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### **Conserving Genetic Resources: Linkages between Local, National, and International Levels**

The conservation and management of plant genetic resources have been a significant issue with the international recognition of the threats to biodiversity and the increase in economic benefits from exploitation of natural resources through advances in biological technologies. The adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio has been a crucial step in addressing these concerns. The CBD obligates countries party to the Convention to conserve, sustainably use, and guarantee access to genetic resources, in return for a fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of these resources.

This paper will analyze the linkages between international, national and local levels in the conservation of genetic resources in Turkey, a centre of origin and diversity of several crop plants. At the international level, the paper will look at two different international institutional frameworks, namely the CBD and the neoliberal economic regime fostered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), which direct national agricultural policies towards liberalization through arrangements such as stabilization and structural adjustment programs. Turkey is a party to the CBD, and has been in a process of agricultural restructuring under IMF supervision and WB assistance, which makes it a promising case to analyze the linkages between different level factors. The paper will use data collected by interviews with farmers who conserve crop genetic diversity through the cultivation of landraces, and policy makers and public officials involved in the policies to conserve plant genetic resources and IMF/WB directed agricultural policies. The paper will argue that the nature of policies adopted at the national level can best be understood by looking at the interplay between international conventions/agreements and national policy making, as well as limitations of and possibilities offered by domestic structures.