



# 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 treaty provides a legally binding framework for 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:

- Identify the global challenges of crop diversity loss, food security, and climate change;
- Discuss conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- Describe the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing;
- Explain the recognition and protection of Farmer's Rights in the Plant Treaty.

### Content & Duration

This online course is composed of 6 lessons which are organized in interactive modules and combine 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

Global challenges of crop diversity loss, food security, and climate change; the origins of the Plant Treaty.

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

Conservation under the Plant Treaty (ex situ and in situ); sustainable use.

### Lesson 3: Farmers' Rights

Recognition, protection, and measures to promote Farmers' Rights; the Joint Capacity Building Programme on Farmers' Rights.

### Lesson 4: The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing

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

### Lesson 5: The Benefit-sharing Fund

Provenance of the funds; project funding.

### Lesson 6: Institutional Arrangements

Main governance structures of the Plant Treaty; cooperation and partnerships; becoming a contracting party.

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