



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**



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

**Second Reporting Cycle**  
**Report on the implementation of the International  
Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and  
Agriculture (ITPGRFA)**  
**ZAMBIA**

**01 October 2024**

**STANDARD REPORTING FORMAT**  
**COUNTRY REPORT ON COMPLIANCE – ITPGRFA**

Name and contact details of the reporting officer: Munkombwe Graybill

Institution: Zambia Agriculture Research Institute

Country: Zambia

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#### Article 4: General Obligations

1. Are there any laws, regulations procedures or policies in place in your country that implement the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

The Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore Act (2016), Revised National Agriculture Policy (2012-2030), Second National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030)

2. Are there any other laws, regulations, procedures or policies in place in your country that apply to plant genetic resources?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

Revised National Agriculture Policy (2012-2020), National Policy on Environment (2007), Environmental Management Policy (2011), National Forestry Policy (1998), National Seed Policy (2004), National Wildlife Policy (1998), National Policy on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (2016), Forestry Act (2015), National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (2018-230), Plant and Variety Seeds Act (CAP 236), Natural Resources Conservation Act (1970), The Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore Act (2016), Plant breeders' Rights Act (No. 17). Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy (2007), Biosafety Act (2007).so some of the policies and laws which have some elements of implementation of the treaty.

3. Is there any law, regulation, procedure or policy in place in your country that needs to be adjusted / harmonized<sup>1</sup> to ensure conformity with the obligations as provided in the Treaty?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such adjustments and any plans to make those adjustments:

The seeds Act and variety registration need revision to allow the farmers varieties registration. The plant breeders Act of 2007 also needs revision.

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this report, a Contracting Party may choose whichever term (adjusted or harmonized) is appropriate in relation to their legal systems

**Article 5: Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterisation, Evaluation and Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

4. Has an integrated approach to the exploration, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

5. Have PGRFA been surveyed and inventoried in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of your findings, specifying species, sub-species and/or varieties, including those that are of potential use:

Zambia has atleast 12,505 different kinds of organisms (species) and of these 4 % are bacteria and microorgsanisms, 33% are plants and 63 % are animals (GRZ, 2015). The country is estimated to have 6,575 flowering plants and ferns. The species of flowering plants is estimated at 3,543 (273 sedges, 2,660 herbaceous plants and 1,610 woody plants). There are atleast 107 cultivated plant species, 567 crop wild relatives of these 30 are on the priority list for conservation.

If your answer is 'no', please indicate:

Any difficulties encountered in surveying or inventorying PGRFA;

Any action plans to survey and inventory PGRFA;

The most important PGRFA that should be surveyed and inventoried:

6. Has any threat to PGRFA in your country been identified?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate: droughts and floods and human food preferences.

The species, subspecies and/or varieties subject to such threats;

The sources (causes) of these threats; climate change and modern society.

Any steps taken to minimise or eliminate these threats;

Promote the consumption of a variety of foods and adoption of climate smart agriculture

Any difficulties encountered in implementing such steps:

Not so much of the problem except for the financial resources.

7. Has the collection of PGRFA and relevant associated information on those plant genetic resources that are under threat or are of potential use been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken: The NPGRC has been conducting rescue collection missions aimed at ex situ conservation of PGRFA under threat. The NPGRC has been also characterizing the accessions at phenotypic level and plans are under way to publish catalogues. Regeneration of threatened species like food legumes. The most recent rescue mission of sweet potato in 2021.

8. Have farmers and local communities' efforts to manage and conserve PGRFA on-farm been promoted or supported in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

Establishment of community seed banks and conducting participatory variety selection.

9. Has in situ conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether any measures have been taken to:

X Promote in situ conservation in protected areas;

X Support the efforts of indigenous and local communities.

If such measures have been taken, please provide details of the measures taken:

- Establishment of possible areas of genetic reserves, though are still in discussions

10. Are there any ex situ collections of PGRFA in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide information on the holder and content of such collections:

NPGRC, 6653

11. Has the development of an efficient and sustainable system of ex situ conservation of PGRFA been promoted in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the measures taken to promote ex situ conservation, in particular any measures to promote the development and transfer of technologies for this purpose:

Zambia NPGRC belongs to a network of gene banks in the SADC region. These gene banks are coordinated by SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC). The aim is to have coordinated approach to PGRFA conservation. Gene bank standards have been developed which are followed by NPGRC. The information on national gene bank collection has been provided under the multilateral system. The standard operating procedures have also been developed in the last 2 years to enhance our efficiency.

12. Has the maintenance of the viability, degree of variation, and the genetic integrity of ex situ collections of PGRFA been monitored in your country?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the main conclusions of these monitoring activities:

Our conclusion is that the conditions we keep the materials are good because viability results indicate stability. Variation and genetic integrity bare also maintained, there is no significant changes observed

13. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation or documentation of PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the other Contracting Parties with whom the cooperation was undertaken (where additional to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms) and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

No collaboration in the period under review

**Article 6: Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

14. Are there any policy and legal measures<sup>2</sup> in place in your country that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA?

- Yes
- No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such policy and legal measures include:

X Pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources;

X Strengthening research that enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers;

X Promoting plant breeding efforts, with the participation of farmers, that strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;

X Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers;

X Promoting the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilised species;

X Supporting the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to plant breeding and agricultural development;

X Reviewing and adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution.

If such policy and legal measures are in place, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

National Agriculture Policy, National Seed Policy, National Policy on Protection of Indigenous Knowledge, National Strategic Action Plan for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives, National Environmental Management Policy and Second National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan

<sup>2</sup> For the purpose of this report, legal measures may include regulations.



**Article 7: National Commitments and International Cooperation**

15. Has the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, documentation and sustainable use of PGRFA been integrated into your country's programmes and policies?

Yes  x  
No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the integration of such activities:

- X Conservation
- X Exploration
- X Collection
- X Characterization
- Evaluation
- X Documentation
- X Sustainable use

Please indicate into which type of programmes and policies:

- X Agriculture and rural development
- X Food security
- X Biodiversity conservation
- X Climate change
- Other

Additional details:

Revised National Agriculture Policy (2012-2030)
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16. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes   
No  x

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the aim of such cooperation is to:

Strengthen the capability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with respect to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

Enhance international activities to promote conservation, evaluation, documentation, genetic enhancement, plant breeding, seed multiplication, and sharing, providing access to and exchanging PGRFA and appropriate information and technology, in conformity with the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing under the Treaty.

If, in addition to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms, your country has cooperated with other Contracting Parties directly or through FAO and other relevant international organizations, please indicate such other Contracting Parties and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

**Article 8: Technical Assistance**

17. Has your country promoted the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

Exchange of information

Access to and transfer of technology

Capacity building

Please explain:

18. Has your country received technical assistance with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Yes

No

Not applicable

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such technical assistance:

X Exchange of information

Access to and transfer of technology

Capacity building

Please explain:

Exchange of information regarding registration of accessions with DOIs.

### Article 9: Farmers' Rights

19. Subject to national law, as appropriate, have any measures been taken to protect and promote farmers rights in your country?

Yes x

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

X Recognition of the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources;

X The protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA;

The right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilisation of PGRFA;

X The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

Any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange, and sell farm-saved seed / propagating material.

If such measures were taken, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

The measures taken are protection of Indigenous Knowledge associated with plant genetic resources through the ACT of parliament, Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources and Expressions of Folklore Act (2016)

**Article 11: Coverage of the Multilateral System**

20. Has your country notified all PGRFA listed in Annex I to the Treaty that are under the management and control of your Government and in the public domain as included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS)?

- All  x  
Partially   
None

If your answer is 'all', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

None
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If your answer is 'partially', please provide details of:

- The extent to which Annex I PGRFA have been included in the MLS;
- The crops that have been included in the MLS; and
- The difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

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If your answer is 'none', please indicate the difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

- Lack of guidelines for the identification and inclusion of material;
- There is no national genebank;
- Lack of catalogue of PGRFA in the country
- Lack of specialised human resources;
- Limited economic resources and the need for capacity building;
- Other, please explain

21. Has your country taken measures to encourage natural and legal persons within your jurisdiction who hold Annex I PGRFA to include those resources in the MLS?

- Yes   
No X

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of:

- The natural or legal persons within your jurisdiction that included Annex I PGRFA in the MLS;
- The crops that have been included in the MLS by these persons; and

- Any difficulties these persons encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

If your answer is 'no' please provide details, in particular details of any difficulties encountered in encouraging these persons to include Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

We don't have such category of people

**Article 12: Facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Multilateral System**

22. Has your country taken measures to provide facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 12.4 of the Treaty?

Yes  x

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such measures:

1 SMTA with CIP covering 260 sweet potato accessions, 1 SMTA with world Veg covering 31 vegetable accessions, 1 SMTA with Ryukus University Japan covering 50 accessions of rice.

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA:

23. Has facilitated access been provided in your country to Annex I PGRFA using the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA)?

Yes  x

No

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA using the SMTA:

24. Has the SMTA been used voluntarily in your country to provide access to non-Annex I PGRFA?

Yes   
No

No, but the issue is under consideration

25. Does the legal system of your country provide an opportunity for parties to the material transfer agreements (MTAs) to seek recourse in case of contractual disputes arising under such agreements?

Yes   
No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

The Biosafety Act of 2007

26. Does the legal system of your country provide for the enforcement of arbitral decisions related to disputes arising under the SMTA?

Yes   
No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

Biosafety Act of 2007

27. Have there been any emergency disaster situations in respect of which your country has provided facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA for the purpose of contributing to the re-establishment of agricultural systems?

Yes   
No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such emergency disaster situations and the Annex I PGRFA to which access was provided:

**Article 13: Benefit-sharing in the Multilateral System**

28. Has your country made any information available regarding Annex I PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of any information made available regarding Annex I PGRFA:

Catalogues and inventories

Information on technologies

Results of scientific and socio-economic research, including characterisation, evaluation and utilisation

Other

29. Has your country provided or facilitated access to technologies for the conservation, characterisation, evaluation and use of Annex I PGRFA?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether your country:

Has established or participated in crop-based thematic groups on utilisation of PGRFA;

Is aware of any partnerships in your country in research and development and in commercial joint ventures relating to the material received through the MLS, human resource development and effective access to research facilities.

Please provide details:

30. Has your country provided for and/or benefitted from capacity building measures in respect of Annex I PGRFA?<sup>3</sup>

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

Establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

Developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

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<sup>3</sup> Please note that this question differs from question 15 as it only concerns Annex I PGRFA and is more specific

- Carrying out scientific research and developing capacity for such research.

If your country provided for and/or benefitted from such measures, please provide details:

**Article 14: Global Plan of Action**

31. Has your country promoted the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

- Yes   
No x

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the implementation of the plan was done through:

- National actions;  
 International cooperation;  
 Other actions

Please provide details:

**Article 15: Ex Situ Collections of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other International Institutions**

32. Has facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (IARCs) or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

- Yes x  
No

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

To which IARCs or other international institutions facilitated access was provided;

The number of SMTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

World Veg, International Potato Center



If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

33. Has access to non-Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to IARCs or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

Yes   
No x

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- To which IARCs or other international institutions access was provided;
- The number of MTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing access to non-Annex I PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

We did not receive such requests in the period under review.

**Article 16: International Plant Genetic Resources Networks**

34. Has your country undertaken any activities to encourage government, private, non-governmental, research, breeding and other institutions to participate in the international plant genetic resources networks?

Yes   
No x

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such activities:

**Article 18: Financial Resources**

35. Has your country provided financial resources for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes x  
No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide the estimated amount of funds provided during the last five years, including government resources:

15,000 USD

Please indicate if your country has developed a strategy or other measures to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement the International Treaty:

Yes through the government 8<sup>th</sup> National development plan. There are plans to support community seed banks establishment and farmer training.

36. Has your country provided financial resources for the implementation of the International Treaty?

Yes   
No x

If your answer is 'yes', where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved during the last 5 years:

Total amount:

Channel:

Bilateral   
Regional

Multilateral

Please provide details:

37. Has your country received financial resources for the implementation of the International Treaty?

Yes

No

x

If your answer is 'yes', where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved during the last 5 years:

Total amount:

Channel:

Bilateral

Regional

Multilateral

Please provide details:

### General remarks on the implementation of the ITPGRFA

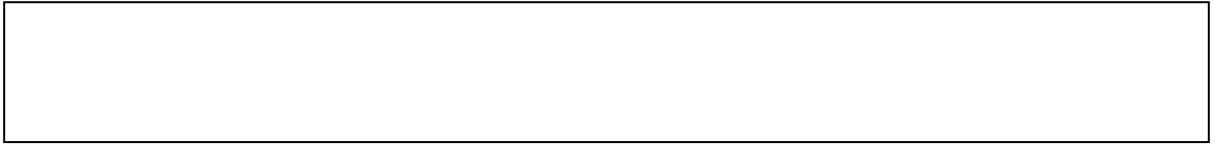
38. You may use this box to share any advice you may have arising from your country's experience with implementation of the Treaty:

It has been difficult due to inadequacy legal framework. Some laws and regulations are underway but slow in implementation.

39. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of difficulties in implementation of the Treaty:

Challenges in implementing the Treaty especially on realisation of Farmers' rights (FR) include the following: Lack of inter connected policy-making on conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources to recognise the role played by farmers and lack of adequate national Laws, policies, strategies, programs and other implementing measures relevant for realisation FR. There is need to sensitize policy makers on the need for realisation of FR

40. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of measures that could help to promote compliance:



*[ --- Question to be administered separately --- ]*

***About this reporting***

41. Have you encountered any difficulties in completing this reporting format?

Yes

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details on such difficulties:

If you have suggestions for improvement of this reporting format, please share them:

Please share both word and pdf versions of the reporting format without necessarily asking for it.