



**UTVIKLINGSFONDET**

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## *Farmers' Rights in Malawi*

*In Malawi attaining food security remains top of the development agenda in face of climate change, poverty and food insecurity. With over half of food production done by smallholder farmers, their role in addressing food security cannot be underestimated. Farmers' rights, also to be understood as customary rights of farmers to save, use, exchange and sell seeds, are key in improving the efficiency of smallholder farmer production in the country.*

*As a party to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Malawi is taking a step in realizing farmers' rights. International organizations (the Global Forum on Agricultural Research and the Development Fund of Norway) in partnership with Malawian national non-Government organizations (the Center for Environmental Policy and Advocacy and the Biodiversity Conservation Institute) have joint efforts to increase the awareness on farmers' rights over seeds and traditional knowledge in Malawi and to strengthen their implementation.*

*The implementation of these human rights is critical for the conservation of the cultural heritage of Malawi, securing sustainable local and global food production and the implementation of commitments Malawi has acquired as Party of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*