

# Farmers' Rights under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

## *Course Syllabus*



**InforMEA**  
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON  
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

## Learning objectives

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture addresses the issue of Farmers' Rights in Article 9, and in its Preamble. The International Treaty advises Contracting Parties to protect and promote Farmers' Rights in accordance with national laws.

This course examines its origins and treatment in the International Treaty and presents some practical activities for the realization of Farmers' Rights.

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

- 1- Defend the importance of Farmers' Rights in the conservation and sustainable management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA)
- 2- Describe the evolution of Farmers' Rights up to their recognition by the International Treaty
- 3- Explain the components of Article 9 of the International Treaty
- 4- Illustrate the implementation of Article 9 at the national level with practical examples and best practices

## Content and duration

The e-learning course is comprised of 3 lessons, which provide links to the relevant treaty text paragraphs and term concepts of the InforMEA Glossary section.

The lessons are comprised of an interactive module, handouts and suggestions to deepen your knowledge. The core content of these lessons is complemented with additional materials, such as videos, publication and/or external website. You can also share and meet other learners through the chat and forum.

It will take you 3 hours approximately to complete the course, excluding additional reading material. 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 course and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

| Unit  | Content   | Learning objectives   |
|---|---|---|
| Unit 1 – Introduction to Farmers’ Rights                            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction</li> <li>2. The rationale of Farmers’ Rights</li> <li>3. The emergence of Farmers Rights as a concept</li> <li>4. Towards a common understanding</li> <li>5. International processes</li> <li>6. Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recall role played by farmers and local and indigenous communities in the conservation and sustainable management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA)</li> <li>2. Explain the foundation and evolution of Farmers’ Rights up to its recognition in the International Treaty</li> </ol>  |
| Unit 2 – Farmers’ Rights in the context of the International Treaty | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction</li> <li>2. Farmers’ Rights under the International Treaty: the four building blocks</li> <li>3. The linkages between Article 9 and Articles 5 and 6</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain how Article 9 of the International Treaty recognize the contribution of local and indigenous communities and farmers to the conservation and development of PGRFA,</li> <li>2. Describe the measures listed under Article 9 for the protection of local and indigenous communities’ and farmers’ traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA, their equitable participation in the sharing of benefits, and in decision-making processes related to these resources.</li> </ol> |
| Unit 3 – Implementing Farmers’ Rights                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Article 9, Farmers’ Rights: some practical explanations and progress in the implementation</li> <li>2. Some practical examples of realization of Farmers’ Rights</li> <li>3. Current programmes and initiatives</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain how to implement the components of Farmers’ Rights in the International Treaty at the national level</li> <li>2. Provide some practical examples of the realization of Farmers’ Rights</li> </ol>   |



# InforMEA

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON  
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

[www.informea.org](http://www.informea.org)

<http://e-learning.informea.org/>