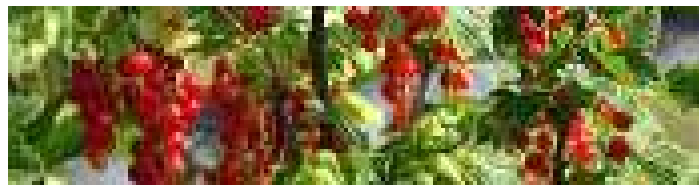




# A European strategic approach to conserving crop landraces: analysis and recommendations

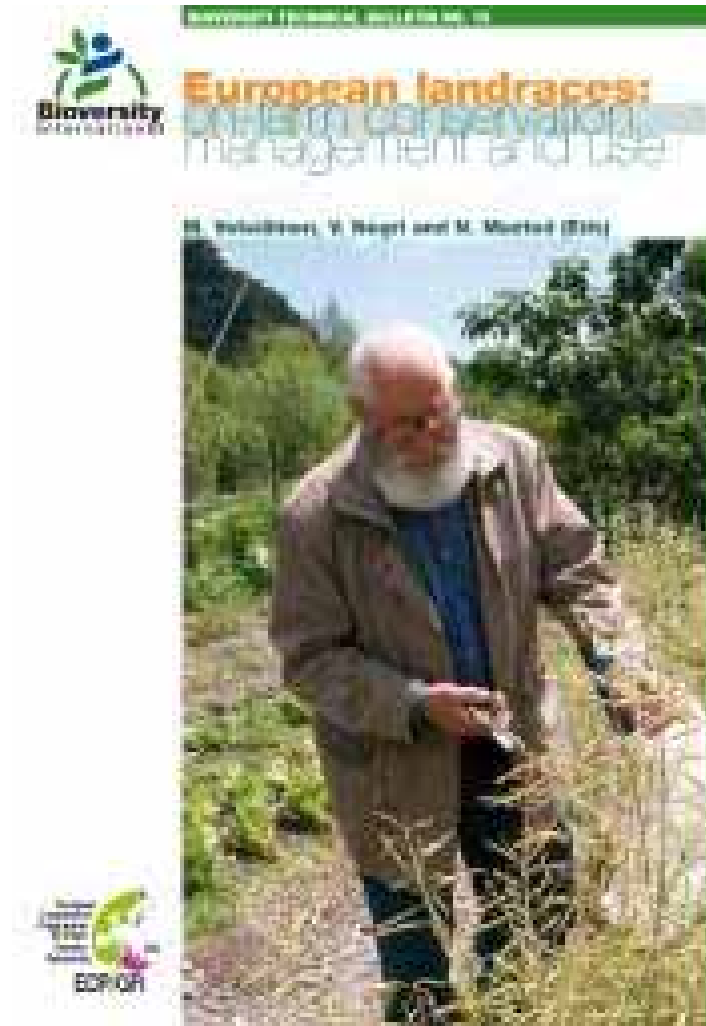
*Merja Veteläinen, Valeria Negri  
and Nigel Maxted*



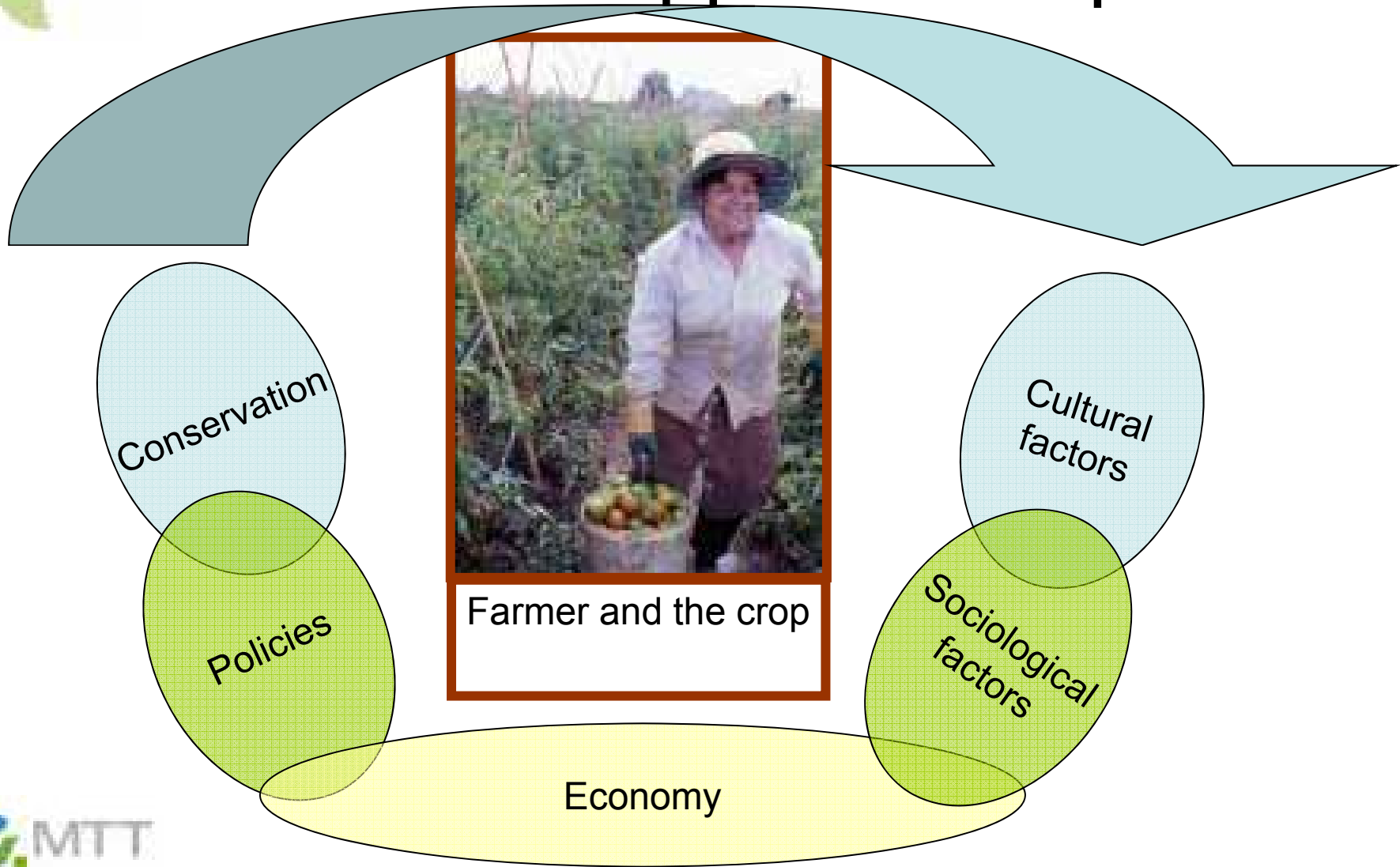


# Background

- **ECPGR On-farm conservation Task Force**
- **Need for overview:**
  1. Landrace diversity, conservation and use
  2. Inventory methodologies
  3. Case studies on use
  4. Policy context for landrace conservation and use
- ➔ Systematic approach to secure European landrace diversity



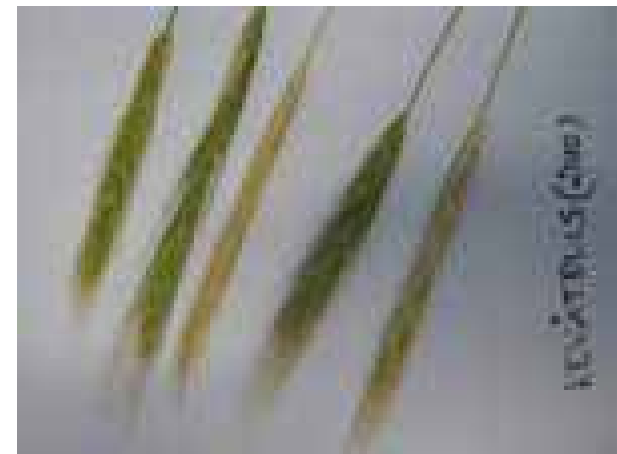
# Multi-level approach required





# Conservation issues -crops

- Inventory methodology development
- Completion of inventories
- Threat, extinction and genetic erosion assessments
- Prioritizing crop groups and regions for on-farm conservation
- Ex situ back-ups
- Local seed depositories





# Conservation issues - farmers

- Motivations for maintenance
- Inclusion of landrace conservation in agro-environmental schemes
- Dissemination of utilization values to growers



# Utilization issues

- New approaches in plant breeding to enhance use → conservation ↔ use
- Participatory plant breeding
- Landraces in organic production systems
- Product development: new and old uses
- Product labelling systems





# Research issues

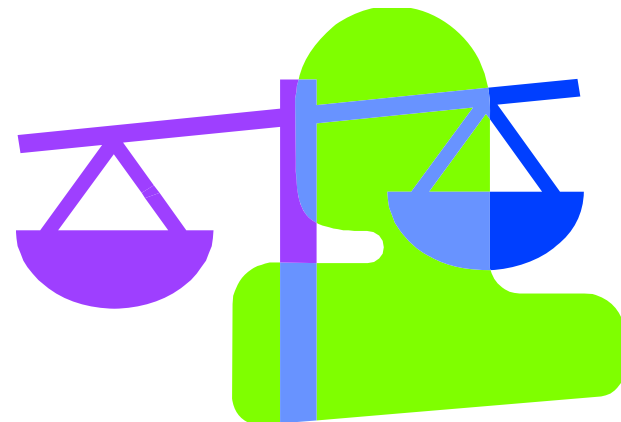
- Better understanding of present landrace diversity and population dynamics
- Impact of climate change on landrace diversity
- Socio-economic studies





# Political and legal issues

- The European legislative frame vs. local implementation and local laws
- Need to provide legislative protection of the on-farm sites
- Regulations connected to land use and planning





# Public awareness and education

- In all levels of society
  - Different means
- Only when wide understanding exists will the long-term preservation of landraces achieved





# Socio-economic issues

- Inclusion of management of genetic resources in regional development, agro-business and environmental schemes
- Examination of commercial value of landraces, niche market and market chain enhancement, development of novel markets
- Support for local seed production





# Co-operation issues

- European co-operation within frames of ECPGR
- National level co-operation between all actors – *research institutes, farmer organisations, NGOs and individual people* – needs to be strengthened



# TARGET 1

**Prepare national strategic plan for  
conservation and use**

## TARGET 2

**Establish a European  
mechanism/clearing house**

## TARGET 3 and 4

**Create national/European priority  
landrace lists and identify priority  
sites for on-farm conservation**

## TARGET 5

**Establish protocols for landrace  
information management and  
dissemination**

## TARGET 6 & 7

**Develop effective means of systematically conserving landraces diversity *in situ* and *ex situ***

## TARGET 8

**Assess landrace threat and climate  
change status**

## TARGET 9

**Ensure public awareness, effective security and legislative protection for European landrace diversity**

# TARGET 10

**Promote sustainable utilization of  
European landraces**

**Thank you for your attention!**

