

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

Course Syllabus



InforMEA
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Learning objectives

No country is self-sufficient in plant genetic resources; all depend on genetic diversity in crops from other countries and regions. International cooperation and open exchange of genetic resources are therefore essential for food security.

This course introduces you to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the legally binding framework for the conservation and sustainable use of all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

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

1. Explain the relationship between crop diversity and food security
2. Describe the core components and mechanisms of the Treaty

Content and duration

The e-learning course is comprised of 6 lessons, which provide links to the relevant treaty text paragraphs and term concepts of the InforMEA Glossary section. The lessons are organised in books, which can be downloaded in pdf from the left-hand navigation menu.

The core content of these lessons is complemented with additional materials, such as videos, publications and/or external websites

It will take you 2 hours approximately to complete the course, excluding additional materials. You can manage your time as you wish; take a few units and retake the course whenever it is more convenient for you.

Assessment and 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.

Unit	Content	Learning objectives
Unit 1 – Introduction	1. Crop Diversity Loss 2. Climate Change 3. Food security 4. The outlook 5. The origins of the Plant Treaty 6. The Plant Treaty Objectives	1. Explain the global challenges of crop diversity loss, food security and climate change 2. Describe how these three challenges are interlinked 3. Recall the origins and objectives of the Plant Treaty
Unit 2 - Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	1. An integrated approach 2. Conservation under the International Treaty Ex situ conservation In situ conservation 3. Sustainable Use under the International Treaty	1. Illustrate the strong linkage between conservation and sustainable use of crop diversity 2. Distinguish in situ conservation and ex situ conservation 3. Describe the concept of sustainable use of crop diversity
Unit 3 - Farmers' Rights	1. Recognition and protection of Farmer's Rights 2. Measures to protect and promote Farmer's Rights 3. Further protection throughout the Treaty 4. Joint Capacity Building Programme on Farmers' Rights Key Activities	1. Recall some measures to protect and promote Farmers' Rights 2. Describe the Joint Capacity Building Programme of Farmer's Rights
Unit 4 - The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing	1. Introduction 2. Facilitated Access to PGRFA 64 food crops and forages Access Conditions 3. Benefit-sharing under the Multilateral System 4. Flow of Materials and Benefits within the Multilateral System	1. Describe the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing of the Multilateral Treaty. 2. Explain what facilitated access means and how it is achieved through the Standard Material Transfer Agreement 3. Recall that Multilateral System is limited to the genetic material of 64 food crops and forages 4. Identify the conditions to access the genetic material 5. List some options of benefit-sharing

Unit	Content	Learning objectives
Unit 5 - The Benefit-sharing Fund	1. Introduction 2. Provenance of the Funds 3. Project funding 2nd Funding Cycle - Strategic Action Plans 2nd Funding Cycle - Immediate Action Projects	1. Describe the Benefit-sharing Fund and its main objective 2. Explain the provenance of the funds 3. Give examples of projects funded under the Benefit-sharing Fund
Unit 6 - Institutional Arrangements	1. Main Governance Structures of the International Treaty 1. 1. Governing Body 1. 2. The Bureau 1.3. The Secretary 1.4. National Focal Points 2. Cooperation and Partnerships Video - Partnership with Biodiversity International 3. Becoming a Contracting Party Membership	1. Identify the different bodies and functions of the International Treaty 2. Name cases of cooperation and partnership to support the implementation of the Treaty 3. Describe how to become a Contracting Party



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