



FAO/G. Bizzanti

Part I

Introduction



Article 1 - Objectives

- 1.1 The objectives of this Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.
- 1.2 These objectives will be attained by closely linking this Treaty to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Article 2 - Use of terms

For the purpose of this Treaty, the following terms shall have the meanings hereunder assigned to them. These definitions are not intended to cover trade in commodities:

“In situ conservation” means the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats and the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of species in their natural surroundings and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated plant species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties.

“Ex situ conservation” means the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture outside their natural habitat.





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“Plant genetic resources for food and agriculture” means any genetic material of plant origin of actual or potential value for food and agriculture.

“Genetic material” means any material of plant origin, including reproductive and vegetative propagating material, containing functional units of heredity.

“Variety” means a plant grouping, within a single botanical taxon of the lowest known rank, defined by the reproducible expression of its distinguishing and other genetic characteristics.
“*Ex situ* collection” means a collection of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture maintained outside their natural habitat.

“Centre of origin” means a geographical area where a plant species, either domesticated or wild, first developed its distinctive properties.

“Centre of crop diversity” means a geographic area containing a high level of genetic diversity for crop species in *in situ* conditions.

Article 3 - Scope

This Treaty relates to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

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