OVERVIEW ON THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PGRFA
Relevant issues and current status

Workshop for Nagoya Protocol and Plant Treaty
National Focal Points in South and Southeast Asia

27 – 30 March 2017, International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, The Philippines

Kent Nnadozie
Secretary a.i., International Treaty on PGRFA,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Teosinte
Maize
The centres of origin/diversity of some major plants

- **NORTH AMERICA**
  - Sunflower
  - Cranberry
  - Jerusalem artichoke

- **CARIBBEAN**
  - Arrowroot

- **CENTRAL AMERICA**
  - Maize
  - Cassava
  - Phaseolus spp.
  - Sweet pepper

- **SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN**
  - Oats
  - Beetroot
  - Artichoke
  - Olive
  - Grape
  - Date palm

- **SOUTHERN AFRICA**
  - Yam
  - Kenaf
  - Coffee (robusta)

- **WEST AFRICA**
  - Sorghum
  - Yam
  - Cowpea
  - Oil palm

- **CENTRAL AFRICA**
  - Finger millet
  - Pearl millet
  - Sorghum
  - Melon

- **EAST AFRICA**
  - Sorghum
  - Pearl millet
  - Finger millet
  - Tef
  - Pigeon pea
  - Coffee

- **INDIAN OCEAN**
  - Mascarene coffee
  - Banana

- **SOUTHEAST ASIA**
  - Rice
  - Winged bean
  - Taro
  - Yam
  - Breadfruit
  - Banana
  - Citrus

- **SOUTHWEST ASIA**
  - Wheat
  - Boney
  - Lentil
  - Pea
  - Fig

- **EAST ASIA**
  - Prosomillet
  - Fox tail millet
  - Soybean
  - Orange
  - Apricot
  - Peach

- **CENTRAL ASIA**
  - Wheat (bread, club)
  - Onion
  - Carrot
  - Faba bean

- **PACIFIC**
  - Sugar cane
  - Coconut
Why is it important?

• Genetic Resources have direct bearing on a range of concrete areas, including food security, health, sustainable development, innovation and livelihoods;
  - All countries are interdependent with regard to GRFA.
  - Over 1 billion people suffer from chronic hunger and malnutrition.
  - The world population will increase to over 9 billion by 2050.
  - Agricultural production must increase by 70%.
  - 70% of the increase in production is expected to come from increased yields = GR
  - Plant genetic resources are essential for this yield and future food security and sustainable development;
  - Fundamental to adapting to new climactic realities;
What are the Treaty’s objectives?

- The conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- The fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security
What does the Treaty do?

• Facilitate the exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for research, training and breeding through its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

• Supports developing countries through its Benefit-sharing Fund

• It also facilitates:
  • Exchange of scientific information through the Global Information System;
  • Access to and transfer of technology;
  • Capacity development, training programmes, facilities enhancement and scientific research
Key areas of work:

- The Multilateral system (MLS)
- Global information system (GLIS)
- Benefit-sharing Fund (BSF)
- Sustainable Use (SU)
- Farmers’ Rights (FRs)

144 members as of 2017

Seven new Contracting Parties since 2016:

Argentina, Chile, Guyana, Bolivia, Tuvalu, Malta & USA
Multilateral System of ABS

- 1.8 million accessions notified worldwide from Parties and the IARCs of the CGIAR – 64 crops
- 48,505 SMTAs reported, 16,265 (under development)
- 3.26 million accessions transferred
- 6,001 recipients in 168 countries
- 1,309 users registered in EASY-SMTA
- Major crops: wheat, rice, barley, maize, chickpea and lentil (+ 1.2 mil PGRFA transferred)
- Useful data to monitor progress of the Treaty
- Assistance to users on a daily basis
Benefit-sharing Fund

LEGEND
- Contracting Parties that received funds under the Benefit-sharing Fund
- Contracting Parties not eligible to apply for funding under the Benefit-sharing Fund
- Contracting Parties eligible to apply for funding that didn't receive funds/didn't apply for funding
The MLS Enhancement Process

• Measures under discussion (Resolution 1/2015):

  (a) Revised SMTA focusing in particular in the development of a Subscription System for users and to possibly include a termination clause, user/crop categories, differentiated payment rates;
  (b) Adapting the coverage of the MLS;
  (c) Issues regarding genetic information associated with the material accessed from the MLS.

• Task to consult with existing and potential SMTA users on the attractiveness of the proposals.
The MLS Enhancement Process

User and Crops Categories (FoCC)
Termination Clause (FoCC)
Access Mechanisms and Payment Rates (FoCC)
Scope of the MLS (FoCC)
Standing Group of Legal Experts
The MLS Enhancement: Key Challenges

- Package of measures to enhance Access and Benefit-sharing at the same time
- Expansion of the coverage of the MLS if there is success in benefit-sharing
- A revised SMTA:
  - Access Mechanisms: single access vs Subscription System
  - Registry for the Subscription System: features
  - Legal certainty and legal enforcement
- Launch Mechanism for the enhanced MLS
Partnerships & collaboration

• The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol
• The Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT)
• the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)
• International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
• United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
• Broad range of stakeholders and groups.
Cooperation with the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol on ABS

In adopting the Nagoya Protocol, the Conference of Parties, *inter alia*, recognized:

- the International Treaty as one of the complementary instruments that constitute the International Regime;
- that the objectives of the International Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the CBD, for sustainable agriculture and food security.

Decision X/1, *Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.*
GB-7 Preparations

• Selected items on the Agenda
  - Enhancement of the functions of the MLS and the Funding Strategy
  - Operations of the MLS
  - Implementation of the Global Information System (GLIS)
  - Programme of Work on Sustainable Use
  - Farmers’ Rights
  - Compliance
  - Cooperation with other Instruments and Organizations
  - The 2030 Agenda and the role of PGRFA
  - MYPOW (2018-2015)
Thanks

The Habsburg Emperor Rudolf II as Vertumnus,