



*Founded by the Rotary Club of Devonport North and Rotary District 9830
based on the work of Bruce French, Food Plants International*



Protocol for engagement

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This document outlines protocols for engagement between Food Plant Solutions and other groups and individuals

1. Background

Food Plants International (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 (PNG). 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, leading to the development of a database that now includes over 25,000 potential food plants.

In June 2007, the Rotary Club of Devonport North Inc, Rotary International District 9830 Inc and Food Plants International established a project, now known by the name “Food Plant Solutions”, with the aim of developing strategies to deliver the information in the FPI database to help alleviate hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. Food Plant Solutions Rotarian Action Group was formally recognized by the Rotary International Board in February 2011.

The information in the FPI database is collated from existing publications. Local content is 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. None of the parties involved in Food Plant Solutions wish to capitalise 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.

Food Plant Solutions is interested in partnering with others wishing to use the information in the FPI database to alleviate malnutrition on a not for profit basis. This document outlines the conditions under which Food Plant Solutions will engage with others.

2. Provision of Resources

2.1. Information

Food Plant Solutions is able to provide information on edible plants in digital form as follows:

2.1.1. A copy of the FPI database of edible plants from which the most useful edible plants and comprehensive information on them may be extracted for the country or region of interest. Most regions have hundreds of edible plants suitable for production and consumption. The plants selected for extraction can form the basis for presentation materials to extend the information to people in need. Nutrient content, especially with respect to any local deficiencies, is of prime importance, however suitability also needs to be judged against growing conditions which exist in the region in question.

2.1.2. All of this information can be provided in digital form and, possibly, in a format suitable for desk top publishing. Provision of file formats suitable for translation into other languages may be provided on request.

2.1.3. Examples of standard format publications that may provide guidance on possible ways to reproduce the information into a readily useable format.

Requests for preparation of publications, more specific requirements, or broader detail, will be negotiated on the basis of resources available.

2.2. Support and guidance

Food Plant Solutions will provide limited technical support to aid interpretation and application of the edible plants information. Additional support may be provided if resources are available.

2.3. Support materials

Food Plant Solutions is prepared to negotiate the provision of additional support materials for programs, provided it is within its capabilities 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. Many plants are likely to occur in more places than those listed in the database. The information within the database should be taken as a guide, not a definitive reference.

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

3. Obligations of users of Food Plant Solutions/FPI resources

3.1. Organization of local programs

It is the responsibility of local program leaders to organize and conduct programs for the distribution and application of the information and/or publications in the target region. Program organizers must be able to identify and effectively engage with local stakeholders and participants in order to maximize the benefits of using the Food Plant Solutions information. While the organization and conduct of these activities is at the discretion of local program organizers, strict adherence to the Code of Conduct (see below) for operation in developing countries is expected.

3.2. Funding

Food Plant Solutions relies entirely on donations, fund raising, grant funding and volunteers. Food Plant Solutions will provide informational materials in digital form at no cost, provided the materials are used for humanitarian purposes generally, and specifically to address malnutrition in developing countries. The cost of in-country activities must be met by the program organizers. Food Plant Solutions may be able to facilitate connections between program proponents and local or international Rotary Clubs in order to secure support and funding, if desired. Other funding may be available, and Food Plant Solutions may be able to assist in the identification of potential

funding sources, but it is the responsibility of the local organizers to investigate and secure funding through appropriate channels.

3.3. Reporting

An important element in gaining support from potential funding organizations is the ability to demonstrate the importance and usefulness of the edible plants information. Testimonial support from individuals and program teams who have used the food plants resources, and found them to be of value, is important. To that end, as a condition of providing information to program organizers, Food Plant Solutions requires four types of feedback:

- 3.3.1. Suggestions for improvements to the resources
- 3.3.2. Verified corrections and additional 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 Food Plant Solutions
- 3.3.4. The provision of a testimonial letter of support on request from Food Plant Solutions.

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

3.4. Payment for resources

Food Plant Solutions publications are provided free of charge for programs that address malnutrition, hunger and food security in developing countries, and in which the publications are provided free to the target audience. No commercial use in any form of materials provided by Food Plant Solutions is permitted unless negotiated in advance and expressly confirmed in writing by Food Plant Solutions.

4. Delivery protocol for Food Plant Solutions/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 Food Plant Solutions
- 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. Technical changes to the content of the database are the responsibility of FPI
- 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 "Food Plant Solutions - A Project of the Rotary Club of Devonport North, District 9830 & Food Plants International"
 - 4.1.4.2. use of the Food Plant Solutions livery
 - 4.1.4.3. the logo and title of Food Plants International
 - 4.1.4.4. acknowledgement of Bruce French as the author and owner of the FPI database,

4.1.4.5. the website address, contact information and positioning statement “*Solutions to Malnutrition and Food Security*”.

4.1.5. Food Plant Solutions/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 Food Plant Solutions and FPI

4.1.8. Agreement to cooperate with any reasonable request that Food Plant Solutions may make in the program activities being undertaken

4.1.9. Work with Rotary Clubs wherever possible or appropriate. Food Plant Solutions may be able to facilitate contact with appropriate clubs and individuals should this be required

4.1.10. Work on a not-for profit basis, unless otherwise agreed between the program proponent and Food Plant Solutions

4.1.11. Should there be surplus funds at the end of a program, these funds are either directed to a similar project or donated back to Food Plant Solutions to support further activities

4.1.12. Indemnify Food Plant Solutions/FPI in relation to all activities undertaken, and in the use of the information provided.

5. Code of Conduct (How we expect our partnership to operate)

Operation of successful programs in developing countries can be a complex matter, especially for Western donors and volunteers. Even personnel within a country can experience difficulties when dealing with groups with regional or cultural differences. The principles by which we (all people and organisations operating under the Food Plant Solutions/FPI program) are 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 we will jointly:

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 promoting a particular religious adherence, missionary activity or evangelism, 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, we will jointly:

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, we will jointly:

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 to finish the programs we commence.

5.5. In relation to people and the environment, we will jointly:

5.5.1. have appropriate mechanisms in place to actively 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.

5.6. In relation to organizational reputations and safeguards, we will jointly:

5.6.1. operate in a way that enhances the good reputations of Rotary, Food Plant Solutions, Food Plants International and partnership programs in developing countries

5.6.2. put in place processes to mitigate against the 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 or volunteers

5.6.5. have internal control procedures which minimize 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 other's experiences and perspectives, even when our views are different

5.7.4. agree to support Food Plant Solutions and FPI in its mission to alleviate malnutrition in developing countries worldwide, recognising that we are a multi-national, multi-ethnic, multi-discipline team of volunteers, each with our own unique talents and experiences.

6. Contact Information

Food Plant Solutions

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