# **Standard Material Transfer Agreement**

#### **PREAMBLE**

#### WHEREAS

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as "the **Treaty**") was adopted by the Thirty-first session of the FAO Conference on 3 November 2001 and entered into force on 29 June 2004;

The objectives of the **Treaty** are the conservation and sustainable use of **Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security;

The Contracting Parties to the **Treaty**, in the exercise of their sovereign rights over their **Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**, have established a **Multilateral System** both to facilitate access to **Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** and to share, in a fair and equitable way, the benefits arising from the utilization of these resources, on a complementary and mutually reinforcing basis;

Articles 4, 11, 12.4 and 12.5 of the **Treaty** are borne in mind;

The diversity of the legal systems of the Contracting Parties with respect to their national procedural rules governing access to courts and to arbitration, and the obligations arising from international and regional conventions applicable to these procedural rules, are recognized;

Article 12.4 of the **Treaty** provides that facilitated access under the **Multilateral System** shall be provided pursuant to a Standard Material Transfer Agreement, and the **Governing Body** of the **Treaty**, in its Resolution 1/2006 of 16 June 2006, adopted the Standard Material Transfer Agreement.

## ARTICLE 1 — PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

1.1 The present Material Transfer Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "this Agreement") is the Standard Material Transfer Agreement referred to in Article 12.4 of the Treaty.

## 1.2 **This Agreement** is:

BETWEEN: Africa Rice Center (WARDA) Cotonou, Benin (hereinafter referred to as "the **Provider**"),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Note by the Secretariat: as suggested by the Legal Working Group during the Contact Group for the Drafting of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, defined terms have, for clarity, been put in bold throughout.

AND: (name and address of the recipient or recipient institution, name of authorized official, contact information for authorized official\*) (hereinafter referred to as "the **Recipient**").

1.3 The parties to **this Agreement** hereby agree as follows:

#### **ARTICLE 2 — DEFINITIONS**

In this Agreement the expressions set out below shall have the following meaning:

- "Available without restriction": a **Product** is considered to be available without restriction to others for further research and breeding when it is available for research and breeding without any legal or contractual obligations, or technological restrictions, that would preclude using it in the manner specified in the **Treaty**.
- "Genetic material" means any material of plant origin, including reproductive and vegetative propagating material, containing functional units of heredity.
- "Governing Body" means the Governing Body of the Treaty.
- "Multilateral System" means the Multilateral System established under Article 10.2 of the Treaty.
- "Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture" means any genetic material of plant origin of actual or potential value for food and agriculture.
- "Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development" means material derived from the Material, and hence distinct from it, that is not yet ready for commercialization and which the developer intends to further develop or to transfer to another person or entity for further development. The period of development for the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development shall be deemed to have ceased when those resources are commercialized as a Product.
- "Product" means Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that incorporate<sup>2</sup> the Material or any of its genetic parts or components thereof that are ready for commercialization, excluding commodities and other products used for food, feed and processing.
- "Sales" means the gross income resulting from the commercialization of a Product or Products, by the Recipient, its affiliates, contractors, licensees and lessees.
- "To commercialize" means to sell a **Product** or **Products** for monetary consideration on the open market, and "commercialization" has a corresponding meaning. Commercialization shall not include any form of transfer of **Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development**.

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As evidenced, for example, by pedigree or notation of gene insertion.

#### ARTICLE 3 — SUBJECT MATTER OF THE MATERIAL TRANSFER AGREEMENT

The **Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** specified in *Annex 1* to **this Agreement** (hereinafter referred to as the "**Material**") and the available related information referred to in Article 5b and in *Annex 1* are hereby transferred from the **Provider** to the **Recipient** subject to the terms and conditions set out in **this Agreement**.

#### **ARTICLE 4 — GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 4.1 **This Agreement** is entered into within the framework of the **Multilateral System** and shall be implemented and interpreted in accordance with the objectives and provisions of the **Treaty**.
- 4.2 The parties recognize that they are subject to the applicable legal measures and procedures, that have been adopted by the Contracting Parties to the **Treaty**, in conformity with the **Treaty**, in particular those taken in conformity with Articles 4, 12.2 and 12.5 of the **Treaty**.<sup>3</sup>
- 4.3 The parties to **this Agreement** agree that the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, acting on behalf of the **Governing Body** of the **Treaty** and its **Multilateral System**, is the third party beneficiary under **this Agreement**.
- 4.4 The third party beneficiary has the right to request the appropriate information as required in Articles 5e, 6.5c, 8.3 and *Annex, 2 paragraph 3*, to **this Agreement**.
- 4.5 The rights granted to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations above do not prevent the **Provider** and the **Recipient** from exercising their rights under **this Agreement**.

### ARTICLE 5 — RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PROVIDER

The **Provider** undertakes that the **Material** is transferred in accordance with the following provisions of the **Treaty**:

- Access shall be accorded expeditiously, without the need to track individual accessions and free of charge, or, when a fee is charged, it shall not exceed the minimal cost involved:
- All available passport data and, subject to applicable law, any other associated available non-confidential descriptive information, shall be made available with the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture provided;
- Access to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development, including material being developed by farmers, shall be at the discretion of its developer, during the period of its development;

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In the case of the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and other international institutions, the Agreement between the Governing Body and the CGIAR Centres and other relevant institutions will be applicable.

- d) Access to Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture protected by intellectual and other property rights shall be consistent with relevant international agreements, and with relevant national laws;
- e) The **Provider** shall periodically inform the **Governing Body** about the Material Transfer Agreements entered into, according to a schedule to be established by the **Governing Body**. This information shall be made available by the **Governing Body** to the third party beneficiary.<sup>4</sup>

#### ARTICLE 6 — RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE RECIPIENT

- 6.1 The **Recipient** undertakes that the **Material** shall be used or conserved only for the purposes of research, breeding and training for food and agriculture. Such purposes shall not include chemical, pharmaceutical and/or other non-food/feed industrial uses.
- 6.2 The **Recipient** shall not claim any intellectual property or other rights that limit the facilitated access to the **Material** provided under **this Agreement**, or its genetic parts or components, in the form received from the **Multilateral System**.
- 6.3 In the case that the **Recipient** conserves the **Material** supplied, the **Recipient** shall make the **Material**, and the related information referred to in Article 5b, available to the **Multilateral System** using the Standard Material Transfer Agreement.
- 6.4 In the case that the **Recipient** transfers the **Material** supplied under **this Agreement** to another person or entity (hereinafter referred to as "the **subsequent recipient**"), the **Recipient** shall
  - a) do so under the terms and conditions of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, through a new material transfer agreement; and
  - b) notify the **Governing Body**, in accordance with Article 5e.

On compliance with the above, the **Recipient** shall have no further obligations regarding the actions of the **subsequent recipient**.

- 6.5 In the case that the **Recipient** transfers a **Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture under Development** to another person or entity, the **Recipient** shall:
  - a) do so under the terms and conditions of the Standard Material Transfer
     Agreement, through a new material transfer agreement, provided that Article 5a of
     the Standard Material Transfer Agreement shall not apply;
  - b) identify, in Annex 1 to the new material transfer agreement, the Material received from the Multilateral System, and specify that the Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development being transferred are derived from the Material;

The Secretary

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

I-00100 Rome, Italy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> *Note by the Secretariat:* The Standard Material Transfer Agreement makes provision for information to be provided to the **Governing Body**, in the following Articles: 5e, 6.4b, 6.5c and 6.11h, as well as in *Annex 2*, paragraph 3, *Annex 3*, paragraph 4, and in *Annex 4*. Such information should be submitted to:

- c) notify the Governing Body, in accordance with Article 5e; and
- d) have no further obligations regarding the actions of any **subsequent recipient**.

  6.6 Entering into a material transfer agreement under paragraph 6.5 shall be without prejudice to the right of the parties to attach additional conditions, relating to further product development, including, as appropriate, the payment of monetary consideration.
- 6.7 In the case that the Recipient commercializes a Product that is a Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture and that incorporates Material as referred to in Article 3 of this Agreement, and where such Product is not available without restriction to others for further research and breeding, the Recipient shall pay a fixed percentage of the Sales of the commercialized Product into the mechanism established by the Governing Body for this purpose, in accordance with Annex 2 to this Agreement.
- 6.8 In the case that the **Recipient commercializes** a **Product** that is a **Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture** and that incorporates **Material** as referred to in Article 3 of **this Agreement** and where that **Product** is **available without restriction** to others for further research and breeding, the **Recipient** is encouraged to make voluntary payments into the mechanism established by the **Governing Body** for this purpose in accordance with *Annex 2* to **this Agreement**.
- 6.9 The **Recipient** shall make available to the **Multilateral System**, through the information system provided for in Article 17 of the **Treaty**, all non-confidential information that results from research and development carried out on the **Material**, and is encouraged to share through the **Multilateral System** non-monetary benefits expressly identified in Article 13.2 of the **Treaty** that result from such research and development. After the expiry or abandonment of the protection period of an intellectual property right on a **Product** that incorporates the **Material**, the **Recipient** is encouraged to place a sample of this **Product** into a collection that is part of the **Multilateral System**, for research and breeding.
- 6.10 A **Recipient** who obtains intellectual property rights on any **Products** developed from the **Material** or its components, obtained from the **Multilateral System**, and assigns such intellectual property rights to a third party, shall transfer the benefit-sharing obligations of **this Agreement** to that third party.
- 6.11 The **Recipient** may opt as per *Annex 4*, as an alternative to payments under Article 6.7, for the following system of payments:
  - a) The Recipient shall make payments at a discounted rate during the period of validity of the option;
  - b) The period of validity of the option shall be ten years renewable in accordance with *Annex 3* to **this Agreement**;
  - c) The payments shall be based on the Sales of any Products and of the sales of any other products that are Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture belonging to the same crop, as set out in Annex 1 to the Treaty, to which the Material referred to in Annex 1 to this Agreement belongs;
  - d) The payments to be made are independent of whether or not the **Product** is available without restriction;
  - e) The rates of payment and other terms and conditions applicable to this option, including the discounted rates are set out in *Annex 3* to **this Agreement**;

- f) The Recipient shall be relieved of any obligation to make payments under Article 6.7 of this Agreement or any previous or subsequent Standard Material Transfer Agreements entered into in respect of the same crop;
- g) After the end of the period of validity of this option the Recipient shall make payments on any Products that incorporate Material received during the period in which this Article was in force, and where such Products are not available without restriction. These payments will be calculated at the same rate as in paragraph (a) above:
- h) The **Recipient** shall notify the **Governing Body** that he has opted for this modality of payment. If no notification is provided the alternative modality of payment specified in Article 6.7 will apply.

#### ARTICLE 7 — APPLICABLE LAW

The applicable law shall be General Principles of Law, including the UNIDROIT Principles of International Commercial Contracts 2004, the objectives and the relevant provisions of the **Treaty**, and, when necessary for interpretation, the decisions of the **Governing Body**.

#### **ARTICLE 8 — DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**

- 8.1 Dispute settlement may be initiated by the **Provider** or the **Recipient** or the (*the entity designated by the Governing Body*), acting on behalf of the **Governing Body** of the **Treaty** and its **Multilateral System**.
- 8.2 The parties to **this Agreement** agree that the (*the entity designated by the* **Governing Body**), representing the **Governing Body** and the **Multilateral System**, has the right, as a third party beneficiary, to initiate dispute settlement procedures regarding rights and obligations of the **Provider** and the **Recipient** under **this Agreement**.
- 8.3 The third party beneficiary has the right to request that the appropriate information, including samples as necessary, be made available by the **Provider** and the **Recipient**, regarding their obligations in the context of **this Agreement**. Any information or samples so requested shall be provided by the **Provider** and the **Recipient**, as the case may be.
- 8.4 Any dispute arising from **this Agreement** shall be resolved in the following manner:
  - a) Amicable dispute settlement: The parties shall attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute by negotiation.
  - b) Mediation: If the dispute is not resolved by negotiation, the parties may choose mediation through a neutral third party mediator, to be mutually agreed.
  - c) Arbitration: If the dispute has not been settled by negotiation or mediation, any party may submit the dispute for arbitration under the Arbitration Rules of an international body as agreed by the parties to the dispute. Failing such agreement, the dispute shall be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce, by one or more arbitrators appointed in accordance with the said Rules. Either party to the dispute may, if it so chooses, appoint its arbitrator from such list of experts as the Governing Body may establish for this purpose; both parties, or the arbitrators appointed by them, may agree to appoint a sole arbitrator, or presiding arbitrator as the case may be, from such list of experts. The result of such arbitration shall be binding.

### **ARTICLE 9 — ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

# **Warranty**

9.1 The **Provider** makes no warranties as to the safety of or title to the **Material**, nor as to the accuracy or correctness of any passport or other data provided with the **Material**. Neither does it make any warranties as to the quality, viability, or purity (genetic or mechanical) of the **Material** being furnished. The phytosanitary condition of the **Material** is warranted only as described in any attached phytosanitary certificate. The **Recipient** assumes full responsibility for complying with the recipient nation's quarantine and biosafety regulations and rules as to import or release of **genetic material**.

## **Duration of Agreement**

9.2 **This Agreement** shall remain in force so long as the **Treaty** remains in force.

# ARTICLE 10 — SIGNATURE/ACCEPTANCE

The **Provider** and the **Recipient** may choose the method of acceptance unless either party requires **this Agreement** to be signed.

that I have the authority to execute this Ag	and obligation to abide by the provisions of ciple, in order to promote the conservation
Signature	Date
Name of the <b>Provider</b> - Africa Rice Center	WARDA
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	he conservation and sustainable use of
Signature	Date
Name of the <b>Recipient</b>	

# Annex 1

## LIST OF MATERIALS PROVIDED

This *Annex* contains a list of the **Material** provided under **this Agreement**, including the associated information referred to in Article 5b.

This information is either provided below or can be obtained at the following website: (URL).

The following information is included for each **Material** listed: all available passport data and, subject to applicable law, any other associated, available, non-confidential descriptive information.

(List)

# ANNEX I OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

# LIST OF CROPS COVERED UNDER THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM

# Food crops

Crop	Genus	Observations
Breadfruit	Artocarpus	Breadfruit only.
Asparagus	Asparagus	
Oat	Avena	
Beet	Beta	
Brassica complex	<i>Brassica</i> et al.	Genera included are: Brassica, Armoracia, Barbarea, Camelina, Crambe, Diplotaxis, Eruca, Isatis, Lepidium, Raphanobrassica, Raphanus, Rorippa, and Sinapis. This comprises oilseed and vegetable crops such as cabbage, rapeseed, mustard, cress, rocket, radish, and turnip. The species Lepidium meyenii (maca) is excluded.
Pigeon Pea	Cajanus	
Chickpea	Cicer	
Citrus	Citrus	Genera <i>Poncirus</i> and <i>Fortunella</i> are included as root stock.
Coconut	Cocos	
Major aroids	Colocasia, Xanthosoma	Major aroids include taro, cocoyam, dasheen and tannia.
Carrot	Daucus	
Yams	Dioscorea	
Finger Millet	Eleusine	
Strawberry	Fragaria	
Sunflower	Helianthus	
Barley	Hordeum	
Sweet Potato	Ipomoea	
Grass pea	Lathyrus	
Lentil	Lens	
Apple	Malus	
Cassava	Manihot	Manihot esculenta only.
Banana / Plantain	Musa	Except Musa textilis.
Rice	Oryza	

Pearl Millet	Pennisetum	
Beans	Phaseolus	Except Phaseolus polyanthus.
Pea	Pisum	
Rye	Secale	
Potato	Solanum	Section tuberosa included, except Solanum phureja.
Eggplant	Solanum	Section melongena included.
Sorghum	Sorghum	
Triticale	Triticosecale	
Wheat	Triticum et al.	Including Agropyron, Elymus, and Secale.
Faba Bean / Vetch	Vicia	
Cowpea et al.	Vigna	
Maize	Zea	Excluding Zea perennis, Zea diploperennis, and Zea luxurians.

# Forages

Genera	Species
LEGUME FORAGES	
Astragalus	chinensis, cicer, arenarius
Canavalia	Ensiformis
Coronilla	Varia
Hedysarum	Coronarium
Lathyrus	cicera, ciliolatus, hirsutus, ochrus, odoratus, sativus
Lespedeza	cuneata, striata, stipulacea
Lotus	corniculatus, subbiflorus, uliginosus
Lupinus	albus, angustifolius, luteus
Medicago	arborea, falcata, sativa, scutellata, rigidula, truncatula
Melilotus	albus, officinalis

Onobrychis	Viciifolia
Ornithopus	Sativus
Prosopis	affinis, alba, chilensis, nigra, pallida
Pueraria	Phaseoloides
Trifolium	alexandrinum, alpestre, ambiguum, angustifolium, arvense, agrocicerum, hybridum, incarnatum, pratense, repens, resupinatum, rueppellianum, semipilosum, subterraneum, vesiculosum
GRASS FORAGES	
Andropogon	Gayanus
Agropyron	cristatum, desertorum
Agrostis	stolonifera, tenuis
Alopecurus	Pratensis
Arrhenatherum	Elatius
Dactylis	Glomerata
Festuca	arundinacea, gigantea, heterophylla, ovina, pratensis, rubra
Lolium	hybridum, multiflorum, perenne, rigidum, temulentum
Phalaris	aquatica, arundinacea
Phleum	Pratense
Poa	alpina, annua, pratensis
Tripsacum	Laxum
OTHER FORAGES	
Atriplex	halimus, nummularia
Salsola	Vermiculata

#### Annex 2

#### RATE AND MODALITIES OF PAYMENT UNDER ARTICLE 6.7 OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 1. If a **Recipient**, its affiliates, contractors, licensees, and lessees, **commercializes** a **Product** or **Products**, then the **Recipient** shall pay one point-one percent (1.1 %) of the **Sales** of the **Product** or **Products** less thirty percent (30%); except that no payment shall be due on any **Product** or **Products** that:
  - (a) are **available without restriction** to others for further research and breeding in accordance with Article 2 of **this Agreement**;
  - (b) have been purchased or otherwise obtained from another person or entity who either has already made payment on the **Product** or **Products** or is exempt from the obligation to make payment pursuant to subparagraph (a) above;
  - (c) are sold or traded as a commodity.
- 2. Where a **Product** contains a **Plant Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture** accessed from the **Multilateral System** under two or more material transfer agreements based on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement only one payment shall be required under paragraph 1 above.
- 3. The **Recipient** shall submit to the **Governing Body**, within sixty (60) days after each calendar year ending December 31st, an annual report setting forth:
  - (a) the **Sales** of the **Product** or **Products** by the **Recipient**, its affiliates, contractors, licensees and lessees, for the twelve (12) month period ending on December 31<sup>st</sup>:
  - (b) the amount of the payment due; and
  - (c) information that allows for the identification of any restrictions that have given rise to the benefit-sharing payment.
- 4. Payment shall be due and payable upon submission of each annual report. All payments due to the **Governing Body** shall be payable in (*specified currency*)<sup>5</sup> for the account of (*the Trust Account or other mechanism established by the Governing Body in accordance with Article 19.3f of the Treaty).<sup>6</sup>*

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Note by the Secretariat: The Governing Body has not yet considered the question of currency of payment. Until it does so, Standard Material Transfer Agreements should specify United States dollars (US\$).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *Note by the Secretariat:* This is the Trust Account provided for in Article 6.3 of the Financial Rules, as approved by the Governing Body (*Appendix E* to this Report). The details of the Trust Account when established, will be introduced here, and communicated to Contract Parties.

### Annex 3

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE ALTERNATIVE PAYMENTS SCHEME UNDER ARTICLE 6.11 OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 1. The discounted rate for payments made under Article 6.11 shall be zero point five percent (0.5 %) of the **Sales** of any **Products** and of the sales of any other products that are **Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** belonging to the same crop, as set out in Annex 1 to the **Treaty**, to which the **Material** referred to in *Annex 1* to **this Agreement** belong.
- 2. Payment shall be made in accordance with the banking instructions set out in paragraph 4 of *Annex 2* to **this Agreement**.
- 3. When the Recipient transfers Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development, the transfer shall be made on the condition that the subsequent recipient shall pay into the mechanism established by the Governing Body under Article 19.3f of the Treaty zero point five percent (0.5 %) of the Sales of any Product derived from such Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under Development, whether the Product is available or not without restriction.
- 4. At least six months before the expiry of a period of ten years counted from the date of signature of **this Agreement** and, thereafter, six months before the expiry of subsequent periods of five years, the **Recipient** may notify the **Governing Body** of his decision to opt out from the application of this Article as of the end of any of those periods. In the case the **Recipient** has entered into other Standard Material Transfer Agreements, the ten years period will commence on the date of signature of the first Standard Material Transfer Agreement where an option for this Article has been made.
- 5. Where the **Recipient** has entered or enters in the future into other Standard Material Transfer Agreements in relation to material belonging to the same crop[s], the **Recipient** shall only pay into the referred mechanism the percentage of sales as determined in accordance with this Article or the same Article of any other Standard Material Transfer Agreement. No cumulative payments will be required.

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# OPTION FOR CROP-BASED PAYMENTS UNDER THE ALTERNATIVE PAYMENTS SCHEME UNDER ARTICLE 6.11 OF THIS AGREEMENT

I ( <i>full name of <b>Recipient</b> or <b>Recipient's</b> authoris</i> accordance with Article 6.11 of <b>this Agreement</b> .		in
Signature	Date <sup>7</sup>	

The Secretary,

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

I-00100 Rome, Italy

The signed declaration must be accompanied by the following:

- The date on which **this Agreement** was entered into;
- The name and address of the **Recipient** and of the **Provider**;
- A copy of Annex 1 to **this Agreement**.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> In accordance with Article 6.11h of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, the option for this modality of payment will become operative only once notification has been provided by the **Recipient** to the **Governing Body**. The signed declaration opting for this modality of payment must be sent by the **Recipient** to the **Governing Body** at the following address, whichever method of acceptance of **this Agreement** (signature, shrink-wrap or click-wrap) has been chosen by the parties to **this Agreement**, and whether or not the **Recipient** has already indicated his acceptance of this option in accepting **this Agreement** itself: