

# ***Farmers' Rights Global Consultation***

**27-30 September 2016, Bali, Indonesia**

**PROGRAMME**

## Background

Farmers' Rights are recognised in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture due to "*...the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world, particularly those in the centres of origin and crop diversity, have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources which constitute the basis of food and agricultural production throughout the world.*" (Article 9). Farmer crop diversity management are important for food security. Farmers' varieties contribute to more resilient production systems and reduce the risk of crop failures. This adaptive capacity becomes even more important with climate change. On-farm management of crop diversity is also an essential component in national and international efforts to conserve plant genetic resources.

The realisation of Farmers' Rights is a cornerstone in the implementation of the International Treaty. It is also important for the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Target 13 in the current ten-year Strategic Plan for Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological diversity. Furthermore, the realisation of Farmers' Rights is relevant for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by governments in September 2015 as part of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The SDGs address the complex challenges we face in our interconnected world, and are a call to action that will shape the next 15 years of policies, programmes and funding. Farmers' Rights are particularly linked to Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The International Treaty specifies that the responsibility for implementing Farmers' Rights (Article 9) lies with the various national governments. Each country is free to choose the measures deemed necessary and appropriate, in accordance with its own needs and priorities. Article 9 suggests measures for protecting and promoting these rights, including the protection of traditional knowledge relevant to crop genetic resources, the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the use of crop genetic resources and the right to participate in decision-making on the national level on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of crop genetic resources. Also mentioned are the rights of farmers to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seeds and propagating material. Other provisions of the International Treaty are also of importance to the implementation of Farmers' Rights. Most often referred to in this context is Article 6 on Sustainable Use. The Preamble of the Treaty confirms that "the right to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed and other propagating material, and to participate in decision-making regarding, and in the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from, the use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, are fundamental to the realization of Farmers' Rights, as well as the promotion of Farmers' Rights at national and international levels".

The implementation of Farmers' Rights has been addressed at each sessions of the Governing Body of the Plant Treaty. At its Sixth Session, in October 2015, the Governing Body adopted Resolution 5/2015, which among other things "*Invites Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to convene regional workshops and other consultations including with farmers' organizations, for the exchange of knowledge, views and experiences to promote the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty, and present results at the next session of the Governing Body;*". On this background, the Government of Indonesia invited the Government of Norway to co-host a global consultation on Farmers' Rights in Indonesia.

Building on the outcomes of the previous consultations held in Zambia in 2007 and in Ethiopia in 2010, the consultation in Indonesia will again bring together a broad range of stakeholders for constructive dialogue. The consultation will address why Farmers' Rights matter, explore the different challenges for their realisations and identify possible ways of further strengthening the realisation of Farmers' Rights. The outcome of this global consultation will be presented at the Seventh Session of the Governing Body in 2017.

## **Expected results**

The sixth session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, among other things, invited *"Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to take initiatives to convene regional workshops and other consultations including with farmers' organizations, for the exchange of knowledge, views and experiences to promote the realization of Farmers' Rights as set out in Article 9 of the Treaty, and present results at the next session of the Governing Body"*. This global consultation on Farmers' Rights is a response to this resolution.

The goal is that participants find inspiration in the exchange of best practises and gather ideas on how to strengthen implementation of Farmers' rights in their countries. The exchange of views among and between stakeholder groups and participants from different region might also create a more common ground of understanding of Farmers' Rights. The main expected result from consultation is a set of joint recommendations on common issues to be presented at the next session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty. The report of the global consultation, including the joint recommendations, can be used to put Farmers' Rights higher at the international agenda. Options for sharing the results are coming already in October at the next meeting of the Treaty's Ad hoc Working Group on Sustainable Use and at the joint symposium by UPOV and the International Treaty.

**Tuesday 27 September 2016**

**Field excursion**

- 09:00 Departure from the hotel. Trip to “Subak Guama“ in Tabanan.
- 10:30 Farmers’ group: Subak Guama. Visiting paddy-seed breeder organized by farmers’ group “Subak Guama”. They also have formed farmers’ cooperative namely “KUAT Subak Guama” who manage the paddy-seed business. Program: Welcome speech from the head of farmers’ group; Presentation and discussion; Field visit to paddy fields and facilities for paddy-seed breeding.
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 Trip to “Taman Ayu Luwak Coffee” in Gianyar. Taman Ayu Luwak Coffee is one of the agro-tourism destinations that aim to introduce not only conventional Luwak Coffee but also the “Probiotic Luwak Coffee” as their main product. Probiotic Luwak Coffee is the invention of IAARD and has been licensed by this company. This coffee is produced through adopting the digestive process of Luwak. The probiotic microbes are the result of the isolation of microbes in the small intestine and appendix of Luwak. In this product processing, it only uses natural ingredients, thus chemical-free. Participants can witness the traditional coffee processing of Balinese people, and also can find collection of local herbal plants and fruits in the garden.
- 14:30 Visit to Taman Ayu Luwak Coffee. Program: Enjoying a cup of Probiotic Luwak Coffee and other types of coffee and tea; Presentation and discussion of the traditional coffee processing and local plant genetic resources collection in the garden; Visiting factory outlet.
- 16:00 Trip to Jimbaran
- 17:30 Sunset and welcome dinner reception at Jimbaran restaurant.
- 19:30 Return to hotel.

## Wednesday 28 September 2016

Co-chairs: Ms. Regine Andersen, Director, Oikos- Organic Norway and Mr. Carlos Correa, Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies on Industrial Property and Economics, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

### Session 1: Opening session

- 09:00        **Opening address** by *Mr. Shakeel Bhatti*, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- 09:10        **Welcome address** by *Mr. Stig Traavik*, Ambassador to Indonesia, Norway
- 09:20        **Welcome address** by *Mr. Andi M. Syakir*, Director General, Indonesian Agency for Agriculture Research and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia
- 09:30        **Farmers' Rights: Evolution of the International Policy Debate and National Implementation** by *Ms. Regine Andersen*, Director, Oikos – Organic Norway, Norway
- 10:00        Tea and coffee break
- 10:20        **Background and Purpose of the Conference** by *Mr. Muhamad Sabran* Researcher, Indonesian Center for Agricultural Biotechnology and Genetic Resources Research and Development (ICABIOGRAD), Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia and by *Ms. Svanhild-Isabelle Batta Torheim*, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway
- 10:35        **Presentation round** with exchange of hopes and expectations for the conference

### Session 2: Why Farmers' Rights matter

The Contracting Parties to the International Treaty recognise the enormous contribution that the local and indigenous communities and farmers have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources. What is the rationale for this recognition? This section will explore examples of farmers' contribution to the conservation of genetic resources and the management of genetic diversity, the value of farmers' varieties and informal seed systems and their role in ensuring food security.

- 11:20        **Why local communities appreciate local varieties and local seed systems in Ethiopia** *Mr. Tadesse Reta*, farmer, Ethiopia
- 11:30        **Local seed supplies saving life - how farmers' varieties contribute to food security in times of climate change** by *Mr. Marvin Gomez*, Foundation for Participatory Research with Honduran Farmers (FIPAH), Honduras

- 11:40      **Seed clubs – farmers' seed supply system providing the necessary quantum of seeds** by *Ms. Nori Ignacio*, Director, SEARICE, Philippines
- 11:50      **The role of farmers' seed systems – farmers as producers of quality seeds** by *Ms. Ximena Cadima*, Fundación PROINPA, Bolivia
- 12:00      **Questions for clarification**
- 12:15      **Farmers Seeds networks and dynamic management of GRFA**, by *Mr. Omer Agoligan*, Coordinator of COASP - Comité Ouest Africain des Semences Paysannes, Benin
- 12:25      **Territorial governance to strengthen local farming systems** by *Ms. Teresa Agüero Teare*, Ministerio de Agricultura, Chile
- 12:35      **Farmers Varieties as ultimate sources of genetic diversity for food production. Some illustrative examples** by *Mr. José Esquinas-Alcázar*, International University of Gastronomic Sciences (UNIGS)
- 12:45      **Questions for clarification**
- 13:00      Lunch
- 14:00      **Discussion**
- 15:30      **Wrap up of Session 2**
- 16:00      Tea and coffee break

### **Session 3: Challenges and experiences regarding the realisation of Farmers' Rights**

What are the challenges for the realisation of Farmers' Rights? This session will address often mentioned challenges such as rules and regulations, including seed laws and intellectual property laws, as well as the different degrees of attention given to farmers' traditional management system in governments' plans and donors' investments. During discussions, the participants are invited to identify further challenges that impact the realisation of Farmers' Rights.

- 16:30      **What are the most frequently mentioned challenges? Results from the global survey** by *Mr. Mario Marino*, the ITPGRFA Secretariat
- 16:40      **Awareness raising and financial resources – challenges identified at the Africa Region pre-consultation** by *Mr. Francis Leku Azenaku*, Directeur, Réglementation et du Contrôle de Qualité des Intrants et des Produits Agricoles, Cameroon

- 16:50 **Policy development with insufficient participation? Examples from Southern and Eastern Africa.** *Ms. Haidee Swanby*, researcher, Africa Centre for Biodiversity, South Africa
- 17:00 **Recognizing and Addressing Farmers' Rights to Seeds through Government Programs and Policies: Experiences in Cambodia** by *Mr. Kong Kea*, the Head of Rice Seed Management and Development Office, Cambodia
- 17:10 **National policy on Farmers' Rights – experiences from Indonesia** by *Mr. Surono Danu*, farmer and *Mr. Erizal Jamal*, Indonesian Center for Agricultural Socio-Economic Policy Studies (ICASEPS), Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD), Indonesia
- 17:30 **Questions for clarification**
- 19:00 Dinner

#### **Thursday 29 September 2016**

- 09:00 **What are the impact of seed policies and law on farmers' seed systems? Findings of an eight country study** by *Mr. Bert Visser*, Oxfam, the Netherlands
- 09:10 **EU regulation and new breeding techniques: which legal framework for implementation of Farmers' Rights?** By *Mr. Guy Kastler*, La Via Campesina, Coordinator IPC Working Group Agriculture Biodiversity, France
- 09:20 **Are there contradictions between Farmers' Rights and Plant Breeders' Rights? A view from civil society** by *Ms. Sangeeta Shashikant*, Third World Network
- 09:30 **Provisions for farmers in the different Acts of the UPOV Convention** by *Ms. Yolanda Huerta*, Legal Counsel, International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
- 09:40 **Questions for clarification**
- 10:00 **Discussions** (with 15 min coffee/tea break)
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 **Wrap up of Session 3**
- 15:00 Tea and coffee break

## **Session 4: Possible ways forward**

This section will give examples of how different aspects of Farmers' Rights are realised in different parts of the world. The session will also strive to identify areas on how the realisations of Farmers' Rights could be strengthened.

- 16:00        **Including Farmers' Rights in the revision of seed legislation – recent experiences in Guatemala**, by *Mr. Sergio Romeo Alonzo Recinos*, Association of Organizations from the Cuchumatanes, (ASCHOCOUS), Guatemala
- 16:10        **The Role of Community Seed-Banks in Conservation of Crop Genetic Resources- The Experience of Ethiopia** by *Mr. Delessa Angassa* , Director, Crop and Horticulture Biodiversity Directorate, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, Ethiopia
- 16:20        **Participatory plant breeding – strengthening farmers' seed systems. Lessons from Nepal** by *Mr. Pitambar Shresta*, Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Nepal
- 16:30        **Tools for Designing Alternative sui generis systems for plant variety protection** *Mr. Carlos Correa*, Special Advisor, South Centre; University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 16:40        **Questions for clarification**
- 17:00        Tea and coffee break
- 17:30        **Community seed banks around the world – preconditions for their success** by *Mr. Ronnie Vernooy*, Bioversity International
- 17:40        **National Policy for Agroecology and Organic Production – strengthen the development of peasants' seeds in Brazil** by *Mr. Marciano Toledo Da Silva*, MPA, Brazil and global spokesperson on seed issues, La Via Campesina
- 17:50        **Showing the film from Andes: potato farmers depositing seeds in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault**, by *Mr. Alejandro Argumedo*, Director, the Association ANDES, Peru
- 18:10        **Questions for clarification**
- 19:00        Dinner

## **Friday 30 September 2016**

- 09:00        **Possible steps for national implementation of Farmers' Rights – the need for voluntary guidelines. Lessons from a global programme**, by *Ms. Gigi Manicad*, Oxfam, the Netherlands and *Mr. Andrew Mushita*, Director, Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT), Zimbabwe



- 09:10 **The integration of Farmers' Rights perspectives in regional program of food security – experiences from Swiss supported program in Southern Africa** by *Mr. Martin Stottele*, Head of Economic Development Cooperation (SECO), Embassy of Switzerland, Jakarta
- 09:20 **Farmers' rights to participate in decision making** by *Ms. Yoke Ling Chee*, Director of Programmes, Third World Network
- 09:30 **Joining efforts to develop capacity for the full implementation of Farmers' Rights: the Joint Capacity Building Programme** by *Ms. Juanita Chaves Posada*, Consultant, Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)
- 09:40 **Questions for clarification**
- 09:50 **Discussions** (with 15 min coffee/tea break)
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 **Wrap up of Session 4**
- 15:00 **Summary of the consultations** Main points from the different sessions and elaboration of recommendations to the Governing Body.
- 18:15 **Closing addresses**
- 18:30 **Finalisation of the consultation**
- 19:00 Dinner