



THE ABS  
CAPACITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE



L'INITIATIVE DE  
RENFORCEMENT  
DES CAPACITÉS  
POUR L'APA



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



The International Treaty  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security



**Implementing the multilateral system for development:  
Highlighting links to the Nagoya Protocol**

**Michael Halewood, Bioversity International,**

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(MLS)

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Red bananas (*Ruhuvia Chichi*) in the Solomon Islands.  
Bananas are one of the crops listed under Annex 1.

# The multilateral system of access and benefit sharing

**Basic approach:** in return for putting the genetic resources of 64 crops and forages from your country into a global pool of genetic resources, you get access to:

- the genetic resources of same crops from all (133) other member countries for research, plant breeding and training for food and agriculture.
- the genetic resources or all crops held by international organizations that sign agreements with the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA (CGIAR centers).

# The multilateral system of access and benefit sharing (cont.)

Countries don't have to include all the genetic resources of the 64 crops within their borders; just the following ...

- Materials that are under the management and control of the national government and in the public domain (so not materials managed and controlled by farmers or companies ... in most countries)
- Additional materials that are voluntarily included by anyone in the country (subject to whatever other laws apply, including laws implementing the Nagoya Protocol)

# The multilateral system of access and benefit sharing (cont.)

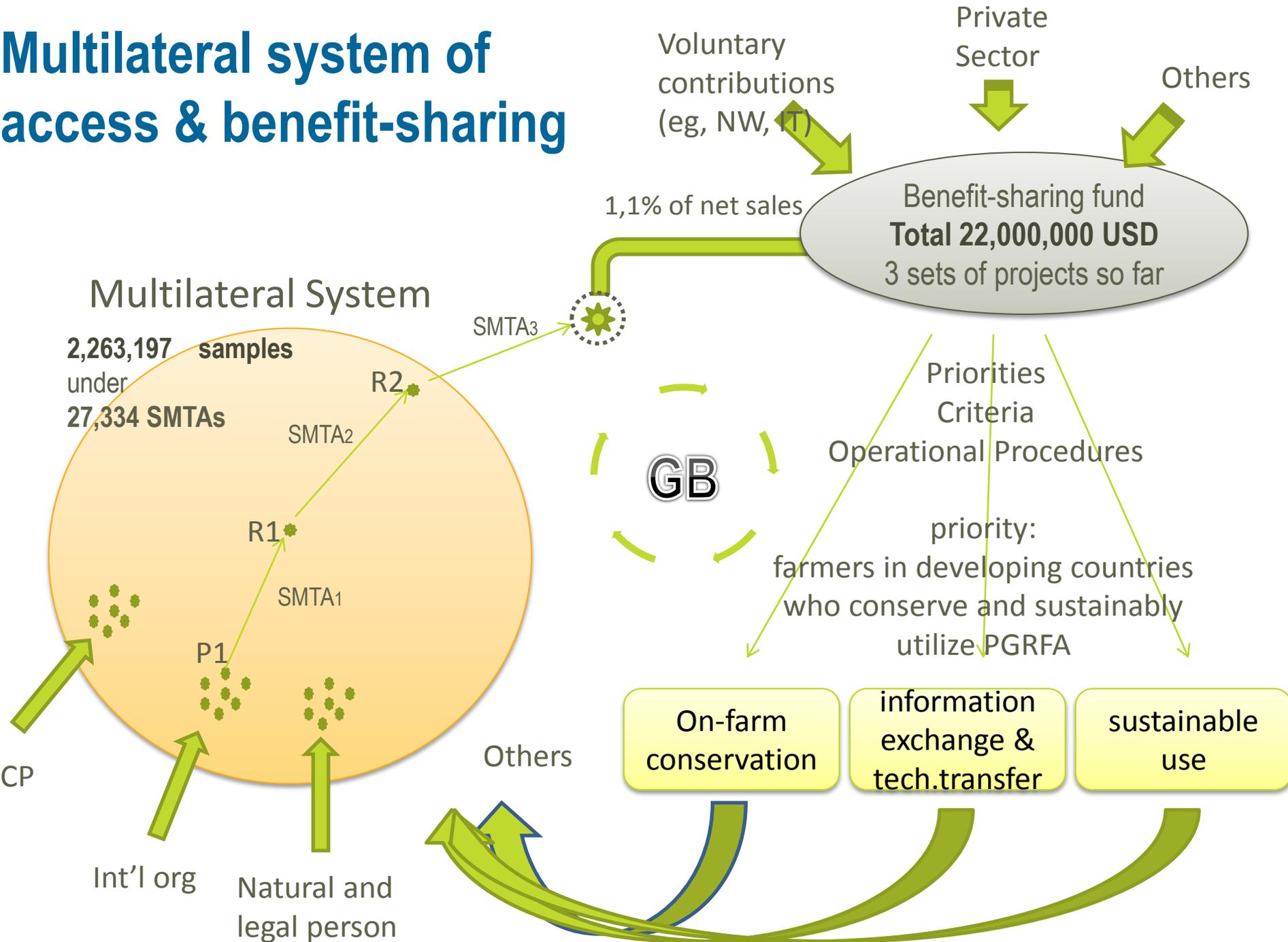
Access is for free or minimum administrative costs.

Anyone in a member state has the right to request and receive materials

You can commercialize new crops you develop that incorporate materials you accessed, but you have to pay 1.1% royalty to international benefit sharing fund



# Multilateral system of access & benefit-sharing



Region of recipients, January 2007 – July 2015	SMTA	Samples
Africa	18%	20.1%
Asia	39%	37.2%
Europe	11%	10.5%
Latin America and the Caribbean	19%	14.8%
Near East	9%	11.1%
North America	4%	4.8%
Southwest Pacific	<1%	1.5%

# Contributions to development, food security

## Facilitated access is the biggest benefit

By far the largest group of accessors and users of genetic resources available through the MLS are national public research organizations, genebanks, universities. Very little to private sector.

Typically used as part of crop improvement and development projects

National programs may typically:

- select best performing lines from diverse populations & release them
- cross with locally adapted materials and then release them

Multiply and disseminate as appropriate under circumstances: for free, under license with seed companies, through collaborative projects with NGOs, etc

# Contributions to development, food security (cont)

Farmers organizations, NGOs, may also receive materials and incorporate them in research and development programs.

Important to be able to access diversity from within the genepool of the crop to be able to identify useful traits. Often involves screening and evaluation of large numbers to desired trait

These genetic resources and the released varieties are the backbone of food security.



*Bar-coded samples in the CIP genebank. Credit: Cecilia Ynoue/CIP*

# Contributions to development, food security (cont)

MLS designed to support unprecedented levels of genetic resources exchanges in support of food security and development, and to set the stage for the entry of a wide range of new players in the field, both as providers and users of crop genetic diversity.

However, the MLS is not self-implementing. Many potential users of the system will need assistance to be able to take advantage of it – civil society organizations, farmers organizations. But also national public researchers and breeders, and small to medium size companies.

# Contributions to development, food security (cont)

## Other non-monetary benefits:

Partnerships, networking, training, information exchange, capacity building, technology transfer, development and participation of regional and crop specific PGR conservation and use strategies

Promotes and recognizes farmers and farming communities as stewards of biological diversity.

Encourages states to put systems in place to share benefits associated with use of farmers' materials, to protect traditional knowledge, and to participate in national decision-making.

## Monetary benefit sharing:

through the International Benefit-sharing fund: 22 million USD to date

# Implementation issues

Countries need to:

- put systems in place in the countries concerned to make materials available using the SMTA, as anticipated in the Treaty
  - ‘take the necessary legal or other appropriate measures to provide [facilitated] access to other contracting parties, including natural and legal persons within their jurisdictions’
- put systems in place and capacity building to help nationals take advantage of the MLS



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# Implementation issues (cont.)

1. Ensure legal space to operate MLS
2. Confirm what PGRFA are automatically in the MLS
3. Take measures to encourage voluntary inclusions of additional genetic resources in MLS
4. Establish rules for *in situ* genetic resources
5. Decide processes for applications and decision-making



# Implementation issues (cont.)

6. Develop mechanisms for consultations with CBD/NP authorities for hard cases
7. Build capacity of national users, institutionalize technical supports, build links to supportive international infrastructure, partners, support
8. Decide who is ultimately responsible to promote MLS implementation?
9. **Decide if want to implement the MLS on its own, or together with the Nagoya Protocol**

# 20/20 hindsight

Historical divide between agriculture and environmental sectors, from practitioners to international donors and international conventions

Lack of coordination, resistance, competition between them

Taken a long time to overcome, and to start to see the advantages of cooperation

This meeting, these partnerships, the overarching vision are, surprisingly, new. Starting to seem obvious, with the benefit of hindsight. Stepping into a brave new world..

# Mutual supportiveness for development!





# Thank you

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