos al agua, a la propiedad de la tierra y más recursos productivos.
4. Garantizar preferentemente a la pequeña y mediana agricultura, a la pesca artesanal y recolectores el acceso equitativo a los recursos productivos necesarios para la producción de alimentos sanos.
5. Fortalecer la diversificación de la producción agropecuaria, que prevalecerá sobre el monocultivo.
6. Regular la actividad agroindustrial para evitar efectos económicos ambientales, sociales y culturales negativos.
7. Establecer políticas ecológicas en la actividad agroalimentaria y pesquera, para conservar, mantener y recuperar la biodiversidad, la fertilidad de los suelos y las fuentes de agua.
8. Se declara al Ecuador como país libre de cultivos y semillas transgénicas. Sólo por excepción y en caso de interés nacional debidamente fundamentado por el Presidente de la República y aprobado por mayoría del pleno de la Asamblea Nacional se podrán introducir cultivos y semillas genéticamente modificadas. El Estado regulará bajo estrictas normas de bioseguridad el uso y el desarrollo de la biotecnología, así como su experimentación, uso y comercialización.
9. Con el fin de garantizar una alimentación sana, fomentará políticas agroecológicas. Se prohíbe el uso de productos agrotóxicos que causen daños a la salud y el ambiente.
10. Para garantizar la soberanía alimentaria, los animales destinados a la alimentación humana deben ser animales sanos, criados en un entorno saludable precautelando el bienestar animal y las normas de bioseguridad.
11. Recuperar y preservar los saberes ancestrales y recursos genéticos como patrimonio del pueblo ecuatoriano. Garantizar el derecho al uso y conservación de las semillas y promover el libre intercambio.
12. Garantizar el desarrollo de la investigación científica y la capacitación e innovación tecnológica fundamentada en prácticas apropiadas que aseguren la soberanía alimentaria.

13. Fortalecer el desarrollo de organizaciones y redes de productores y consumidores; así como, las de procesamiento, comercialización y distribución de alimentos en el marco de un comercio justo, solidario y sustentable, que garantice la relación equitativa entre el campo y la ciudad, e impida prácticas monopólicas y la especulación alimenticia.
14. Establecer mecanismos preferenciales de financiamiento para los pequeños y medianos productores, facilitándoles la adquisición y gestión conjunta de medios de producción.
16. Dotar de alimentos a las poblaciones víctimas de desastres naturales, daños ambientales, graves conflictos internos, enfrentamientos bélicos y de todo hecho fortuito que ponga en riesgo el acceso a la alimentación. Los alimentos recibidos de la ayuda internacional, en esas circunstancias, no deberán afectar la salud de las personas ni el futuro de la producción y provisión de alimentos de origen nacional.
17. La compra de alimentos y materias primas por parte del Estado para programas sociales y alimenticios, se realizarán prioritariamente a redes asociativas que vinculen directamente a pequeños y medianos productores y consumidores nacionales.

II. GERMANY

The German agricultural sector sees its future role both in providing healthy and safe food of high quality and in producing biomass for technical and energetic purposes, thus combining economic and ecological factors. Plant breeding and breeding research play a key role and genetic diversity is the most important and valuable natural resource for these processes.

Germany is the world's fifth leading export country for seed as propagating material. Worldwide, nowhere else are so many breeding activities carried out independently by private plant breeding companies. There are about 100, mostly medium-sized, private companies active in breeding, 50 of which run independent plant breeding programmes for agricultural crops that are highly dependent on plant genetic resources as raw material for their breeding activities.

Major breeding programmes exist for cereals, especially for maize, wheat, barley, rye and triticale. Furthermore, there are breeding programmes for sugar beet, potato, canola and some fodder crops like ryegrass. The production of seeds as propagating material is done in two ways: either on the own premises of breeding companies or through licensing of specialised farms and firms. Another 30 companies are specialised in plant breeding for horticultural crops with the emphasis on vegetables and ornamentals. Small stations at diverse locations under diverse climatic and soil conditions allow for a quick response to regional agricultural demands. The competition is complemented by cooperation, as many plant breeders share a marketing cooperative.

Germany has a well-developed public and private plant breeding sector. Moreover, basic research is carried out at universities and government institutions, partly sponsored by private plant breeders:

a) Association for the Promotion of Private Plant Breeding in Germany (GFP)

The GFP was founded by breeders in 1965 and carries out and promotes basic research to assist in practical breeding work (e.g. at universities and public research institutes) and in the introduction of new biotechnology. It comprises 50 small and medium-sized plant breeding companies throughout Germany, which operate mostly independent breeding programmes on cultivated crops for agriculture and horticulture. It is a nonprofit organisation whose funds are

used exclusively for research purposes. It coordinates and supports research projects at university and non-university research institutes. The GFP is also involved in the distribution of research findings, their integration into breeding practice and the development of recommendations for future research activities. The Association raises targeted public funds, which are used in conjunction with private funds made available by its member companies, to work on research topics in plant breeding. The GFP is structured into crop-specific sections whose work focuses on

key cultivated crops: beets, fodder plants, vegetables, medicinal and spice plants, cereals, potatoes, maize, oil and protein crops.

b) Association for Biodynamic Plant Breeding (ABDP)

The ABDP is an association of plant breeders who breed cultivated plant varieties for the organic sector, working with a biodynamic background. Goals are to breed varieties suited for organic growing conditions, and which are (a) appropriate for human nutritional needs and (b) adapted to local conditions, thereby enhancing regional diversity. Breeding activities focus on vegetables (e.g. bean, carrot, cabbages, chicory, cucumber, pepper, leek, radish, red beet, salad, tomato) and cereals (e.g. barley, maize, oats, rye and wheat).

c) National Evaluation Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (EVA II)

While passport data of genebank accessions provide primary information about their properties, breeders and researchers are highly interested in more detailed characterisation and evaluation data of the germplasm. Within a public-private-partnership for evaluation of plant genetic resources, a cooperation network consisting of the respective administrative bodies, research institutes (public sector) and plant breeding companies (private sector) coordinated by the Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants – Julius Kuehn Institute implemented in 2001 the National Evaluation Programme for Plant Genetic Resources of Cereals (EVA II).

d) Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants - Julius Kuehn Institute (JKI)

The Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants, the Julius Kuehn Institute (JKI), is both a federal authority and a research institute of the federal German government. It is subordinate to the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV). The main task is to lay the scientific groundwork for the functions and policy decisions of the ministry and hence to provide policy advice. The research areas must therefore correspond with the tasks and policies of the government. The focus of research lies on everything concerning cultivated plants: plants genetics, plant nutrition, soil science, plant pathology and entomology as well as plant health. The JKI has presently more than 1.000 permanent staff, including 250 scientists working at 15 institutes. The headquarters is Quedlinburg, a town situated east of the Harz-Mountains in northern Germany.

e) German Plant Genome Research Programme

The German Plant Genome Research Programme (GABI – Genome Analysis of the Plant Biological System) supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and private enterprises refers to the analysis of plant genomes, which comprises physical mapping of the genome, genome sequencing and annotation (prediction and identification of genes), and the elucidation of the (biochemical) functions of the identified genes and gene products and their roles in determining the characteristics of major crop plants and model organisms. Plant genomics in general aim at providing a detailed and comprehensive knowledge of the fundamental molecular processes of plant life. They provide the basis for the development of useful tools for the protection of biodiversity. Furthermore, plant genomics aim at understanding and improving the rational use of existing genetic diversity.

Focussing mainly on the genetic diversity of crop plants, they also influence the comprehensive understanding of the genetic diversity in nature in general. The tremendous work load of plant genomic research explains the growing need for international cooperation.

Therefore, GABI supports networking with many other national plant genomic research programmes in Europe and beyond.

f) Universities and other public research institutes

University institutes for plant breeding and related matters are to be found at the universities of Bonn, Gießen, Göttingen, Halle-Wittenberg, Kiel, München (Weihenstephan), Stuttgart-Hohenheim and Kassel, the latter focussing on agrobiodiversity. Some universities of applied science hold institutes of agriculture and offer education and training in plant breeding and

biodiversity-related fields (e.g. in Nürtingen-Geislingen, Osnabrück, Westfalen/Soest, Wiesbaden/Geisenheim etc). Depending on the specific focus of each institute, activities like characterisation, evaluation, pre-breeding and genetic enhancement take place in the framework of numerous research projects, mainly in the form of bachelor, masters and doctoral theses. A comprehensive compilation of these activities does not exist in Germany.

Within the Max-Planck-Society (e.g. Max-Planck-Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology), the Leibniz Association (in particular the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and the Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)) as well as in the Helmholtz Association, several institutions are engaged in plant breeding and biodiversity-related research.

A specific forum for scientific breeding is the German Society for Plant Breeding (GPZ) with its working groups on genetic resources, biometrics, biotechnology, breeding theory, cytology, genomics and resistance breeding of various crops (e.g. cereals, maize, potatoes, beet, oil and fodder plants, vegetables and ornamentals.)

Furthermore, the EU plans to submit a Community contribution on policy and legal measures used to achieve the objectives of Article 6 of the Treaty, which will be supplemented by Member States as appropriate with regard to more specific national measures and activities.

III. KENYA

Kenya has commissioned a taskforce to develop laws on genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore. Draft policy is ready for presentation to the Attorney General.

Information on activities related to plant genetic resources has been enhanced through the National Information Sharing Mechanism (NISM) in the preparation of second country report on status of plant genetic resources.

IV. MALI

Concernant ce volet des actions ont été entreprises et sont en cours en partenariat avec les paysans:

- Projet « Développement participatif des stratégies de conservation in situ et d'utilisation durable des ressources phylogénétiques en zones pré désertiques et désertiques du Mali et du Zimbabwe céréales et légumineuses alimentaires :mil, sorgho, niébé et voandzou » IER /URG FAO IPGRI FIDA 1999 – 2002 ;
- Projet « Meilleures pratiques communautaires de gestion des ressources phylogénétiques»: IER /URG FEM IPGRI PNUE 2003 - 2005;
- Projet « Renforcement des capacités des agriculteurs sahéliens à gérer leurs ressources phylogénétiques pour améliorer leurs conditions de vie » IER, INERA, INRAN 2005 - 2007;
- Projet « Agro –biodiversité sorgho » IER INERA FFEM ;
- Projet « FAO FNPP » différents volets de 2003 à 2007 ;
- Foire de diversité des semences et champs de diversités de renforcement des capacités des paysans PDR de San ; FODESA San et Ségou 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008 etc. ;
- Projet « Régénération de la collection de sorgho avec la caractérisation de numéros » IER Global Crop Diversity Trust 2008 – 2010 ;
- Projet « Impact des systèmes semences semenciers sur la diversité des ressources phylogénétiques » IER CIRAD 2008 – 2011 ;

- Loi d'Orientation Agricole en vigueur au Mali qui encourage la promotion des activités de conservation des ressources génétiques locales des plantes, les activités de sélection de création et de développement des variétés etc.

V. NIGER

Les actions en cours au Niger ne sont pas spécifiquement tournées vers cet article mais sont relatives aux combats constants menés par les autorités et les agriculteurs pour lutter contre l'insécurité alimentaire et la pauvreté.

Au plan institutionnel ou juridique, on peut citer : (i) la Stratégie de développement rural (SDR) (2003) prévoit une meilleure valorisation des ressources naturelles (y compris les ressources phylogénétiques) ; (ii) la Stratégie nationale et plan d'action en matière de diversité biologique (1998) du Niger prévoit également des actions de conservation des ressources phylogénétiques.

Au plan technique ou opérationnel, il faut noter que: (i) le Niger, représenté par l'INRAN et l'Université, a exécuté un projet de renforcement des capacités des agriculteurs à mieux valoriser leurs RPG. Ce projet a été conduit au Burkina Faso et au Mali sous l'égide de Bioversity International avec un financement du FIDA. Il a conduit à l'inventaire, la caractérisation et l'initiation de la conservation des RPG par les agriculteurs dans 3 villages du Département de Aguié (Maradi). Ces paysans ont constitué des collections de 100 à 200 accessions de 11 à 15 espèces cultivées locales.

(ii) A cela s'ajoutent les activités traditionnelles de l'INRAN et l'Université sur les caractérisations ou améliorations variétales de quelques espèces comme le sorgho, le mil, l'oseille. Ces activités sont très restreintes puisque les collections sont généralement inférieures à 200 accessions alors que le pays abrite des effectifs plus élevés.

(iii) Des institutions sous régionales de formation sur les biotechnologies offrent des opportunités de renforcement des capacités techniques. Il y en a notamment au Ghana et au Mali, mais le Niger est assez souvent peu servi car les critères d'âge (Ghana) ou les ressources pour le financement de la formation sont trop discriminants.

VI. SYRIA

The Public Authority for Agriculture Scientific Research in Syria is implementing the following measures:

- Using genetic resources in higher studies and also in plant farming;
- Using biotechnologies for determining the genetic print and the nuclear characteristics for the registration of local breeds and promoting their use and rehabilitation;
- The collection, conservation, and assessment of local breeds and developing standards for the selection of the best ones to be used in the genetic improvement programmes.

VII. ZAMBIA

The National Agricultural Policy fifth objective is to sustain the resource base. The strategy to address this objective is maintaining agro-biodiversity i.e. regulating access (collection and exchange) to local plant genetic materials and developing measures to conserve and effectively utilise locally available agro-biodiversity.