

SIDE EVENT

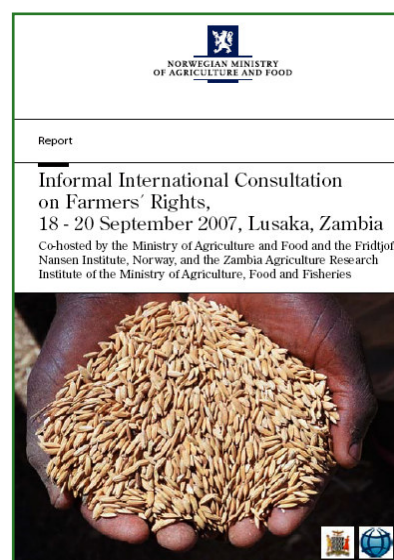
to be held during the 2nd Session of ITPGRFA's Governing Body, Rome, 29 October–2 November 2007

REALIZATION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS AND THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Red Room, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Wednesday 31 October 13:00-14:00

In preparation for the Second Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA, Norway's Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Zambia's Agricultural Research Institute and the Fridtjof Nansen Institute of Norway co-hosted an informal international consultation on Farmers' Rights in Lusaka, Zambia, 18–20 September 2007. The consultation gathered 27 participants from 20 countries to explore the contents of Farmers' Rights, farmers' contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, the state of realization of their rights, questions related to further realization at the national level, and key issues to be addressed in this regard. Considerable time was devoted to what the Governing Body can do to promote the realization of Farmers' Rights. The consultation built a broad basis of understanding not only of the contents of Farmers' Rights, but also of action needed to ensure their realization. On this basis, the organizers developed an input paper to be submitted to the Governing Body for consideration at its Second Session.

The side event will present the report from the Zambia consultation on Farmers' Rights and the input-paper to the Governing Body from the governments of Norway and Zambia.



ORGANIZERS: The Governments of Norway and Zambia and the Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway



PROGRAM

Welcome address by *Grethe Helene Evjen* (Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway) and *Godfrey Mwila* (Principal Agricultural Research Officer, Zambia Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Zambia)

Presentation of the report from the Informal International Consultation on Farmers' Rights, 18–20 September, Lusaka, Zambia by *Regine Andersen* (Senior Research Fellow, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway)

Options for realizing Farmers' Rights at the national level, by *Andrew Mushita* (Executive Director, Community Technology Development Trust, Zimbabwe)

The role of the GB and potential measures to promoting the realization of Farmers' Rights, by *Bert Visser* (Director, Centre for Genetic Resources, Wageningen University, the Netherlands)

Comments from a farmer perspective, by a representative of farmers' organizations present at the Second Session.

Presentation of the input paper on Farmers' Rights to the Governing Body from the governments of Norway and Zambia, by *Grethe Helene Evjen* and *Godfrey Mwila*

Discussion