



Introductory Course to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Course Syllabus

Learning Objectives

This course introduces learners to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Adopted in 2001, the International Treaty provides a legally binding framework for the conservation and sustainable use of all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), balancing the interests of developed and developing countries, as well as a broad range of further stakeholders.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Understand what are the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the main objectives of the International Treaty and its origins;
- Identify the global challenges of crop diversity loss, food security, and climate change; understand the contribution of the International Treaty in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG);
- Discuss conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; learn about the Toolbox;
- Explain the recognition and protection of Farmer's Rights in the International Treaty; identify the role of the Inventory of measures and some practical options to promote Farmers' Rights;
- Describe the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing; explain the meaning of "facilitated access" and know the number of crops and forages included in the Multilateral System;
- Understand the role of the Benefit-sharing Fund, the provenance of funds and learn about some projects funded under the Benefit-sharing Fund;
- Understand the role of the Global Information System, the objective of the Compliance procedures, the main governance structures of the International Treaty and how to become a Contracting Party.

Content & Duration

This online course is composed of 6 lessons organized in interactive modules. It combines course theory with exercises and interactions to facilitate the learning process. The core content of the lessons is complemented with numerous references to primary sources and additional resources on external websites.

It will take you approximately 1.5 hours to complete the full course, excluding additional materials. This is a self-paced course that allows you to manage your time as you wish. You can navigate the lessons at your convenience and retake them whenever you like.

Completion Certificate

Take the quiz at the end of the course to assess your learning progress. You are required to answer at least 80% of the assessment questions correctly in order to obtain a course certificate.

Before obtaining the certificate you also need to submit the course survey (your feedback). This survey helps us to improve the course, develop new courses, and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

Course Outline & Content

Lesson 1: Introduction

Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; origins and objectives of the International Treaty; global challenges of crop diversity loss, food security, and climate change; link between the International Treaty and the SDG

Lesson 2: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Conservation under the International Treaty (ex situ and in situ); sustainable use, and the Toolbox.

Lesson 3: Farmers' Rights

Recognition, protection, and measures to promote Farmers' Rights; the Inventory of national measures, best practices and lessons learned some practical options to promote Farmers' Rights.

Lesson 4: The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing

Multilateral System and facilitated access to PGRFA; the 64 food crops and forages; benefit-sharing options under the Multilateral System.

Lesson 5: The Benefit-sharing Fund

Provenance of the funds; project funding and selected experiences.

Lesson 6: Information, Monitoring and Governance

Global Information System; Compliance procedures; main governance structures of the International Treaty; becoming a Contracting Party.

Take the free and self-paced course [HERE](#) (login required)