



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Treaty on PGRFA

*“ Sustainable use of Plant Genetic
Resources for Food and
Agriculture ”*

Meeting on Article 10
with a focus on
customary use of
biodiversity

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<http://www.planttreaty.org>



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Contents of the presentation

1. Crops and food security;
2. The objective and policy relevance of the IT-PGRFA;
3. The role of Farmers;
4. The meaning of Sustainable use in agriculture
5. The outcomes raised in the 4th Session of the Governing Body of the IT-PGRFA on Sustainable use
6. The Memorandum of Cooperation between the IT-PGRFA and the CBD



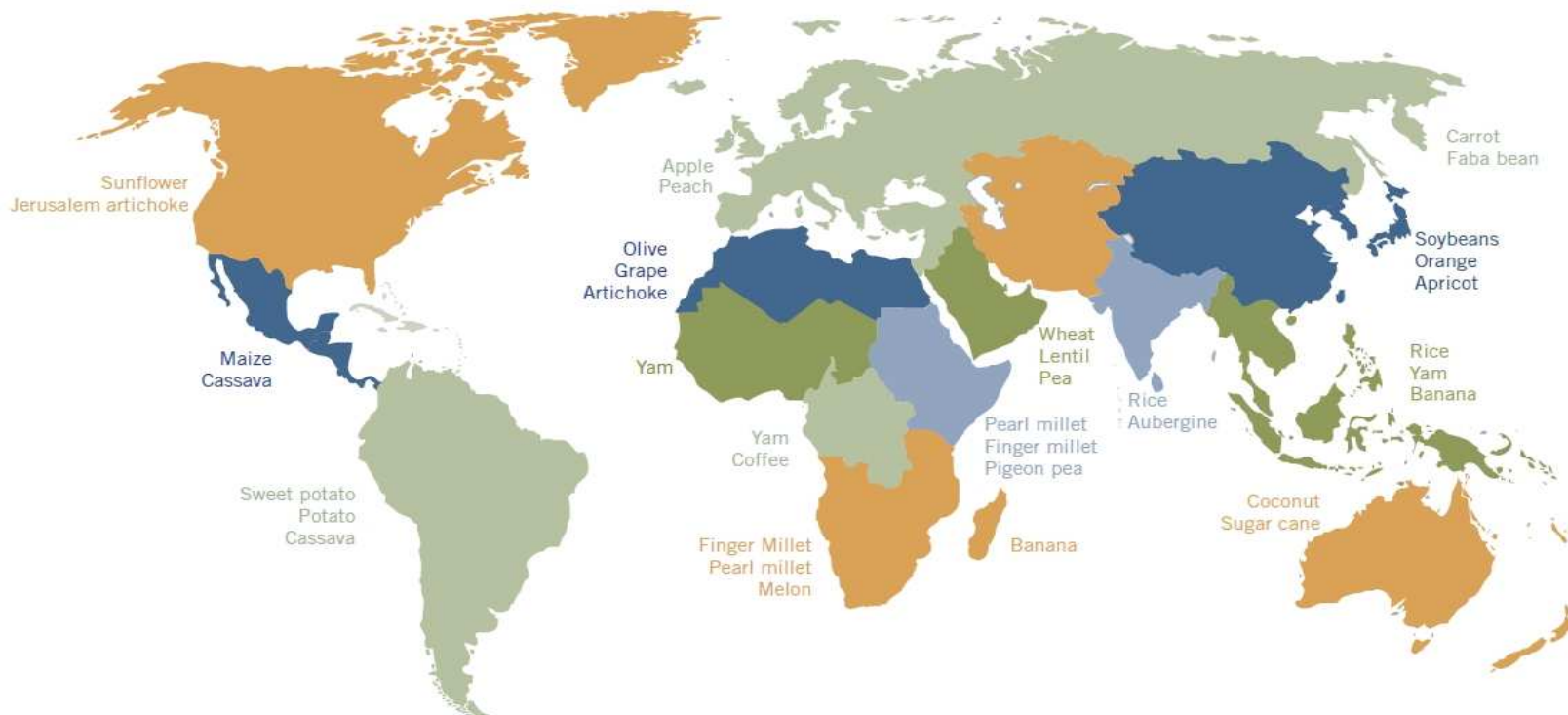


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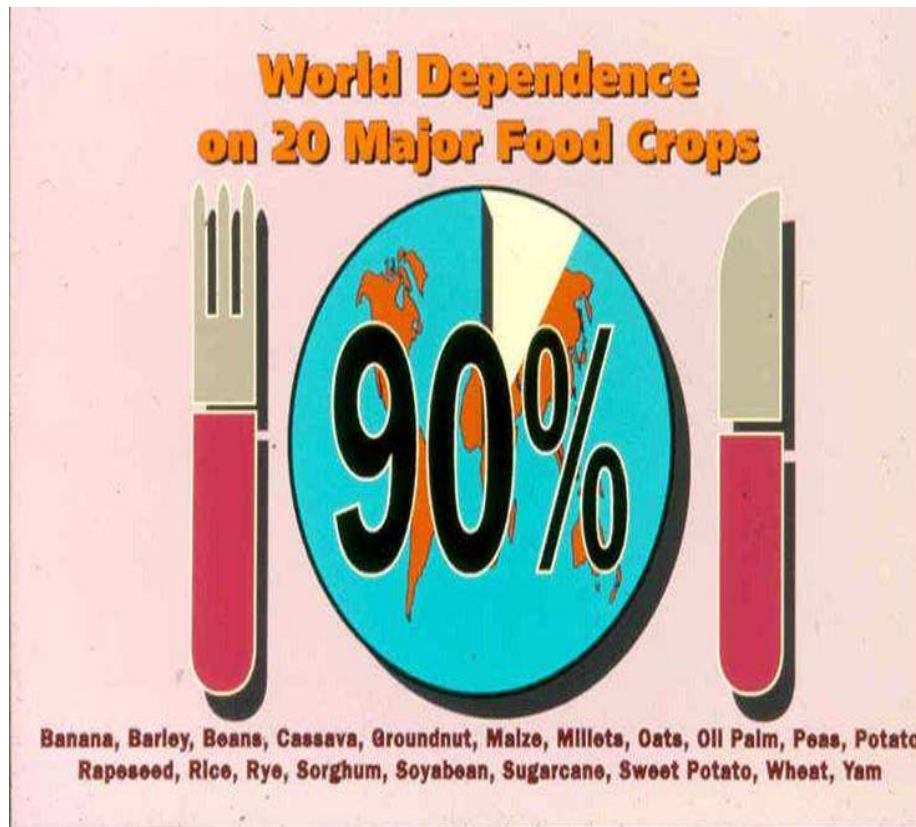
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Interdependence



Crops are spread all over the world, and Food security depends overwhelmingly on a few crops ...



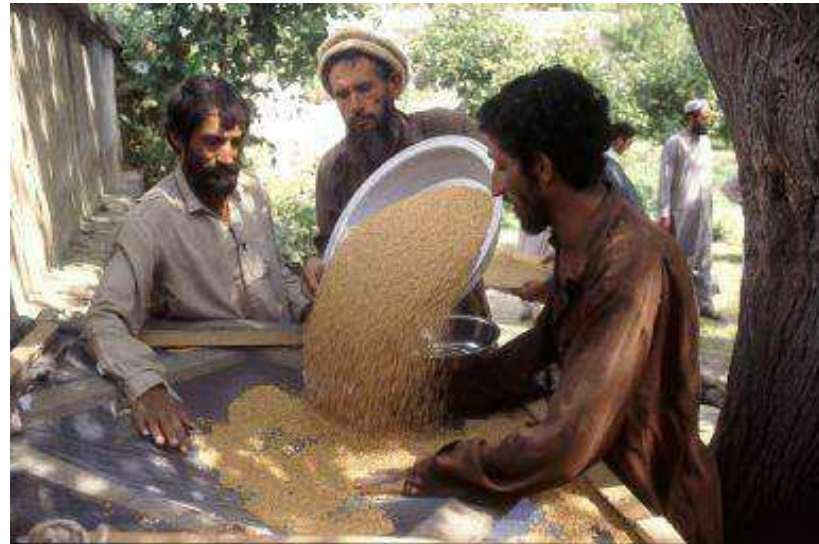


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What are the Treaty's objectives?



- The conservation (on farm, in-situ and ex-situ) and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- The fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for **sustainable agriculture** and **food security**



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Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.



Mr. M. S. Swaminathan Father of the Indian Green Revolution





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Policy relevance of the Treaty

- It is an international Access and Benefit sharing System for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- It addresses several global challenges:
 - crop adaptation to climate change;
 - food security;
 - genetic erosion and biodiversity loss;
 - rural poverty of small-holder farmers;
 - **bottom-up approach to development policy in agriculture;**





The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing



- The Treaty establishes a Multilateral System which can be understood as a global genepool to which all Contracting Parties agree to include their crop diversity, and in return have facilitated access to for purposes of research and breeding;
- The Multilateral System applies to a list of crops established according to criteria of food security and interdependence;
- These provide about 80% of our food from plants;
- The Treaty ensures that the benefits that arise from the use of the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture from the Multilateral System are shared in a fair and equitable way.



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Agriculture has always been based on access and exchange, not on exclusivity



Farmers exchange seeds and breed exotic material into their crops, in order to increase productivity



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Farmers “created” crops



- Farmers selected wild plants
- They created diversity by adapting crops to new ecosystems and new human needs
- A recognition of the key role of farmers, today as in the past, in creating, maintaining and making available the portfolio of crop genetic resources on which we all depend for food security is the basis of “Farmers’ Rights”.



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Farmers' Rights Art. 9 of the IT-PGRFA

- **The Contracting Parties of the IT recognize the enormous contribution that farmers have made and will continue to make for the conservation and sustainable use of crop genetic resources.**
- **How to realize Farmers' Rights at the national level?**
- **What are the steps required?**
- **Implementation of Farmers' Rights at the national level depending on the needs and priorities of the country.**

Step 1: Creating and enhancing awareness on the importance of Farmers' Rights

Step 2: Ensuring farmers' participation in the implementation process

Step 3: Developing a national consultative process, joining forces, pooling resources



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The Sustainable Use of PGRFA

Art. 6 of the IT-PGRFA

- Sustainability refers to the rational use of any renewable resource in such a manner that the resource is not depleted for future use
- The Treaty indicates the need for a comprehensive approach to sustainable use, including policy and regulatory measures, and strengthening research.





The Sustainable Use of PGRFA

Relevant areas could include:

- the challenge of intensifying food production while preserving diversity;
- the need to take into account market forces and to create and educate markets so that there is a demand for biodiversity in agriculture product;
- the need to share responsibility for sustainable use of PGRFA among breeders, seed companies and farmers;
- Incentives and financial sustainability;
- A market for biodiverse product (Organic Markets, traditional and local varieties, Underutilized species)



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The Sustainable Use of PGRFA

Identifiable areas

- *a. Modelling of climate change.* Climate change seems certain to have continuing and increasing fundamental impact on how PGRFA are best used. Support to developing ever more precise models will contribute to sustainable use.
- *b. Farmer choices in variety adoption.* Participatory approaches to breeding and related research contribute to better understanding of farmer choices and thus to better chances of sustainable use of PGRFA.



The Sustainable Use of PGRFA

- *c. Genebank characterization.* One of the greatest impediments to sustainable use is the incomplete knowledge of the traits available in genebanks. Characterization is a never-ending process, as new traits are sought for new product uses or for new challenges.
- *d. Information on PGRFA policy options.* The importance of having a PGRFA policy is only recently coming into play for some countries. The Treaty (as a legally binding agreement) and the *Second State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SoW-PGR-2), relating the current status of conservation and use of PGRFA throughout the world, have been major instruments to get governments to think about PGRFA policy.



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The Governing Body of the IT-PGRFA

RESOLUTION 6/2011

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6 “SUSTAINABLE USE OF PGRFA”

- To Cooperate with the CBD, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, and other international processes and institutions in the field of sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- To convene a **Stakeholders’ Consultation**,
- **To develop A work programme**
- To Establish an ***Ad Hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use of PGRFA**
- To explore the development of a **Toolbox on sustainable use of PGRFA**



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“The Toolbox on SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES”

Genetic resources tools

- Access to major genetic resources databases and organizations

Policy tools

- Country case studies on investing strategies for plant breeding system capacity
- A model and checklist for development of national strategies for sustainable use of PGRFA
- Advocacy materials
- Media awareness materials and activities
- A web-based policy decision tool for PGRFA

Education and training tools

- E-learning course on pre-breeding
- E-learning course on the ITPGRFA
- Mentoring programme to match young plant breeders with veterans and farmers experiences



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The Memorandum of Cooperation between the IT-PGRFA and the CBD

Mutual support and Facilitate the coordination of technical assistance in the field of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture with a view to developing synergies at international, sub-regional and national levels.





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The United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020 “International Cooperation Organizations”

- Acknowledge the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of the Rio Conventions
- Recognize the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions
 1. encourage them to align their programmes and priorities with the Aichi Biodiversity targets;
 2. further develop and implement a United Nations system-wide strategy and action plan that integrates biodiversity considerations into work related to the core issues of sustainable development and human security.



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Thanks for your attention

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