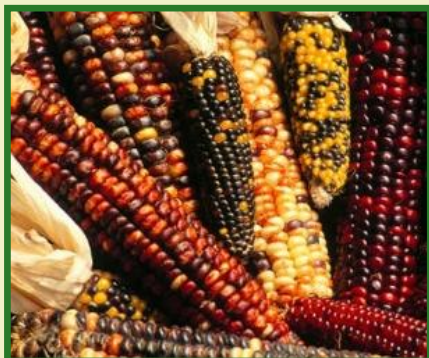




# The Farmers' Rights Project



The realization of Farmers' Rights is a precondition for the maintenance of crop genetic diversity, which is the basis of all food and agricultural production in the world. It is also a cornerstone in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Plant Treaty).



Basically, realizing Farmers' Rights means enabling farmers to maintain and develop crop genetic resources as they have done since the dawn of agriculture, and recognizing and rewarding them for this indispensable contribution to the global pool of genetic resources.



The Farmers' Rights Project of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI), Norway, is aimed at supporting the implementation of Farmers' Rights as they are recognized in the Plant Treaty. Started in 2005, it is a long term project with many different components, comprising research and surveys as well as more operational activities.



## Why Farmers' Rights?

Genetic diversity of agricultural plants is the very basis of farming. It provides the pool from which plant traits can be found that meet the challenges of crop pests and diseases, of marginal soils, and – not least – of changing climate conditions and it is vital for spreading risks for smallholder farmers.

Plant genetic diversity is probably more important for farming than any other environmental factor, simply because it is *the* factor that enables adaptation to changing environmental conditions. As farmers are custodians and developers of crop genetic resources, their rights in this regard are crucial for enabling them to maintain this vital role for local and global food security, and as such central means in the fight against poverty.



## International recognition of Farmers' Rights

Article 9 of the Plant Treaty is devoted to Farmers' Rights. It recognizes the enormous contributions farmers have made and will continue to make for the maintenance of crop genetic resources and provides that national governments are responsible for the realization of Farmers' Rights according to their needs and priorities. Central measures suggested for the realization of Farmers' Rights include the protection of traditional knowledge related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, equitable benefit-sharing, and the right to participate in relevant decision-making at the national level. In addition, the rights of farmers to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material are addressed.



## Goals of the Farmers' Rights Project

The Farmers' Rights Project has been established to provide research-based guidance for the implementation of the treaty provisions on Farmers' Rights. The identification of barriers, options, achievements and success stories constitute the core of the project. Guidance is provided for national as well as international level implementation of Farmers' Rights.



## Previous and current project activities

- Survey on the history of Farmers' Rights based on document/literature review
- International multi-stakeholder questionnaire survey on Farmers' Rights
- Case studies on Farmers' Rights in India, Peru, Ethiopia and Norway
- Documenting success stories from the realization of Farmers' Rights
- The Lusaka informal international consultation process on Farmers' Rights (with the governments of Zambia and Norway), 2007
- Website on Farmers' Rights – [www.farmersrights.org](http://www.farmersrights.org)
- Workshop Module on Farmers' Rights
- Various workshops, consultancies, lectures and side events
- Research on civil society strategies for the implementation of Farmers' Rights
- Global consultations on Farmers' Rights, including e-mail-based survey and international conference in Ethiopia (with the government of Ethiopia), 2010

## About the Farmers' Rights website

The Farmers' Rights website is the official website of the Farmers' Rights Project and has been developed as a tool for decision makers, practitioners, and others involved in the realization of Farmers' Rights. It is also intended as an information source for researchers and other interested individuals. The website contains information on the history, legal status and contents of Farmers' Rights, on the state of implementation of these rights, and a comprehensive database on legislation and policies. There are concrete recommendations on how to go about implementing Farmers' Rights nationally, including a workshop module for free use and success stories from all over the world. The prospects for implementing Farmers' Rights internationally are also discussed, and there are overviews of literature and organizations related to Farmers' Rights, a calendar of coming events, and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ). You will also find more information about the Farmers' Rights Project. Welcome at: [www.farmersrights.org](http://www.farmersrights.org)



## Selected Publications

**The 2010 Global Consultations on Farmers' Rights: Results from an Email-based Survey.** By Regine Andersen and Tone Winge. *FNI Report 2/2011*.

**Global Consultations on Farmers' Rights in 2010.** By Regine Andersen and Tone Winge, with contributions from Bell Batta Torheim. *FNI Report 1/2011*.

**An issue of survival.** By Regine Andersen. *D+C*, 2010.

**Information Paper on Farmers' Rights.** By Regine Andersen. Information Paper for the Third Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA, Tunis, 2009.

**Farmers' Rights Project – Background Study 8: Farmers' Rights in Peru: Farmers' Perspectives.** By Maria Scurrah, Regine Andersen and Tone Winge. *FNI Report 16/2008*.

**Success Stories from the Realization of Farmers' Rights Related to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.** By Regine Andersen and Tone Winge. *FNI Report 4/2008*.

**Governing Agrobiodiversity: Plant Genetics and Developing Countries.** By Regine Andersen. Ashgate, 2008.

**Informal International Consultation on Farmers' Rights, 18 - 20 September 2007, Lusaka, Zambia.** By Regine Andersen and Gunnvor Berge. *Report M-0737 E*, Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 2007.

**Farmers' Rights Project – Background Study 5: Farmers' Rights in Ethiopia – A Case Study.** By Regassa Feyissa. *FNI Report 7/2006*

**Farmers' Rights Project – Background Study 4: Farmers' Rights in India – A Case Study.** By Anitha Ramanna. *FNI Report 6/2006*.

**Farmers' Rights Project – Background Study 3: Farmers' Rights in Peru – A Case Study.** By Manuel Ruiz Muller. *FNI Report 5/2006*.

**Farmers' Rights Project – Background Study 1: The History of Farmers' Rights: A Guide to Central Documents and Literature.** By Regine Andersen. *FNI-Report 8/2005*.

See also [www.farmersrights.org/fr-project/products.html](http://www.farmersrights.org/fr-project/products.html)

### Contact

Farmers' Rights Project  
Fridtjof Nansen Institute  
P.O. Box 326  
1326 Lysaker, Norway  
Tel: +47 67111900  
Fax: +47 67111910  
[farmers.rights.project@fni.no](mailto:farmers.rights.project@fni.no)  
[www.farmersrights.org](http://www.farmersrights.org)

### Project Director

Dr. Regine Andersen  
Senior Research Fellow  
Fridtjof Nansen Institute

### Partners

The Farmers' Rights Project collaborates with a wide network of institutions involved in Farmers' Rights, including ministries, research institutions, donor organizations, NGOs and farmers' organizations. The project has been supported financially and professionally by the following institutions:

- German GTZ, through the People, Food and Biodiversity Project (implemented on behalf of the German BMZ)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway
- Development Fund, Norway
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Research Council of Norway

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