# Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework



Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) constitute an integral component of agricultural biodiversity. PGRFA are crucial for sustainable agricultural production, adaptation to climate change, economic development and improving smallholder farmers' livelihoods.

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) is a pivotal global agreement dedicated to conserving and sustainably using PGRFA. It empowers farmers and scientists by facilitating access to a diverse range of plant materials crucial for developing new crop varieties. The International Treaty also ensures fair sharing of benefits from the use of these resources, acknowledging the vital contributions of farmers and indigenous communities to global food security and agricultural biodiversity.

While the International Treaty establishes the global policy framework for PGRFA conservation, access, and benefit-sharing, the <u>Crop Trust</u> provides essential financial and operational support to maintain genebanks worldwide. The International Treaty provides a unique multilateral policy framework and platform to enable genebanks to flourish, connect and support each other. This collaboration ensures that plant genetic diversity is preserved and accessible, enhancing both food security and agricultural resilience.

In December 2022, the <u>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)</u> was adopted at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This framework sets ambitious goals for 2050 and targets for 2030 to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

The connection between biodiversity and food security is well reflected in the KM-GBF, which includes goals and targets directly related to the agricultural sector and to genetic resources, including genetic resources for food and agriculture.

## **Collaboration and implementation**

The KM-GBF calls for enhanced cooperation among conventions to implement and monitor progress. Aligning the implementation of the KM-GBF and the International Treaty and ensuring effective coordination between the respective National Focal Points is crucial for success.

Sharing experience and knowledge, and coordinating efforts between relevant national stakeholders across different sectors will also be essential.

## **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans**

NBSAPs are instruments for implementing the CBD and the KM-GBF. As countries revise their NBSAPs, there is an opportunity to highlight the importance of PGRFA, including the role of genebanks and PGRFA *in situ*/on-farm conservation. The content of NBSAPs will shape national and international funding priorities.

Integrating the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA in NBSAPs will contribute to addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, sustainable development, food and nutrition security, and ultimately to achieving the goals and targets of the KM-GBF.









# Key KM-GBF Targets where PGRFA can make an impact

#### Target 4:

Halt species extinction, protect genetic diversity, and manage human-wildlife conflicts

#### Target 10:

Enhance biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry

#### Target 13:

Increase the sharing of benefits from genetic resources, digital sequence information and traditional knowledge

#### Target 15:

Businesses assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts

#### Target 19:

Mobilize \$200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including \$30 billion through international finance

# How national implementation of the International Treaty contributes to achieving KM-GBF Targets





#### Conservation

Emphasizing the preservation of traditional crop varieties, wild relatives, and underutilized species, which possess unique genetic traits crucial for future biodiversity and agricultural resilience.





#### **Access and benefit-sharing**

Advocating for fair access to plant genetic resources, recognizing the rights of farmers and indigenous communities, and enhances the sharing of benefits derived from the utilization of these resources.







#### **Public awareness**

Raising public awareness about the value of plant genetic resources, emphasizing their role in biodiversity, food security, and agricultural resilience, and enging communities and educational institutions to promote responsible stewardship.

Treaty implementation examples









#### **Policy Integration**

Promoting the integration of its objectives with the goals of the GBF into national and international policies, encouraging collaboration among governments, civil society, research institutions, and the private sector.





#### **Sustainable Use**

Promoting sustainable practices by encouraging research and innovation to develop crop varieties that are resilient, productive, and adapted to changing climatic conditions.







#### **Capacity Building**

Enhancing capacity building by providing training programs, knowledge-sharing platforms, and technology transfer, enabling effective management, conservation, and utilization of plant genetic resources.