

SIDE EVENT

to be held during COP 9 to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Bonn, 19-30 May 2008)

AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY: Implementing Farmers' Rights in Practice

Salon Arnd at the Maritim Hotel, Bonn, Thursday 22 May 13:15-14:45



Photo: G. Ullutuncok, GTZ

Welcome to a side event on Farmers' Rights as they are recognized in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Farmers' Rights are basically about enabling farmers to continue their work as stewards and innovators of agricultural biodiversity, and about recognizing and rewarding them for their contribution to the global pool of genetic resources. Thus, Farmers' Rights are critical to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and consequently for food security today and in the future. They are also a central means in the fight against rural poverty and hunger in developing countries.

Farmers' Rights are a cornerstone of the International Treaty, as their realization is a precondition for *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of crop genetic resources. Thus, their realization is also a precondition for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity with regard to agricultural biodiversity. But how can Farmers' Rights be implemented in practice? Stakeholders from many developing countries have addressed the need for more guidance in this regard.

The side event will respond to this request by launching a website and a workshop module that are designed as tools for decision makers and practitioners, and by presenting a report on success stories from the realization of Farmers' Rights. The presentation opens with a brief introduction on contents of Farmers' Rights and how they can be realized in practice. Three success stories will be presented.

ORGANIZERS: Fridtjof Nansen Institute (Norway),
Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) (Germany) and the Development Fund (Norway)



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for Economic Cooperation
and Development



PROGRAM

Chair: *Godfrey Mwila* (Chair of the Governing Body of ITPGRFA; Principal Agricultural Research Officer, Zambia Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Zambia)

Welcome address by *Annette von Lossau* (Coordinator of GTZ project "People, Food and Biodiversity", Germany) and *Bell Batta Torheim* (Program coordinator, Development Fund, Norway)

Implementing Farmers' Rights in practice by *Regine Andersen* (Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Farmers' Rights Project, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway)

The bean seed catalogue in Costa Rica as a participatory and institutionalized mechanism to protecting farmers' traditional knowledge by *Eduardo Rojas* (Farmer, Costa Rica)

Participatory Plant Breeding for adding value to traditional crops in Nepal: An approach to realizing Farmers' Rights to benefit sharing, by *Pratap Shrestha* (Exec. Director Li-Bird, Nepal)

Implementing a Ministry Decision on on-farm conservation and production of varieties in Vietnam: an example of strengthening the right to participate in decision making, by *Wilhelmina R. Pelegrina* (Executive Director, SEARICE, the Philippines)

Discussion