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## NO NEGOTIATIONS AT THE COST OF FOOD SECURITY, SAYS TOMAR AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Relevant for: Indian Economy | Topic: Issues of Buffer stocks and Food Security

Narendra Singh Tomar at the inauguration of the 9th session of governing body of ITPGRFA in New Delhi on Monday.PTI-

No negotiation is possible at the cost of food security, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said at the ninth session of the governing body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) on Monday.

"All international forums must not forget that food is an essential fundamental right. Developing countries will be motivated by the need to ensure that the rights of farmers producing food are never compromised," he said, adding that the struggle for climate resilient agriculture and nutritional security depends heavily on the decisions and actions of the signatories.

Mr. Tomar also talked about plant genetic resources being the source of solution to breeding challenges. "We must use all modern technologies as well as traditional knowledge to preserve and use them in a sustainable manner," he said.

QU Dongou, Director General, FAO, who joined the session virtually, said the meet is celebrating smallholder farmers as guardians of crop diversity. "They are food heroes and their contributions must be recognised. The world is heading for a population of nine billion. At the same time, the impacts of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss are putting pressure on agriculture," Dr. Dongou said.

The ITPGRFA was signed during the 31st session of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome in November, 2001. The treaty seeks to achieve food security through the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA), equitable sharing of profits from its use, as well as playing an important role in the recognition of rights of farmers.

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