

TECHNICAL SESSIONS OF 'FIRST GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON FARMERS' RIGHTS' CONCLUDES TODAY

Relevant for: Developmental Issues | Topic: Government policies & interventions for development in various Sectors and issues arising out of their design & implementation incl. Housing

The technical sessions of 'First Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights (GSFR)' held at the ICAR Convention Centre, National Agricultural Science Centre, New Delhi was successfully concluded today.

The GSFR was attended by more than 500 delegates from 60 countries, including the National Focal Points of the International Treaty, more than 150 farmers and more than 100 foreign participants. Various issues pertaining to Farmers' Rights as set out in the Article 9 of the International Treaty were deliberated in five different technical sessions, two panel discussions and three special sessions. A special session on Farmers Forum was an important inclusion in the GSFR.

The deliberations and suggestions emanating from the GSFR have been crystalized in a 'Delhi Framework on Farmers' Rights', as a proposal from India to the Treaty:

On the final day of the meeting tomorrow, delegates to visit the Pusa Campus (IARI and NBPGR), to see the phenomics, genomics and gene bank facilities.

The meeting was inaugurated by President Smt. Droupadi Murmu. Recognizing the farming fraternity as the true guardian of crop diversity, President Droupadi Murmu, said that India's law on Farmers Rights (enshrined within the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPVFR) Act, 2001) can be a model for the world to emulate, especially in the context of climate change challenges. The President also conferred 26 Plant Genome Savors Awards/Recognition to farmers and farming communities of India. Also, the newly constructed 'Plant Authority Bhawan', the office of the PPVFR Authority, and an online plant variety 'Registration Portal' was inaugurated by the President, in the august presence of Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, and Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Kailash Choudhary.

Organized by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, the Global Symposium is being hosted by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in collaboration with PPVFR Authority, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR). An exhibition showcasing the rich agrobiodiversity of India was put through support from 80 organisations and awardees farmers/farming community, ICAR institutes, SAUs, CAUs, CGIAR institutes and seed association. The Global Symposium was requested by the Ninth Session of Governing Body of the FAO's International Treaty, held in New Delhi during September 17 to 24, 2022, to share experiences and to discuss possible future work on Farmers' Rights.

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