

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

**Prelims:** Current events of national and international importance | Agriculture

#### 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
  - $_{\circ}$  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 9<sup>th</sup> 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

