Exercise 3: Implementing the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

(group work)

The aim of this exercise is to discuss the steps needed to implement the Treaty, including (a) determining the need for national legislation, (b) deciding on what collections are automatically included within the multilateral system, (c) deciding on what measures should be taken to encourage other institutions and natural and legal persons to include their material in the multilateral system, (d) deciding on what measures to take to promote and implement farmers’ rights.

Phase 1. Group work (40 minutes)

1. Form four groups. Each group elects a rapporteur. (5 minutes)

2. As a group, you will analyse the hypothetical case below, and advise the Minister of Agriculture on the steps to be taken to implement the Treaty in the country concerned using the worksheets (handout 20) to record your responses. (35 minutes)

Hypothetical case: You are the Competent Authority in an African country (Tanenyabia) that has just acceded to the Treaty. Your country is a federal state. It has a national genebank, which is part of the Ministry of Agriculture. Each of the states also has its own genebank, as does the Federal Agricultural Research Institute, which is an autonomous institute, funded by the federal government. There are also a number of important collections held by public universities and NGOs.

Your country has national legislation covering access and benefit sharing for genetic resources that implements the CBD and contains the provisions set out in Handout 9 (Presentation 3).

Your country is rich in plant genetic resources but is heavily dependent on plant genetic resources from other countries in developing its agriculture and meeting the challenges of climate change. It is mainly dependent on traditional agriculture, although there is a newly emerging modern farming sector aimed at exports.
3. Your task is to advise the Minister on the following:
   a. Will national legislation be required to implement the Treaty, and what should the main lines of any such legislation be?
   b. What collections, in general terms, should be considered to be automatically included in the multilateral system?
   c. What other collections should be brought into the multilateral system, and what types of measure should the government adopt to encourage this?
   d. Should the government notify anyone of the material that is included in the multilateral system, and if so, to whom should the notification be made and in what form?
   e. What measures should be taken to promote farmers’ rights?

4. The rapporteurs use key words to record their group’s conclusions on a flipchart to present to the audience later today.

**Phase 2. Presentation and discussion (40 minutes)**

5. The rapporteurs present the results of their group’s discussions to the audience. Each rapporteur has 5 minutes to report.
   (20 minutes)

6. The trainer distributes Handout 21 (Practical Considerations), stimulates a discussion and provides feedback on the content of the presentations.
   (20 minutes)