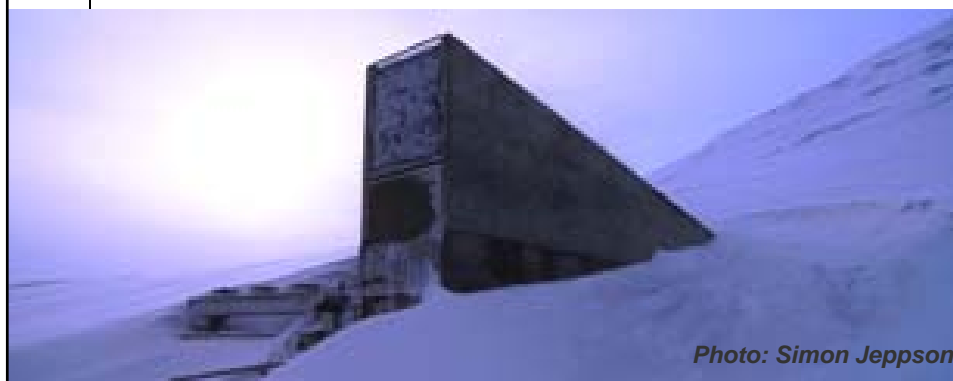




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## Experiences of Norway in Implementing the 1978 Act of the UPOV Convention and the ITPGRFA

Bell Batta Torheim  
Marianne Smith  
26th October 2016



*Photo: Simon Jeppson*

### Plant breeding needed for ever!

- INPUT: Access to PGRFA a prerequisite
  - Breeders' exemptions
  - The Multilateral system on access and benefit sharing
  - Conserve and sustainable use
- OUTPUT: diverse and adaptive varieties
- HOW: Funding, structure
- Both UPOV and ITPGRFA specialized instruments for plant breeding



**Photo: ENB**

## Breeding in Norway

- Aquaculture
- Animal
- Plants: Graminor
- Different IPR strategies

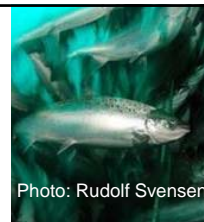


Photo: Rudolf Svensen

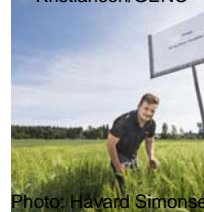
Photo: Jan Arve  
Kristiansen/GENO

Photo: Havard Simonser

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## Experiences with UPOV

- Benefits:
  - Access to foreign germplasm
  - Export of Norwegian varieties
  - Buying DUS-testing in Finland
- Public funding – still needed and wanted
- Debate in 2004/2005: yes or no to the 1991 Act?



1978

VS.

1991



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## Why Farmers' Rights?

- Essential for conservation and sustainable use: farmers are custodians and innovators
- Farmers' seed system:
  - Reservoirs of PGRFA
  - Main source of seeds
  - Local cultures.
- In Norway, approx. 25% farmed saved seeds.
- Main forage is based on land race.



Photo:  
J. Esquinas-Alcázar

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## Mutually supportive implementation

- Kept the 1978 Act
- Disclosure of origin in the PVP and patent law
- Annual contribution to the Benefit-sharing Fund equal to 0,1% of seed sales.
- Some support to activities for the conservation and sustainable use, e.g. pre-breeding, participatory plant breeding, community seed bank



Photo: Utviklingsfondet

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## International policy

- Crop Wild Relatives
- Meeting of UPOV and ITPGRFA focal points in Oslo in 2014
- Global consultations on Farmers' Rights in 2007, 2010, 2016
- Transparency and participation



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## Lessons learnt

- Link UPOV and Treaty implementation
- Plant breeding needs to meet local agroecological conditions
- Balance Plant Breeders' Rights and Farmers' Rights according to national context
- Still untapped potential for enhanced mutual supportiveness
- Broad participation and inclusiveness is beneficial



Photo: Aage Storsve



Photo: Stein Harald Hjeltnes

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