



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The vital role of securing the world's
food production through the Treaty's
international system

<http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty>



Fewer crops are feeding more people worldwide – and that's not good

- Over the course of their history, humans have utilized more than 7,000 plant species to meet their basic food needs, either by cultivation or gathering.
- Today only about 150 plant species are under reasonably extensive cultivation.
- The majority of humans live on only 15 plant species, which account for over 90% of human energy needs.
- Just three crops – rice, wheat and maize – provide more than half of plant-derived calories consumed worldwide.



Genetic erosion and the reduction in genetic diversity is a huge problem

- Reduction in the number of different crop species being grown and the decrease in genetic diversity within crop species;
- Low agrobiodiversity makes agriculture more vulnerable to pests, diseases and climate change.
- When we lose agricultural biodiversity, we also lose the options to make our diets healthier and our food systems more resilient and sustainable.

What are the Treaty's objectives?

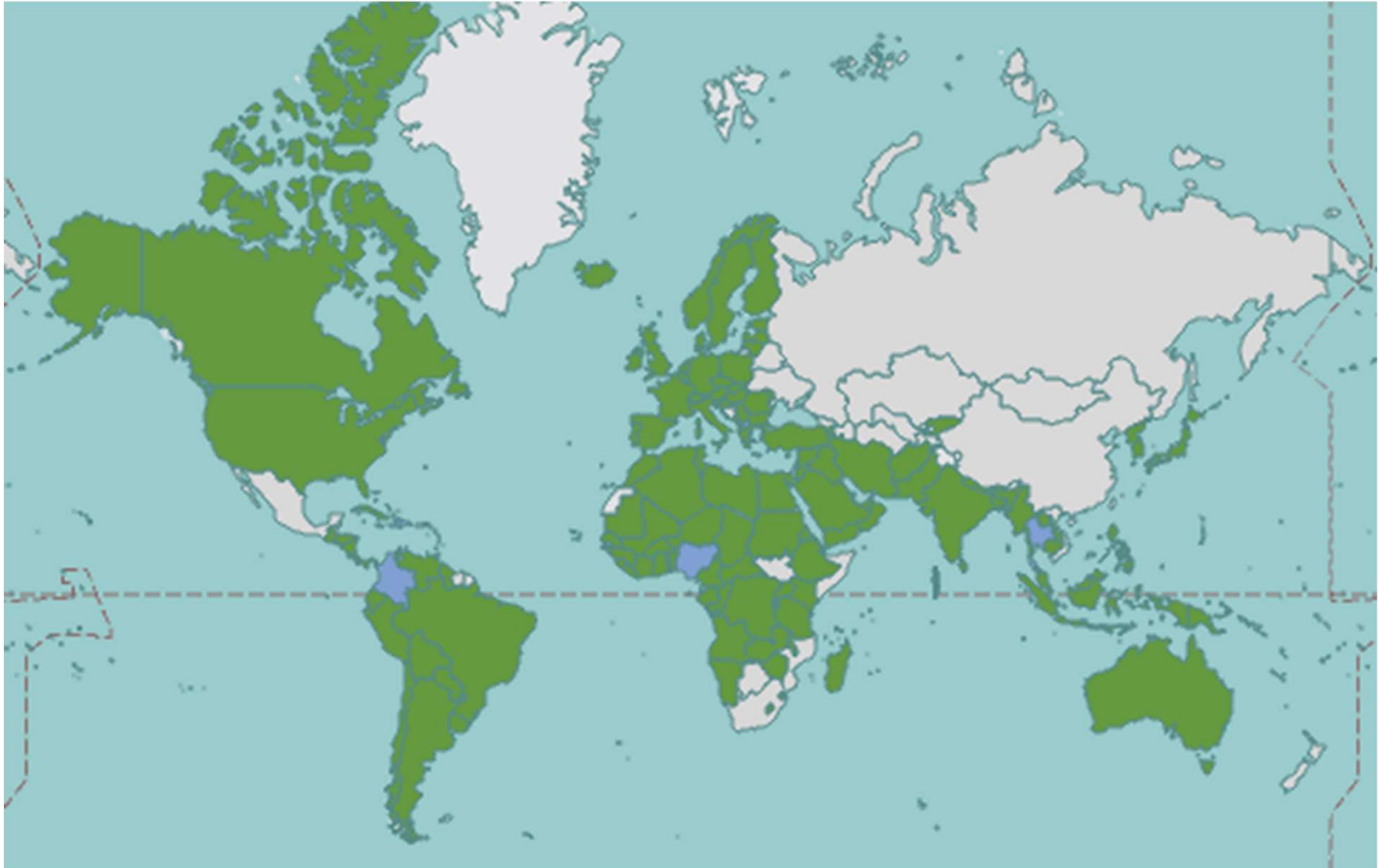


- The **conservation** and **sustainable use** of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- The fair and equitable **sharing of benefits** derived from their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, **for sustainable agriculture and food security**



- **International agreement:** The Treaty is an international agreement that ensures that farmers and plant breeders access, easily, the raw genetic material needed to develop new crop varieties, including those with higher yields and those that are resilient to climate change.
- **Global solution:** It provides a global solution to the challenges of crop diversity loss and climate change adaptation through mechanisms such as the Multilateral System and Benefit-sharing Fund.
- **World-wide membership:** 145 countries are Contracting Parties of the International Treaty.

146 Contracting Parties





CYMMIT Genebank, Mexico



Svalbard Global Seed Vault, Norway



Community Seed Bank, Malawi



USDA-ARS, Iowa



The key strategic issues in the Treaty for the biennium

Continue the enhancement of the core Treaty systems and strategies:

- strengthening the holistic implementation of the Treaty provisions and operational systems;
- the enhancement of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing;
- addressing the funding needs through the Funding Strategy;
- Global Information System;
- Sustainable Use and Farmers' Rights;
- Contribution to the SDGs.

The key strategic issues in the Treaty for the biennium

Resolution 1/2017: Contribution of the Treaty to the 2030 Agenda:

- Urges Contracting Parties to make appropriate efforts to ensure the long-term conservation of PGRFA by 2020, as called for in SDG Target 2.5, and emphasizes that efforts to maintain plant genetic diversity, both ex situ and in situ, should continue to be a priority after 2020;

Resolution 9/2017

- **Notes** that the follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides an opportunity to further enhance coherence and cooperation between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as appropriate,
- and **emphasizes** the importance of maintaining and strengthening targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including by relying on the monitoring information available through the reporting processes of the International Treaty and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and by taking into account the experience gained in monitoring target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals,
- and furthermore **stresses** that targets on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable use of the benefits arising out of their use should take into account the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing.

Thanks



The Habsburg Emperor Rudolf II as Vertumnus,
by Giuseppe Arcimboldo, 1591.
Skokloster Castle, Sweden