

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FRA) Act, 2001

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Why in news?

Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, participated in the 'Plant Genome Saviour Awards Ceremony', celebrating the **Silver Jubilee** of the PPV&FR Act, 2001 in New Delhi.

- **PPV&FR Act, 2001** - It protects the rights of both plant breeders and farmers in developing new plant varieties.
- It was introduced following **India's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO)** and its commitment to the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement.

Key provisions

- **Breeder's rights** - Breeders gain exclusive rights to produce, sell, and export their protected varieties for a set period. They can also license their rights to others.
- **Farmer's rights** - The Act recognizes farmers as a crucial part in developing plant varieties and grants them rights to
 - Register and conserve traditional crop varieties
 - Receive benefits from the use of their conserved genetic resources
- **Researcher's rights** - Researchers can use registered varieties for experiments and research without permission, though repeated use requires the breeder's consent.
- **Registration criteria** - A plant variety must be novel, distinct, uniform, and stable to be eligible for registration.
- **Benefit sharing** - It provides for a system of benefit sharing, where a portion of the earnings from a registered variety is shared with farmers who contributed to its development.
- **Duration of protection** -

- Field crops - 15 years
- Trees & vines - 18 years
- **PPV&FR Authority** - An Authority is established to administer the PPV&FR Act, 2001 & handle registration, with a Standing Committee to advise on farmers' rights issues.

Quick Fact

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

- It is a **legally binding** agreement, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2001.
- **Aim** - Guaranteeing global food security through the conservation, sustainable use, and equitable sharing of plant genetic resources.
- **India is party to the treaty** & hosted the 9th Session of its Governing Body in 2022.

Plant Genome Saviour Awards

- **Purpose** - To honor farmers nationwide for their exceptional efforts in *conserving plant genetic resources and agricultural biodiversity*.
- **Instituted by** - Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority under the PPV&FR Act, 2001.
- **2 categories** -
 - Plant Genome Saviour *Community* Award (for farming communities or organizations)
 - Plant Genome Saviour *Farmer* Recognition Award (for individual farmers)

References

1. [The Hindu | Centre to reform Plant Variety Act](#)
2. [Vikaspedia | PPV&FRA Act, 2001](#)
3. [PPV&FR Authority | PPV&FRA Act](#)