



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



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

# The International Treaty's Multilateral system and the benefits for biodiversity

Plant Health and Environmental Protection –  
Strengthening collaboration for Plant Health and  
achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020 at all levels

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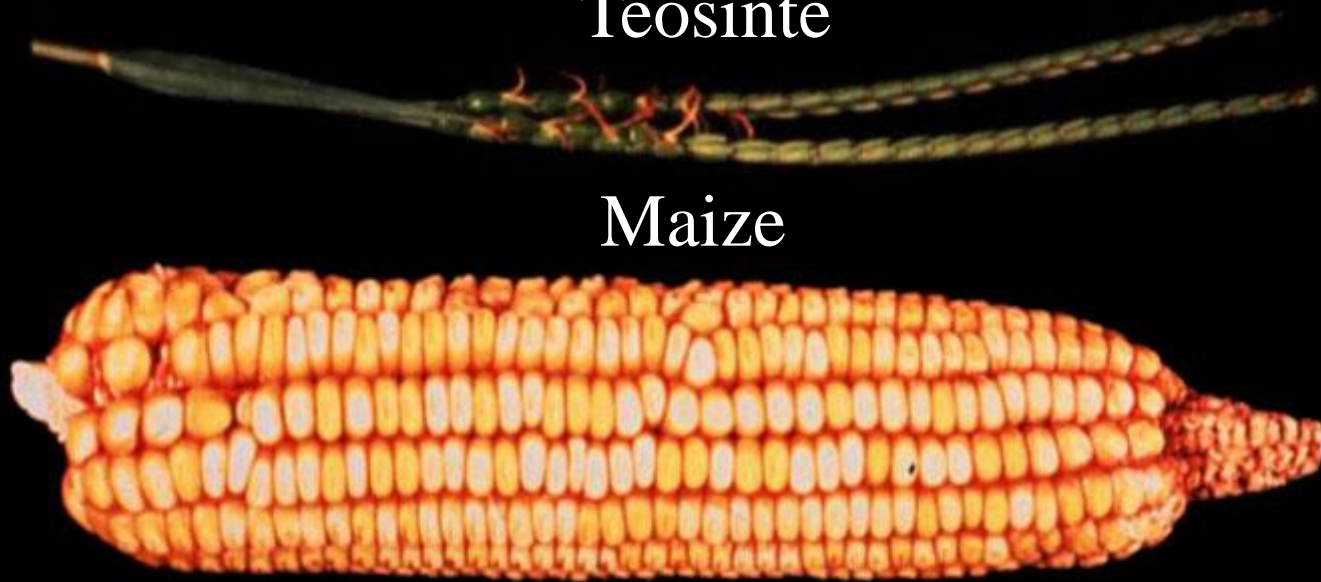
Secretary, the International Treaty on PGRFA,  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

16 April 2018, CPM-13, Iran Room, FAO HQ

[www.fao.org/plant-treaty](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty)

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# Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Commons

- In the absence of active human management, most crop varieties would cease to exist.
- All countries are interdependent in their reliance on PGRFA.
- No region or country is self-sufficient.

# Why biodiversity is important?

- Genetic Resources have direct bearing on a range of concrete areas, including food security, [health](#), sustainable development, innovation and livelihoods;
  - All countries are interdependent with regard to GRFA.
  - Over 1 billion people suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition.
  - The world population will increase to over 9 billion by 2050.
  - Agricultural production must increase by 70%.
  - 70% of the increase in production is expected to come from increased yields = GR
  - Plant genetic resources are essential for this yield and future food security and sustainable development;
  - Fundamental to adapting to new climactic realities;

# Why is it important?

- Increasing density and rapid evolution of issues, and frequency/multiplicity of processes related to GR raising unique legal and policy challenges;
  - in terms of new players, reconfiguration of power equations, Institutional competencies and stakeholder obligations;
  - global governance is in a state of flux, proliferating and fragmenting;
  - have taken on more diplomatic and normative characteristics.



# What is the International Plant Treaty?

The International Plant Treaty aims to ensure that the wealth of the world's food crop diversity is conserved, shared and used so that farmers can continue to grow crops to feed their families and the planet.





- **International agreement:** The Treaty is an international agreement that ensures that farmers and plant breeders access, easily, the raw genetic material needed to develop new crop varieties, including those with higher yields and those that are resilient to climate change.
- **Global solution:** It provides a global solution to the challenges of crop diversity loss and climate change adaptation through mechanisms such as the Multilateral System and Benefit-sharing Fund.
- **World-wide membership:** 144 countries are Contracting Parties of the International Treaty, almost 30 which are from Asia and the South West Pacific.

# What are the Treaty's objectives?



- The conservation 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



# Preamble of the Int'l Treaty

Recognizing that this Treaty and other international agreements relevant to this Treaty should be **mutually supportive** with a view to sustainable agriculture and food security

Aware that questions regarding the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are at the **meeting point between agriculture, the environment and commerce** and convinced that there should be synergy among these sectors

Aware of their responsibility to past and future generations to **conserve the Worlds' diversity** of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

# Scope, Conservation and Sustainable Use

Article 3: the scope of the Treaty is all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

Article 5: Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterization, Evaluation and Documentation

Article 6: Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources

Article 9: Farmers' Rights

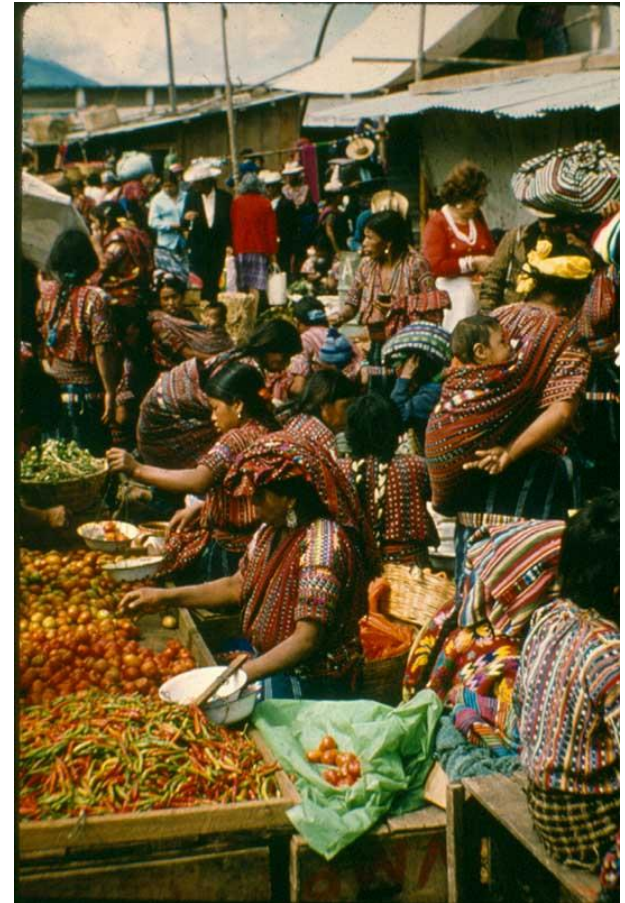
# The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing



The Treaty establishes a multilateral system, both to facilitate access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to share, in a fair and equitable way, the benefits arising from their use.

# The Multilateral System ...

- ... consists of genetic material of a set of crops, listed in *Annex 1* to the International Treaty, and other crops;
- Those crops provide about 80% of our food from plants.





# Multilateral System of ABS

- 2.1 million **accessions notified** worldwide from Parties and the IARCs of the CGIAR – 64 crops
- 64,577 **SMTAs/contracts for transfers** reported
- 4.36 million **accessions transferred**
- 6,124 **recipients** in 179 countries
- 1,794 users registered in **EASY-SMTA**
- Major crops: wheat, rice, barley, maize, chickpea and lentil
- Useful data to monitor progress on the SDGs
- Assistance to users on a daily basis

## Interface/synergy with IPPC

### ISPM 3 International movement of seeds

- This standard help manage the pest risk posed by seeds moved internationally, including the pest risk posed by invasive alien species
- Harmonized international phytosanitary measures for seeds help to preserve biodiversity by increasing the potential for exchanging healthy seeds

# Cooperation with IPPC

Both instruments of FAO:

- Promote use, exchange and protection of biodiversity
- Cooperate with similar international bodies and organizations, including the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions
- Implementation component at national level
- Contribute to the Aichi Targets and the implementation of the FAO's Global Plan of Action

# Other Partnerships

- the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol and the Biodiversity Liaison Group
- The Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDDT)
- International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)





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***Equity & Food Security for All***

# Thanks



The Habsburg Emperor Rudolf II as Vertumnus,  
by Giuseppe Arcimboldo, 1591.  
Skokloster Castle, Sweden