

SIDE EVENT

to be held during the 3rd Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA (Tunis, 1-5 June 2009)

FARMERS' RIGHTS

Challenges, Success Stories and Ways Forward

Cartage 3, Barceló Carthage Palace Thalassa Gammarth Hotel, 2 June 2009, 18:00-19:00



Farmers' Rights are a cornerstone of the Plant Treaty, as they are a precondition for enabling farmers to maintain and develop crop genetic resources in the fields. The objectives of the Plant Treaty on conservation and sustainable use could not be realized without these rights. Therefore Agenda Item 14 of the Governing Body's 3rd Session – on the implementation of Article 9, Farmers' Rights – is particularly important. A key question is: What steps can the Governing Body take to promote compliance with the treaty provisions on Farmers' Rights? At this side event, we will seek to provide guidance in this regard.

The side event will summarize key challenges as well as success stories from the realization of Farmers' Rights at the national level, based on research from the international Farmers' Rights Project of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway. It will also draw the lines from the Lusaka informal international consultation process on Farmers' Rights in 2007, via the resolution on Farmers' Rights of the 2nd Session of the Governing Body – with an analysis of the inputs submitted to the Secretariat based on that resolution – and to the 3rd Session of the Governing Body. Along the way, the results from an international expert e-group discussion on options for Farmers' Rights, which was held Nov. 08 – Apr. 09, will be presented, and viable suggestions on next steps for the Governing Body will be derived and discussed.

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



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Commissioned by



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



PROGRAM

Chair: Godfrey Mwila, Previous Chair of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA

Welcome address on behalf of the GTZ and the Development Fund

- **Teshome Hunduma Mulesa**, Program Coordinator, the Development Fund

Introduction on challenges, success stories and ways forward

- **Regine Andersen**, Sr. Research Fellow; Director, Farmers' Rights Project, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway

Briefing on the results of the international e-group discussion

- **Bert Visser**, Director of Centre of Genetic Resources, the Netherlands

Panel Discussion on possible next steps for the Governing Body in terms of Farmers' Rights:

- **Modesto Fernández Díaz-Silveira**, Senior Officer for Environment, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Cuba; Chair of the Governing Body

- **Sugiono Moeljopawiro**, Senior Scientist, Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology & Genetic Resources R & D, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia

- **Elizabeth Matos**, Chairperson, National Plant Genetic Resources Centre, Angola (to be confirmed)

- **Wilhelmina R. Pelegrina**, Executive Director, SEARICE, Philippines

- **Bert Visser and Regine Andersen**

Drinks and snacks served!



www.farmersrights.org