

# Farmers' Right and Privilege: Implication to Farming Community

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**Abstract**—Plant Genetic Resources (PGRs) are the foundation for the development of a food and nutritionally secure society. Knowledge and appreciation of farmers' activities related to the improvement and conservation of plant genetic resources has led to the creation of the terms 'farmer breeding' and 'farmer breeder'. Therefore, for the protection of plant varieties, and to encourage the development of new varieties of plants it has been considered necessary to recognize and to protect the rights of the farmers in respect of their contributions made at any time in conserving, improving and making available plant genetic resources. For fulfilling these, the Govt. of India enacted "The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001 and for its implementation the DOAC, Ministry of Agriculture established the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2005. The Indian PPV & FRA is a unique sui generis system providing a balance between plant breeders' right along with farmers' right. The farmers' rights of the Act define the privilege of farmers and their right to protect varieties developed or conserved by them. Moreover, farmers are eligible for recognition and rewards (Plant Genome Saviour Award) for the conservation of Plant Genetic Resources. Summing up, the farmers' rights are about enabling farmers to continue conserving and developing crop genetic diversity; of recognizing their work and rewarding them for their contributions to humankind and future generations; and of facilitating their involvement in the making of decisions that concern the management of this genetic diversity in agriculture.

**Keywords:** Plant genetic resources, PPV & FR Act, farmers' right, farmers' variety, plant genome saviour awards