

Lessons Contributing to Preparing an International Guideline on Farmers' Rights Implementation

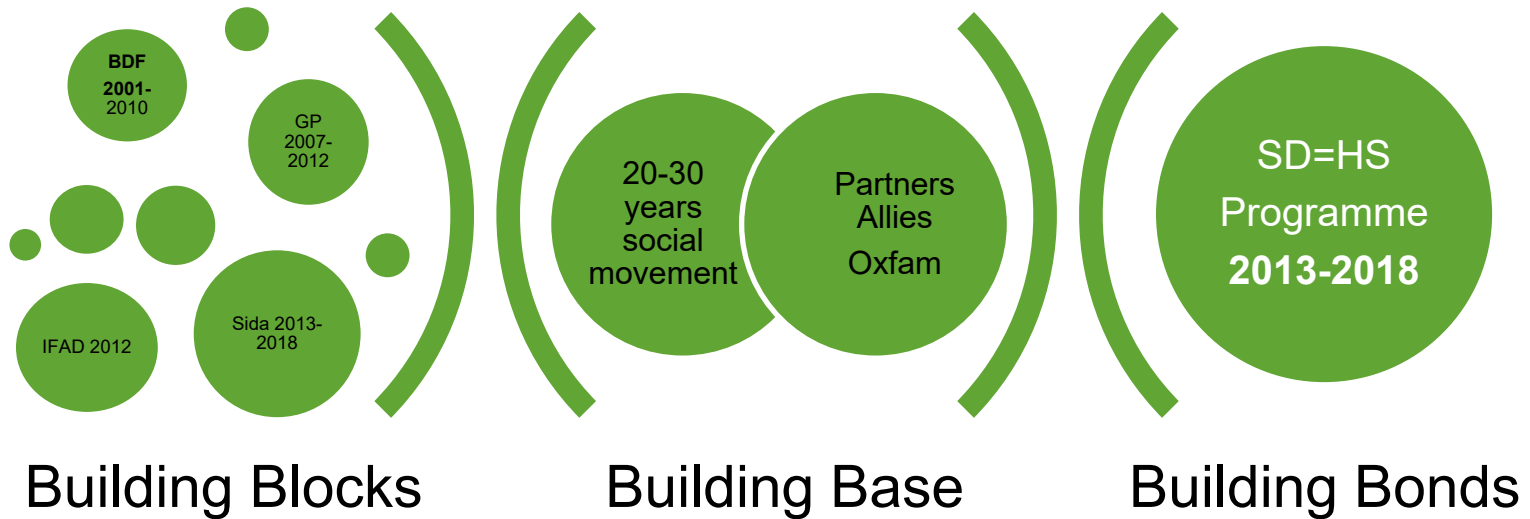
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Movie: Share a Seed



3 decades of learning



Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security (SD=HS)



Photo: Sacha de Boer

- Strengthen farmers' seed systems (rights & technical) for food and nutrition security for climate change adaptations,
- Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Peru, Zimbabwe: 150,000 HH, 50% women
- Low land paddy fields, high mountain altitude, semi-arid region, marginal & high potential areas
- 170 FFS in rice, potato, maize , small grains based systems + NUS
- 50 Partners/allies: CSOs, IPSHF, governments, universities, national & international research organisations, private sector
- Knowledge intensive and socially concerted
- Donors: Sida, IFAD, Netherlands Post Code Lottery, Dutch government +++

Objectives of the Presentation

To draw lessons contributing to an international guideline for the national implementation of Farmers' Rights

Why the need for such an instrument?

- Slow progress since Treaty came into force
- Urgency for food & nutrition security under threats of climate change, consolidated power in the seed sector, dematerialisation of PGRFA
- Part of 2030 Agenda for the SDG
- Need for a consolidated overview of challenges & best practice
- Offer support for the Contracting Parties for Article 9 implementation
- Organize steps for action



Photo:Sacha de Boer

Preparatory steps towards Farmers' Rights Guideline

- 1) Assess the roles and needs of farmers' seed systems within the national seed sector
- 2) Participatory identification of key policy issues (opportunities, constraints)
- 3) Convene Multi stakeholder's dialogue to set guidelines for Farmers' Rights (objectives, policy issues, main topics of the Guideline, steps for implementation, monitoring, financing)



Photo: Sacha de Boer

Possible sections of FR guidelines



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1) Article 9.2.a - Protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA

- The protection of traditional knowledge is inevitably linked to Article 6.2.a - Pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources” → E.g. Biocultural heritage sites such as the Potato Park in Peru

2) Article 9.2.b - Right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of PGRFA

- Benefit sharing for indigenous and local farmers starts and continues with the steady flow of access to and sustainable use of PGRFA and the need to develop and maintain appropriate policy and legal measures to this effect (Article 6.1 & Articles 6.2.b and c)

Possible sections of FR guidelines

3) Article 9.2.c. The right to participate in making decisions, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA

- Farmers' participation in local, national, global policy fora
- Farmers' representation in national seed councils and participatory variety release processes
- Empowerment of (women) farmers through PPB and FFS

4) Article 9.3. The right to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material, subject to national law and as appropriate

- Smallholder farmers depend on exchange & local trade of farm-saved seed
- Make seed laws conducive to the production and sale of quality seeds by farmers



Global Guideline



1. Facilitate the collaboration of stakeholders with complementary roles, expertise, and resources for FR implementation
2. Work towards a vibrant and innovative seed sector with the private, public seed sectors and farmers' seed system
3. Contribute towards instituting a clear framework with specific provisions for implementing Farmers Rights
4. Guide countries to support, strengthen and build capacity for the domestication of Article 9 of the IT especially in developing countries.
5. Enable convening of biennial Farmers Rights conference to be held concurrently with the GOB to consider progress of the Farmers Rights implementation by contracting parties

Photo: Sacha de Boer

Recommendations for GB7

1. To develop international guidelines for the national FR implementation, assist countries in formulating policy and legislations; create enabling environments for farmers to maintain contributions and access to PGRFA
2. Refer the development of Guideline to the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainable Use, or established a technical committee, for GB8 submission
3. Ensure the full & active participation of FOs & CSOs in the draft formulation of the Committee
4. Request the Secretariat to provide organizational assistance to the Committee and stakeholder Consultation
5. Invite the Contracting Parties to contribute to the development of the Guideline by organisational & financial support



Photo:Sacha de Boer

Thank you!



Photo: Sacha de Boer