



SUID-AFRIKAANSE NASIONALE SAADORGANISASIE

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SEED ORGANIZATION

NPC Reg No 1989/003392/08

250 Harvest House
30 Hamilton Street
Arcadia
Pretoria

2018/08/23

Dear Dr Noluthando Netnou-Nkoana,

SANSOR's Position on The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

The South African National Seed Organization (SANSOR) hereby would like to submit our position on the accession of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. SANSOR is the National designated Authority for Seed Certification and represents, protects and further the seed trade in South Africa to the benefits of our members. SANSOR is responsible as leading authority to represent our members nationally as well as internationally, while ensuring and furthering fair and legal seed trade to promote food and seed security through plant breeding and innovation.

1. SANSOR supports South Africa to ratify the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

By ratifying the ITPGRFA:

- it will ensure that South Africa will have access and retain access to genetic resources;
- it will facilitate trade with trading partners globally;
- South Africa will show its commitment to be part of the global conservation community;
- South Africa will be involved in the decision-making processes of the implementation of the ITPGRFA than being dependent on other countries' decisions.
- The ITPGRFA is focused and understands the needs of the of the seed industry.

2. SANSOR strongly supports that Farmers' Rights as described in Article 9 of the ITPGRFA is implemented at a national level. For sustainability and continuous development, SANSOR does not support the sale of farm saved seed. Farmers' Rights should be implemented in harmony with UPOV 1991.

3. SANSOR supports in principle the use of the SMTA for the exchange of genetic resources however improvements are required to ensure efficient use in business practices.

4. SANSOR is strongly supporting the extension of Annex 1 of the ITPGRFA to all species being relevant for plant breeding.

DIRECTORS

J Odendaal (Chairman), R Roselt (V-C), B Lever, DE Malan, P Smit, L Chetty, SM Hildebrand

As the treaty is specifically focused on the seed sector it must be inclusive of all plant species for breeding and innovation.

5. SANSOR supports that every country including South Africa put all their genetic resources for food and agriculture into the multilateral system of the ITPGRFA.

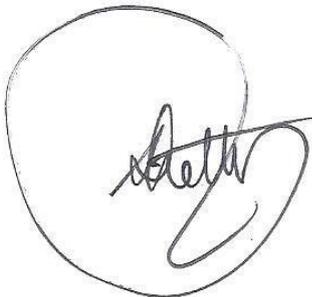
The functionality of the multilateral system of the ITPGRFA system to work is ensuring all parties have access to genetic resources.

6. SANSOR is strictly against the inclusion of digital sequence information within the scope of the ITPGRFA. SANSOR is in general against any regulation for digital sequence information.

Any regulation regarding digital sequence information will prohibit plant breeding and innovation and will prevent development of new varieties needed to ensure food security in an environment subjected to climate change such as drought and ensuring pest control. The inclusion of digital sequence information in the ITPGRFA will be cumbersome and counter intuitive on the primary focus of the ITPGRFA and the Convention of Biological Diversity.

If you have any question in this regard, please feel free to contact us

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn circular border. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'Lukeshni Chetty'.

Dr Lukeshni Chetty
General Manager