



# “Farm Seed Opportunities, commendations for on-farm conservati in Europe”

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# Seed laws in Europe, the state of the art

## Evaluation of seed legislation

2009

stakeholders  
expectations

2010

3 Scenarios for the future

2011

New directives on

## Conservation varieties directives

2008

directive 62/2008, on  
agricultural species

2009

directive 145/2009, on  
vegetables

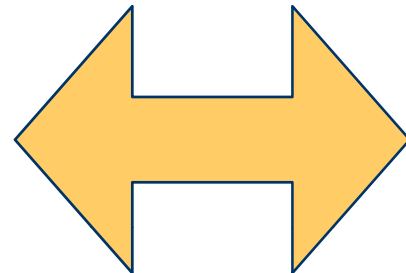
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directive on mixture

# Conservation varieties

- “Whereas it is essential to ensure that plant genetic resources are conserved; whereas a legal basis to the end should be introduced to permit, within the framework of legislation on the seed trade, the conservation, by use in situ, of varieties threatened with genetic erosion”

PGR Conservation

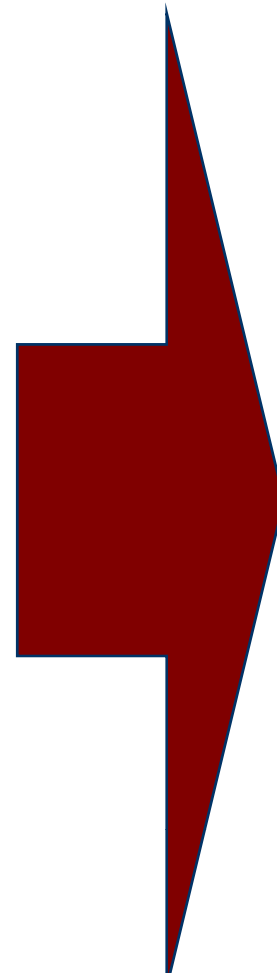


Seed legislation

# Conservation varieties

what are we talking about?

- The link between a variety and its area of origin;
- The risk of erosion;
- Appropriate quantity restrictions.



conservation variety

# Better regulation: objectives of the modify scenarios

- Simplify the current Community legislation
- Introduce flexibility within the regulatory framework
- Reduce the differences between MS
- Promote costs reduction approaches
- Secure long-term consistency with other EU policies
- Finalise the current discussion on the extension of role of the CPVO
- Reinforce provisions dedicated to inform users

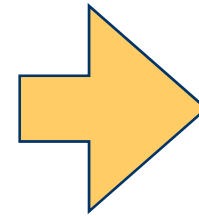
# Better regulation and Conservation varieties:

- Food Chain Evaluation Consortium (FCEC): “FC concerns is that the new Directive may well restrictive if implemented in a wrong way and FC is not certain that Member States will understand how to implement it with flexibility, freedom and adaptability that the Commission intended” (FCEC 2008).

# Organic seeds

- new needs:

- organic varieties,
- landraces or populations



niche market

- new objectives:

- conserving agrobiodiversity in the field
- protection of the environment (low input agriculture)

**FCEC suggests “that the two different systems of the large commercial breeders and the smaller market or regional breeders and producers could co-exist side by side because they are targeting completely different markets”**

# Farm Seed Opportunities - FSO



opportunities for farm seed conservation, breeding and production

- January 2007  
March 2010

Its origins:

- Difficulties in the implementation of the 98/95 directive on conservation varieties.
- FP6 Call Scientific Support to Policies



## Farm Seed Opportunities



**AIAB** Associazione Italiana per l'Agricoltura Biologica  
Riccardo Bucci and Alessandro Cardanelli [www.aiab.it](http://www.aiab.it)



**ISA** Provincia di Padova - Istituto di Genetica e Sperimentazione Agraria  
Silvia Piva [www.provincia.padova.it](http://www.provincia.padova.it) [www.isadivernostavemato.it](http://www.isadivernostavemato.it)



**Centre for Genetic Resources, The Netherlands** - Wageningen UR  
Chris Kik and Niels Lanjouw [www.igrr.wur.nl/uk](http://www.igrr.wur.nl/uk)



**Plant Research International** - Wageningen UR  
Jans van der Burg [www.pri.wur.nl/uk](http://www.pri.wur.nl/uk)



**Technology and Agrarian Development Group** - Wageningen UR  
Conny Almekinders [www.tad.wur.nl/uk](http://www.tad.wur.nl/uk)



**LBI** Louis Bolk Instituut  
Aart Oomen and Edith Lammerts van Bueren [www.louisbolk.org](http://www.louisbolk.org)



**FIBL** Research Institute of Organic Agriculture  
Andreas Thomaier and Franz Jakob Schärer [www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)



**IIED** International Institute for Environment and Development  
Michel Pimbert [www.iied.org](http://www.iied.org)



**INRA** Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique  
Véronique Chabot, Justelle Goldringer, Estelle Serpajay, Nicolas Scher, Julie Dawson [www.mimc.inra.fr/seed/](http://www.mimc.inra.fr/seed/) <http://seednet.inra.fr>



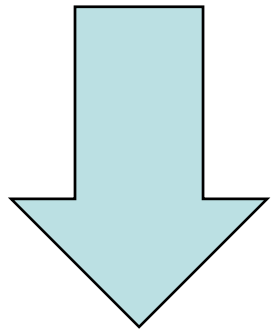
**RSP** Réseau Semences Paysannes  
Guy Kastler and Thomas Levlain [www.semencespaysannes.org](http://www.semencespaysannes.org)

# FSO objectives...

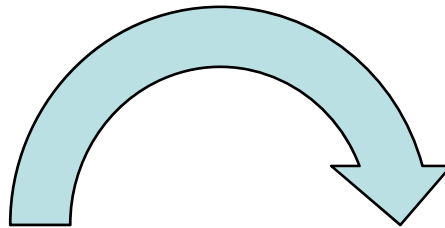
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“Farm Seed Opportunities will provide a **regulatory scenario** to cover most of the described situations in Europe according to the market, the farmers and the breeders needs and rights taking in account the experimental data about the status of the varieties and the seed qualities.

1. Inventory of initiatives,
2. In depth description of some case studies,
3. An analysis of stakeholders expectations particularly on the linkages between CVs and market,
4. Desk studies on CVs in Europe and the EU directive 62/2008,
5. Field trials in Italy, France and The Netherlands,
6. Develop methodologies for participatory research,
7. Quality analysis of on-farm produced seed,
8. Role of market for sustainable use of agrobiodiversity

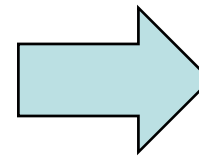


Policy  
recommendations -draft



Farmers' forum

Exchange with  
non-participating  
countries



Policy  
recommendations

catalogue

1992 Rio convention on biodiversity

5 regulation

2008 CV \* regulation

2004 Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources

DUS system

Adapted DUS system

What regulation systems for each kind of varieties?

IPGRI descriptors

Registered varieties

Conservation, amateur varieties

Organic varieties

Farmer varieties

Landraces



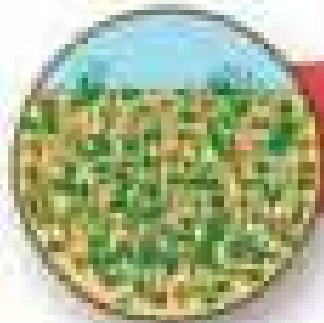
# Lost in translation...



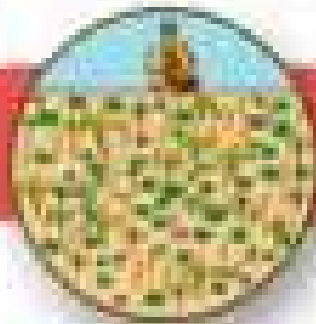
Nation	Translation of "Landraces"	Meaning in English	Point of view expressed
France	Races primitives	Primitive, original races	Historical, social or biological
Germany	Landsorten	Landraces	
Italy	Ecotipi	ecotypes	Ecological
Spain	Varietades	varieties	Biological
Romania	Soianlor locale	Local variety	Geographical
Portugal	Varietades autoctones	Autochthonous varieties	Geographical and social
Hungary	Honos fajok	home variety	Sociological

# The European reality

Il y a 10 000 ans  
hétérogénéité des cultures

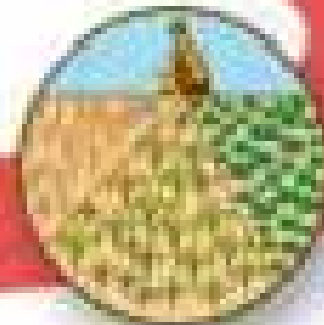


Cueillette des  
espèces intéressantes



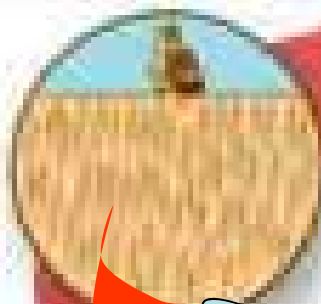
DOMESTICATION  
DES ESPÈCES

Choix d'une population  
et semis des plus belles plantes  
Sélection intrapopulation



Début de l'agriculture:  
Semis de populations  
très hétérogènes

AMÉLIORATION  
DE POPULATIONS



Maîtrise des techniques  
d'amélioration des plantes  
Semis d'une variété



Varieties from seed com

Homogénéité  
des variétés  
et maîtrise des  
techniques agricoles

"farm varieties" and PF

Landraces, conservation  
varieties: an inheritance

# A new approach is needed



market

exchange

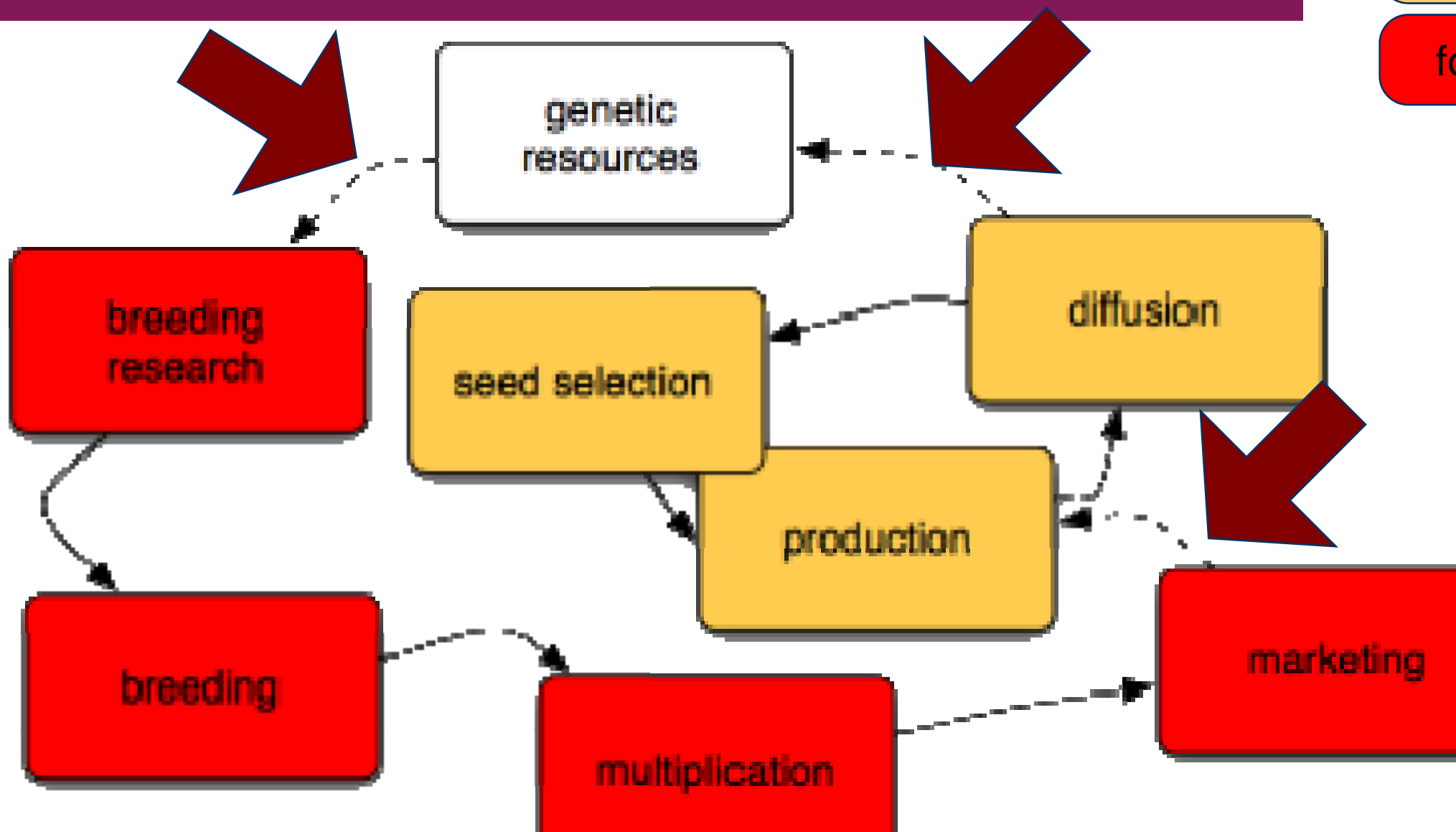
cultivation

on-farm research

sustainable use of PGRFA

seed  
systems

# Seed Systems



- a. The varieties produced by participatory plant breeding (PPB) not in conformity with DUS requirements;
- b. The old varieties no longer registered in the Catalogue (there are factors that make registering these varieties problematical: excessive registration costs, difficulties in proving the VCU, only limited marginal areas interested in growing them, etc.) and which do not have a precise geographical area of origin;
- c. Local varieties used as genetic resources in reintroduction programmes, to cultivate them in different areas from their area of origin;
- d. Populations that have no historical link with a given territory or that have been created by innovative methods based on the natural mating system of the species and which capture the advantages of the diversity, and which cannot be registered in the official catalogue having no correspondence with the DUS criteria (for a description of the genetic structure of populations and their use and importance in organic agriculture see Wolf et al., 2008).

# different varieties for different markets with different innovation system

	Conventional varieties	Conservation varieties	Populations	Farmers' varieties
Characteristics	DUS/VCU	Adapted DUS	Not uniform	Diverse sites of origin
Research/breeding	Formal research	Formal/informal research	Formal/informal research	Informal research and PPA

Finding a right balance between formal and informal seed systems within European context should be one of the objectives of a regional strategy for on farm conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Such a strategy will also concretely address the implementation of the article 6 on sustainable use of PGR of the ITPGRFA. We remind that this article is mandatory for Contracting Parties and is addressing to all the crops and not only to those listed in annex I, as for example in the case of the Multilateral System.

1. The on farm strategy should allow the presence on the market of proximity (local market or direct sell) of the varieties identified by FSO, and at the same time needs to avoid creating opportunities for the diffusion of poor quality seeds on commercial markets.
2. To this goal the role of networks or associations could be a key element in order to set up a bridge between formal and informal seed systems. The latter, as already pointed out, is a specific system based on social norms: trust, reputation and reciprocity govern it. Therefore enhancing the role of social networks (i.e. the trust and reputation of people reproducing seeds within a community) could improve the quality of informal seed system. At this regards, the directives on conservation varieties open a new interesting possibility, for the first time allowing organisations to have a role within seed legislation (article 34 of the directive 2009/145/CE and 21 of the directive 2008/62/CE). A specific attention should be paid in order to monitor the process of notification to the Commission of the recognised organisations

Trust

Reputation

# produce

Market could be one useful tool for achieving on-farm conservation of plant genetic resources, as already pointed out by the Global Plan of Action for the sustainable use of PGR on its Section 14 “Developing markets for local varieties and diversity rich products”. FSO analysis demonstrated that in search of a right balance between market and farm conservation, it is important to unpacking what a market is, according to the different relationships between sellers and consumers (e.g. local market, direct sell, international market, cooperatives).

**Different types of market have different impact on agrobiodiversity.**

It is also important to note that whatever market we are talking about requiring in general a certain degree of standardization and homologation. Increasing more distant are farmers and consumers. At this regard, particular attention should be paid to definition of the code of practice and the registration of produce as PDO, PGI or STG. In fact, according to the way they are set up, cultural and biological diversity could be reduced (Eitzinger and Marchenay, 2008).

- How to finance PPB in a trend of decreasing of public investment in agricultural research?
- How to promote an informal seed system with good quality, without opening the room to unfair competition between seed industries?
- How to deal with VCU systems for varieties for alternative farming systems, e.g. the varieties listed in paragraph 6.2?
- How the Conservation varieties directives will be interpreted and implemented by Member States?
- Not a lot of research has been done on the impact of market instruments on agrobiodiversity. Even if a lot of projects and researches have been undertaken on Geographical Indications – analysing their impact on development, their economic benefit, the impact on small farmers or key for local innovation through collective action - very few words have been spent in order to check the compatibility of GIs with agrobiodiversity and in particular their coherence with seed laws.

“it is impossible to replace farmers’ seed systems completely and it would be unwise to try. Farmers’ seed systems provide an important component of food security, a vital haven for diversity and space for future evolution of PGR” (FAO, 2009).

