



A Project of the Rotary Club of Devonport North  
District 9830 & Food Plants International



LEARN  
GROW

# Protocol for Engagement

## Protocol for Engagement between Learn♦Grow and Food Plants International and Overseas Project Groups and Individuals

### 1. Background

Food Plants International Inc. (FPI), a not-for-profit organization, was formally established in 1999, but its origins go back to 1980, when the founder, Bruce French, was living in Papua New Guinea. Prompted by a lack of information and knowledge about local food plants, and his observation that agricultural colleges were teaching courses about temperate plants commonly produced in Western agriculture, Bruce set out to document the food plants of PNG. His effort soon spread to include the entire world of food plants, resulting in a database that now contains information on over 20,000 food plants.

In June 2007, the Rotary Club of Devonport North Inc. and Rotary International District 9830 Inc. (collectively referred to in this Protocol as "Learn♦Grow") and FPI established a project, now known by the name "Learn♦Grow (LG)", with the aim of developing strategies to deliver the information in the FPI database to help alleviate hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.

A good deal of the information in the FPI database is collated from existing publications. Local content is often added on the basis of discussions with local people in developing countries. Wherever possible, acknowledgement for sources of information is given in the FPI database. LG and FPI do not wish to capitalize on the bio-resources and knowledge of indigenous cultures, other than to make the information more widely available for the purpose of alleviating malnutrition and nutritional disorders in the developing world.

Learn♦Grow and FPI are interested in entering into joint arrangements with other parties interested in furthering humanitarian objectives based on the use of food plants information to alleviate malnutrition. The protocols contained in this document outline the conditions under which Learn♦Grow and FPI will engage with such groups or individuals.

### 2. In relation to resources and assistance, Learn♦Grow / FPI can provide:

#### 2.1 Publications

Learn♦Grow / FPI will provide information on edible plants in a standard format that may include some or all of the following elements:

- 2.1.1 A publication highlighting a limited number of the most nutritionally useful edible plants for the country or region of interest. Where appropriate, this information may be subdivided into specific food groups, such as leafy greens, fruit and nuts, roots and tubers etc. Most regions have hundreds of edible plants suitable for production and consumption. The plants selected for inclusion in the standard publication will be those with the highest concentrations of key nutrients required to address malnutrition and, if possible, particularly specific nutritional deficiencies that are known to occur in the region in question, or that may be the focus of a particular project.
- 2.1.2 This may incorporate a table with a matrix broadly indicating the level of each key nutrient in the plants.
- 2.1.3 A generic "Good Gardening Guide", written so as to be broadly applicable to the country or region of interest, with specific adjustment for particular countries or regions as required.
- 2.1.4 An extract from the FPI database containing all the known information on the currently recorded edible plants for the country or region of interest.
- 2.1.5 All of this information will be provided in digital form and may be in a format suitable for desk top publishing. Provision of file formats suitable for translation into other languages can be provided on request.

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2.1.6 Publications of the type outlined above will be the basic resource available in response to any request. Requests for more specific or broader detail will be negotiated on the basis of resources available and the capacity of the enquirer to fund the preparation of “non-standard” publication formats.

## 2.2 Support and guidance

Learn♦Grow / FPI will provide limited technical support and guidance to aid interpretation and application of the edible plants information on edible plants. Additional support may be provided if Learn♦Grow / FPI resources are available, and project funds can be provided from the target country or region.

## 2.3 Support materials

Learn♦Grow / FPI is prepared to negotiate the provision of additional support materials for projects, provided it is within the capabilities of Learn♦Grow / FPI to prepare and provide such materials.

## 2.4 Content and use of materials

2.4.1 The FPI database, and its associated publications, are works in progress and are regularly amended as new information becomes available. Because of this, the accuracy of information about the geographical occurrence of plants cannot be guaranteed. In fact, it is likely that many plants will occur in more places than those listed the database.

2.4.2 Although great care has been taken to be as accurate as possible, neither Learn♦Grow nor Food Plants International makes any expressed or implied representation as to the accuracy of any of the information contained in the FPI database, or its associated publications, and cannot be held legally responsible or accept liability for any errors or omissions. Neither Learn♦Grow nor FPI can be held responsible for claims arising from the mistaken identity of plants or their inappropriate use. Neither Learn♦Grow nor FPI assume responsibility for any sickness, death or other harmful effects resulting from eating or using any plant described in the FPI database, or its associated publications. Always ensure identification of the correct plant and proper preparation by consulting specialist scientists or local users of the plants.

## 3. In return for the provision of resources and support, Learn♦Grow /FPI expectations include:

### 3.1 Organization of local programs

It is the responsibility of local program leaders to organize and conduct local programs for the distribution and application of the information and/or publications in the target region. The program organizers must be able to identify and effectively engage with local stakeholders and participants in order to maximize use of the Learn♦Grow / FPI information for the purposes of addressing malnutrition and specific nutritional disorders in the program’s target population. While the organization and conduct of these local activities is at the discretion of local program organizers, it is on the understanding that strict adherence to the Code of Conduct (see below) for operation in developing countries will be maintained in undertaking the program.

### 3.2 Funding

Learn♦Grow / FPI relies entirely on donations, fund raising and grant funding. Learn♦Grow / FPI can provide a set of standard informational materials in digital format at no cost provided the materials are used for humanitarian purposes generally, and specifically to address malnutrition in developing countries. Additional materials require funding from the program proponent. The cost of in-country activities must be met by the program organizers. Learn♦Grow may be able to facilitate connections between program proponents and local or International Rotary Clubs in order to secure support and funding, if that is the desire of the program proponent. Other funding mechanisms may be available to program proponents, but it is the responsibility of the proponent to investigate and secure funding through those channels.

### 3.3 Reporting

As Learn♦Grow / FPI relies entirely on donations, fund raising and grant funding, there is a constant need to apply for funds to assist with development of the FPI database and production of materials for programs. An important element in gaining support from funding bodies is the ability to demonstrate the importance and usefulness of the

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the edible plants information, particularly when that support comes from individuals and program teams who have used the food plants resources and found them to be of value. To that end, as a condition of providing information to program organizers, Learn♦Grow / FPI requires four types of feedback:

- 3.3.1 Suggestions for improvements to the resources
- 3.3.2 Verified corrections and new information related to the edible plants of the program region
- 3.3.3 A brief annual report on the progress of the program that is using the materials provided by Learn♦Grow / FPI
- 3.3.4 The provision of a testimonial letter of support on request from Learn♦Grow / FPI

Learn♦Grow retains the right to publicize and promote programs that use Learn♦Grow / FPI materials, and to use information from annual reports and testimonial letters as supporting documentation for funding proposals.

### 3.4 Payment for resources

The standard format publications are provided free of charge for programs which address malnutrition and hunger in developing countries, and in which the publications are provided free to the target audience.

## 4. Protocols for delivery of programs using Learn♦Grow / FPI resources

### 4.1 Recognition of FPI resources and Intellectual Property

Any or all of the resources provided to assist a program are freely available for reproduction and subsequent free distribution, or sale, with the following conditions:

- 4.1.1 Prior approval is obtained from FPI and Learn♦Grow
- 4.1.2 It is acknowledged that the information provided remains the property of FPI and is provided on the basis that it is used to alleviate malnutrition in developing countries and not used for commercial gain
- 4.1.3 Information is reproduced accurately and without change to its technical content
- 4.1.4 Recognition is given in all publications to the source of the material. This is to include:
  - 4.1.4.1 the words "Learn♦Grow - A Project of the Rotary Club of Devonport North, District 9830 & Food Plants International"
  - 4.1.4.2 the Rotary logo (used strictly according to Rotary International [RI] protocol)
  - 4.1.4.3 use of the Learn♦Grow livery
  - 4.1.4.4 the logo and title of Food Plants International
  - 4.1.4.5 acknowledgement of Bruce French as the author of the FPI database
  - 4.1.4.6 the website address, contact information and mission statement
- 4.1.5 Learn♦Grow / FPI is advised of any change to the program or use of the material that varies significantly from the originally agreed intent
- 4.1.6 Report program activities and outcomes as per Section 3.3 (Reporting)
- 4.1.7 Agreement that information from reports and testimonials can be used to further the objectives of Learn♦Grow and FPI
- 4.1.8 Agreement to cooperate with any reasonable request that Learn♦Grow / FPI may make in the program activities being undertaken
- 4.1.9 Work with Rotary Clubs wherever possible or appropriate. Learn♦Grow may be able to facilitate contact with appropriate Clubs and individuals should this be required
- 4.1.10 Only work on a not-for-profit basis, unless otherwise agreed between the program proponent and Learn♦Grow / FPI.

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- 4.1.11 If materials are sold, at least 10% of the sales proceeds is donated in support of Learn♦Grow
- 4.1.12 Should there be surplus funds at the end of a program these funds are either directed to a similar project or donated back to Learn♦Grow / FPI to support further activities.
- 4.1.13 Indemnify Learn♦Grow / FPI in relation to all activities undertaken, and in the use of the information provided.

### 5. How we expect our partnership to operate: Code of Conduct

Operation of successful programs in developing countries can be a complex matter, especially for Western donors and volunteers. Even in-country inhabitants can experience difficulties if dealing with groups with regional or cultural differences. The principles by which we are all expected to operate when conducting programs in developing countries are laid out below.

#### 5.1 Do no harm

First and foremost, all of our activities, whether operating individually, as sole organizations, or jointly as partners, must be founded on the premise of 'do no harm'.

#### 5.2 In relation to cultural sensitivity, human rights, inclusion and independence all parties must:

- 5.2.1 accord due respect to the dignity, values, history, religion, and culture of the people with whom we work, consistent with the principles of universally agreed international human rights, including social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights, and seek to enhance gender equality
- 5.2.2 ensure that the resources provided are culturally appropriate and accessible, and that programs include and benefit all people in a community
- 5.2.3 serve the communities with whom we work, giving priority to the needs and interests of the local people, and involving beneficiary groups to the maximum extent possible in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs
- 5.2.4 encourage self-help and self-reliance among beneficiaries, and avoid creating dependency, through the facilitation of active participation and local contributions
- 5.2.5 avoid promotion or support of partisan political objectives, or an individual candidate or organization affiliated to a particular political movement
- 5.2.6 ensure that adequate safeguards are in place to prevent benefit being derived by any individual or organization posing a threat to the people or national security of any country.

#### 5.3 In relation to partnerships, all parties will:

- 5.3.1 promote collaborative approaches to addressing malnutrition and food security, including through working in partnerships, and avoiding duplication of effort, so as to increase the impact and sustainability of program activities
- 5.3.2 encourage partnerships with individuals and organizations that are locally recognized and respected for work that is relevant to the program objectives
- 5.3.3 encourage the formation of creative and trusting relationships with the communities and people of developing countries so that future collaborative efforts may be undertaken

#### 5.4 In relation to integrity and responsibility, all parties will take all reasonable steps to:

- 5.4.1 maintain academic integrity by creating faithful representations
- 5.4.2 have a responsibility to the communities we serve to fulfil our commitment and to finish the programs we commence

#### 5.5 In relation to people and the environment, all parties will take all reasonable steps to:

- 5.5.1 have appropriate mechanisms in place to protect children from harm and abuse in all our programs
- 5.5.2 integrate environmental considerations and mitigate against adverse environmental impacts in all our programs

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### 5.6 In relation to organizational reputations and safeguards, all parties will take all reasonable steps to:

- 5.6.1 operate in a way that enhances the good reputations of Rotary, Learn♦Grow, Food Plants International and partnership programs in developing countries
- 5.6.2 put in place processes to mitigate against potential exploitation of our respective organizations to organized crime
- 5.6.3 not be willing parties to wrong doing, corruption, bribery, or other financial impropriety in any way in any of our activities
- 5.6.4 take prompt and firm corrective action whenever and wherever wrong doing is found amongst our organizations, paid staff, contractors and volunteers
- 5.6.5 have internal control procedures which minimise the risk of misuse of funds, and processes and systems that ensure funds are used effectively to maximize the objective of reducing malnutrition

### 5.7 In relation to our relationship to each other, we will jointly:

- 5.7.1 willingly and openly communicate our intentions, plans, goals, and collaborative processes regarding our programs to one another
- 5.7.2 conduct our activities with integrity, transparency and accountability
- 5.7.3 remain open to each others experiences and perspectives, even when our views are different
- 5.7.4 agree to support Learn♦Grow and FPI in its mission to alleviate malnutrition worldwide, recognizing that we are a multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-discipline team of volunteers, each with our own unique talents and experiences

## 6. Contact Information

### Learn♦Grow

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