



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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Linkages between the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol: Mutually supportive implementation of both instruments at the national level

Kent Nnadozie
Senior Treaty Officer
Secretariat of the ITPGRFA

Background

- ITPGRFA Adopted in 2001
- In force since 2004
- Treaty Systems made operational since 2007
- Membership: 132 Contracting Parties so far
 - with about 40 from the Africa Region



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

Article 1.2

- These objectives will be attained by closely linking this Treaty to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to the Convention on Biological Diversity

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



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.

Interface with the Protocol

In adopting the Nagoya Protocol, the Conference of Parties, *inter alia*, recognized:

- the International Treaty as one of the complementary instruments that constitute the International Regime;
- that the objectives of the International Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the CBD, for sustainable agriculture and food security.

Decision X/1, Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.

PREAMBLE

Recognizing the interdependence of all countries with regard to genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as their special nature and importance for achieving food security worldwide and for sustainable development of agriculture in the context of poverty alleviation and climate change and acknowledging the fundamental role of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in this regard,

Acknowledging ongoing work in other international forums relating to access and benefit-sharing,

PREAMBLE

Recalling the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing established under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture developed in harmony with the Convention,

Recognizing that international instruments related to access and benefit-sharing should be mutually supportive with a view to achieving the objectives of the Convention.

RELATIONSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS (Art.4)

3. This Protocol shall be implemented in a mutually supportive manner with other international instruments relevant to this Protocol. Due regard should be paid to useful and relevant ongoing work or practices under such international instruments and relevant international organizations, provided that they are supportive of and do not run counter to the objectives of the Convention and this Protocol.
4. This Protocol is the instrument for the implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention. Where a specialized international access and benefit-sharing instrument applies that is consistent with, and does not run counter to the objectives of the Convention and this Protocol, this Protocol does not apply for the Party or Parties to the specialized instrument in respect of the specific genetic resource covered by and for the purpose of the specialized instrument.

Cooperation with the CBD

- The Governing Body of the International Treaty has repeatedly emphasized the necessity for close cooperation and coordination between the two bodies, underlining the need to promote coherence and mutual supportiveness between the two bodies;
- Parties have also requested a more comprehensive approach to ABS that takes into account their obligations under the Treaty as well as the various processes in other fora.

Tandem Workshop on the harmonious implementation of the IT & NP

- Held from 3 – 6 June, at FAO HQ, Rome;
- Jointly organized by the Secretariats of the IT and CBD, in partnership with the ABS Cap Dev. Initiative and Bioversity International;
- Attended by the focal points of the the IT and NP from each of the participating countries;
- Considered the mutually supportive implementation of both Agreements at the national level;
- A number of recommendations arose from the meeting;

Tandem Workshop on the harmonious implementation of the IT & NP

Key Recommendations

- Need to repeat the workshop next year with expanded participation;
- The COP and the IT Governing Body should be informed with the recommendation to recognize its value & support its continuation;
- The Secretariats and partner institutions to continue supporting national implementation efforts;
- Need to develop information and training materials from the process to support similar future initiatives;
- Consider similar model for regional meetings;
- Encourage the Executive Secretaries to continue joint activities and to make efforts to elevate the idea and concepts to broader audience and higher political levels.

Key legal issues/Practical areas for Consideration

- Legal space for implementation of the Treaty
- PIC
- MAT
- Permits by NCA
- Information and CHM
- International Certificate
- Disclosure of origin of material
- Reporting



Thank you!

E-mail: pgrfa-treaty@fao.org

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