

# Realising Farmers' Rights to Crop Genetic Resources

## *Success Stories and Best Practices*

Edited by **Regine Andersen** and **Tone Winge**

"This book meticulously documents the progress of initiatives undertaken to shape the Farmers' Rights described in the International Treaty, taking the need to provide legal space for Farmers' Rights as the point of departure. With its suggestions for future work, it is a wealth of information for all concerned about and engaged in strengthening farmers' continuing role in maintaining crop diversity." – Bert Visser, Centre for Genetic Resources, Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands

"This book is indispensable for decision-makers and practitioners dealing with agriculture and food production. It illustrates from the theory to the practice how Farmers' Rights can and need to be implemented in order to ensure the continuous conservation and development of agro-biodiversity in the twenty-first century. As such it is a milestone for the realization of Farmers' Rights." – José Esquinas-Alcázar, Director and Chair of Studies on Hunger and Poverty, University of Córdoba, Spain and Former Secretary of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Farmers' Rights are essential for maintaining crop genetic diversity, which is the basis of all food and agricultural production in the world. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture recognizes Farmers' Rights and provides for relevant measures. However, implementation is slow, and in many countries there is resistance.

This book shows the necessity of realizing Farmers' Rights for poverty alleviation and food security, the practical possibilities of doing so, and the potential gains for development and society at large. It provides decision-makers and practitioners with a conceptual framework for understanding Farmers' Rights and success stories showing how each of the elements of Farmers' Rights can be realized in practice. The success stories have brought substantial achievements as regards one or more of the four elements of Farmers' Rights: the Rights of farmers to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed; the protection of traditional knowledge; benefit-sharing; and participation in decision-making.

This does not mean that the examples are perfect. Challenges encountered on the way are conveyed and offer important lessons. The stories represent different regions and localities, including Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as various categories of stakeholders and types of initiatives and policies.

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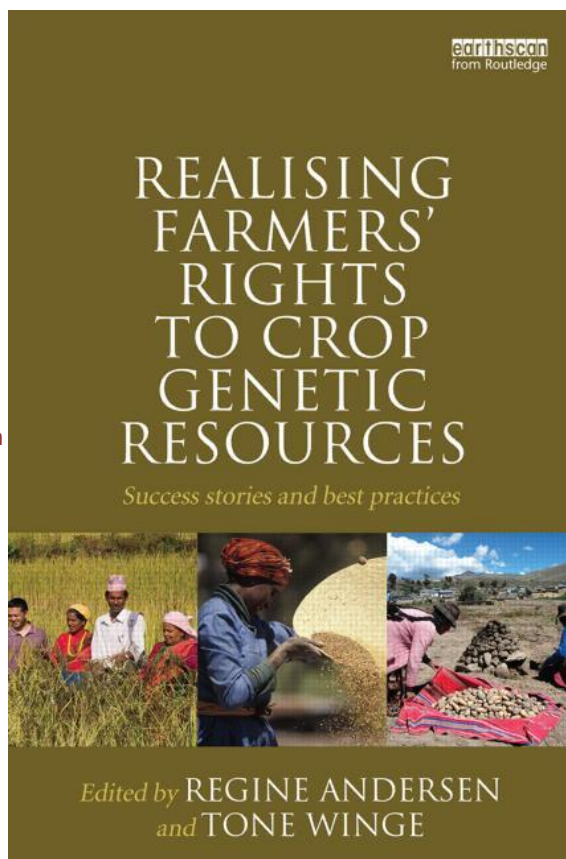
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