



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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

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**NOTIFICATION**  
**Global Survey on descriptors required to identify**  
**plant genetic resources for food and agriculture**

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Dear Madam/Sir,

The Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is pleased to announce the opening of the Global Survey on descriptors required to identify plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). The results of the survey will facilitate the design of the Global Information System (GLIS) called for by Article 17 of the Treaty.

An essential element of the System is a method to uniquely identify samples of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) transferred under the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing. Following the advice provided by relevant experts nominated by the Contracting Parties during this biennium, it has been recommended to use the Digital Object Identifier (DOI) for this purpose and the survey will help in determining the minimal set of mandatory descriptors that must accompany each identifier.

The Global Information System must be able to include samples of all types of PGRFA, including not only genebank accessions but also breeding lines, released varieties, samples held by farmers or in community seed banks or in informal working collections or research collections, and all other research materials such as certified seeds, purified genetic stocks, among others.

By focusing on a manageable and mandatory set of descriptors, the System will assist researchers to identify PGRFA samples for further research and evaluation and the data sets available in disperse data sources.

The Survey, available in English, will take 15 minutes to complete approximately and will be online until 13 August 2015. We highly appreciate and encourage your participation and contribution. Please feel free to distribute the link to the survey among potential respondents in your network, particularly breeders, geneticists, data curators and bioinformaticians:  
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ITPGRFA\\_PGRFA\\_IDs\\_global](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ITPGRFA_PGRFA_IDs_global)

If you require any additional clarification please do not hesitate to contact us at:

[PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org](mailto:PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org)

Sincerely,

Dr Shakeel Bhatti  
Secretary of the Governing Body



International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture