

*Plant Authority Bhawan
New Delhi*



**International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture**

DELHI FRAMEWORK ON FARMERS' RIGHTS



Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority
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**Global Symposium
on Farmers' Rights**

12-15 Sept. 2023
New Delhi, India

Organising Partners



Preamble

- Agro-biodiversity and genetic resources have been the foundation for our food security since millennia. The farmers and indigenous communities, especially women, have been the inventors and custodians of the seeds and plants globally.
- Farmers, across different agro-ecologies and cultural practices, continue to select the best seeds for taste, nutrition, cuisine and medicine, which survive unfavourable weather, pests and diseases thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.
- The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture states that past, present and future contributions of farmers in all regions of the world, particularly those in centres of origin and diversity, in conserving, improving and making available PGR for food and agriculture are the basis of Farmers' Rights.

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- The Plant Treaty, a legally-binding international instrument, explicitly acknowledges the enormous contribution of farmers and indigenous communities to developing and managing crops and other plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Treaty recognizes Rights of Farmers as custodian of plant genetic resources.
- Farmers' Rights are realized as right to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and other propagating material; right to participate in decision-making related to PGRFA and right to fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of PGRFA as well as the associated traditional knowledge.
- The past global efforts have been fruitful in enhancing the understanding of Farmers' Rights (International Informal Consultation on Farmers' Rights, Lusaka, Zambia, 2007 and Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2010) and guiding the formal process under the aegis of the

Treaty (The Global Consultation on Farmers' Rights, Bali, Indonesia, 2016).

- Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights has proposed an inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights, as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty.
- Despite national and international efforts, the actual measures for the recognition, protection, promotion and realization of Farmers' Rights as stated in Article 9 of the International Treaty, and in terms of equitable benefit sharing arising out of use of PGRFA, appears to be inadequate.
- Global Symposium on Farmers Rights' hosted by India at New Delhi from 12-15 September, 2023 provided a forum to share experiences and discuss possible future work on Farmers' Rights.



Future Work on Farmers' Rights

Excellent discussions took place during the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights. The sessions included Options for Realization of Farmers' Rights, Experiences of Best Practices, Legal Measures, Other International Processes and State of Implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty as well as Special Sessions on South-South Cooperation, Farmers' Forum, Community Genebanks and Value Chain. Based on deliberations, the following 10-point Delhi Framework on Farmers' Rights is presented for consideration of Contracting Parties and Stakeholders towards the Future Work on Farmers' Rights.

- Accelerate efforts to implement multiple options as advocated by the Treaty for realization of farmers' rights. Treaty Secretariat to create a handholding and capacity development mechanism in this regard.
- Establish an institutional mechanism that is responsible for creation of awareness about the Farmers' Rights, capacity building of custodian farmers and farmers' seed systems, and facilitating equitable benefit sharing. Treaty Secretariat to coordinates such initiatives.
- Create functional synergy across different UN instruments (ITPGRFA, CBD, UNDROP, UNDRIP etc.) to facilitate the realization of farmers' rights.





- Strengthen the Benefit Sharing Fund for supporting farmers and farmers' seed systems to ensure conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and for the realization of farmers' rights through enabling environment by national governments, international organizations and incentivise participation of private sector in supporting conservation activities.
- Create conducive condition for active participation of different stakeholders and for building farmer-centric partnership opportunities including South-South, multi-lateral and regional cooperation to accelerate implementation of Farmers' Rights.
- Formulate a special package as part of climate change adaptation and mitigation funds to directly support on-farm conservation activity by the custodian farmers, who are most affected by extreme climatic events.
- Establish and support farmer-managed seed system for traditional varieties, and create self-sustaining seed production

and marketing value chain to enhance farm income of custodian farmers and strengthen local food systems.

- Join hands to systematically document traditional knowledge associated with PGRFA, adhering to prior informed consent and respecting the sensibilities of communities. Treaty Secretariat may facilitate the process under ongoing documentation programmes.
- Encourage application of new science and technologies aimed at conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, taking necessary precautions to avoid negative impact on farmers' rights and ensuring enhanced benefit sharing opportunities.
- Create legal and formal provisions in their existing system that recognize and protect farmers' rights as envisaged in the Plant Treaty.



In order to accelerate global action for the realisation of the provisions in Article 9 of the Plant Treaty, there is a need to hold Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights once in every four years.

