



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Our Ref.: NCP GB6 030 - PGRFA in the MLS

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NOTIFICATION

Notifications to the Secretary on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that are in the Multilateral System

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to refer to Resolution 1/2013, *Implementation of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing*, adopted by the Governing Body at its Fifth Session in Muscat, Oman, in September 2013, and the decisions therein contained in relation to the coverage of the Multilateral System.¹

Through the Resolution, the Governing Body thanked those Contracting Parties and International Institutions that had notified the Secretary of the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) that are in the Multilateral System (MLS) and urged them to continue to update their information as it becomes available. In doing so, it noted that “*delays in making their PGRFA available through the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) hinders plant breeding, and may have a long-term effect on the amount of user-based income into the Benefit-sharing Fund.*”

The Governing Body, accordingly requested “*all Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to urgently notify the Secretary on their plant genetic resources for food and agriculture that are in the Multilateral System, in accordance with Article 11.2 of the Treaty, including information on how such material is available.*”

The Secretariat has published all the notifications received so far from Contracting Parties, international organizations and natural and legal persons on the Treaty Website². The Secretariat has also made available online in four languages a sample letter of notification of inclusion of material in the Multilateral System which can be downloaded from the same page³.

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¹ Document IT/GB-5/13/Report, *Report of the Fifth Session of the Governing Body, Appendix A.1*. The Report is available at: <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/report-fifth-session-governing-body>

² <http://www.planttreaty.org/inclusions>

³ ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agp/planttreaty/agreements/models/inclu_e.doc



At the same session, the Governing Body also acknowledged that PGRFA have also been included in the MLS by natural and legal persons through Contracting Parties notifications as part of their national systems for PGRFA and urged Contracting Parties “to encourage natural and legal persons within their jurisdiction to include PGRFA in the MLS, and to inform the Secretary accordingly.”

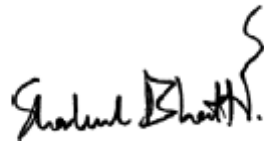
In view of the need to prepare a report for the Sixth Session of the Governing Body based on information received, your attention is kindly requested so that a comprehensive report may be prepared to enable the informed consideration of the relevant issues by the Governing Body.

All the information requested in this communication should be sent to:⁴

Dr Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
00153 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 5705 3441, Fax: +39 06 5705 6347
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Any query or request for further information may also be addressed to the same contact.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary of the Governing Body
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture

⁴ The Secretariat would be grateful if electronic copies of the submissions could be sent to the above e-mail address in addition to hard copies.