



European NGO network for on farm conservation management activities



What NGOs in Europe are doing

Focus on “on farm” conservation management

A. Direct use of PGR coming from different sources. Marketing activities of little seed companies and seed exchange activities in different seed savers networks including small scale farmers as well. Vegetables, fruits, berries, field crops, etc.

B. Coordinating and establishing community seed banks all over Europe. Lack of activities in eastern countries.

C. Improving varieties and developing new varieties by collaborative breeding activities involving farmers and other stakeholders (agriculture research institutes, wholesalers, gastronomy, processors...). Horizon 2020 consortium DIVERSIFOOD.

D. Many different European networking activities in different topics often with the same players: Seed legislation, patent Act, GMO.

NGOs position on NAGOYA

At the moment there is no common position of European NGOs on Nagoya.

Some NGO try to establish guidelines to be compliant with the NAGOYA protocol. But most of them don't integrate their collection in the multilateral system because they don't trust the system yet because the ABS system is not yet working.

Some remarks can be made:

- Exchange between seed savers networks or community seed banks and official seed banks should become or stay as easy as possible
- Daily work of seed savers network and their internal genflow shouldn't be interrupted or complicated by very high administrative hurdles
- The cooperation between all stakeholders within a national network shouldn't become more complicate and the involvement of NGOs in a national conservation strategy shouldn't be threatened or marginalized by the NAGOYA guidelines

What is still needed?

- A. National coordination platforms for on farm/in situ conservation activities still lacking in most of the European countries. They are even not a part of national strategies itself.
- B. On the European level we need a platform that includes stakeholders with a broader picture of sustainable use of PGR. Breeding is only a part of it. Diversity management and direct use of PGR for different fields of application (environment, niche markets, medicinal, etc.).
- C. National and European **long term** strategy for on farm conservation activities with a long term focus exceeding normal three or four years periods. More adapted to practical work on the field. Establishing a fruit collection needs more than three years. Establishing a red lists including conservation activities that will provide better quality of seeds take more time than three years.
- D. We are very curious and hopeful that the new call for 2017 for GenRes under H2020: “Networking and improving capacities for in-situ conservation” will help to make some steps in the right direction!