LINKAGES

Results from the *on farm* survey

On farm

GENESIS OF THE *ON FARM* SURVEY

- Survey constructed by RSR and validated by other LINKAGES project partners during the summer/autumn of 2017.

- **Survey circulated between December 2017 and April 2018 (within the DIVERSIFOOD project community and the main European seeds networks)**

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OVERVIEW OF RESPONSES

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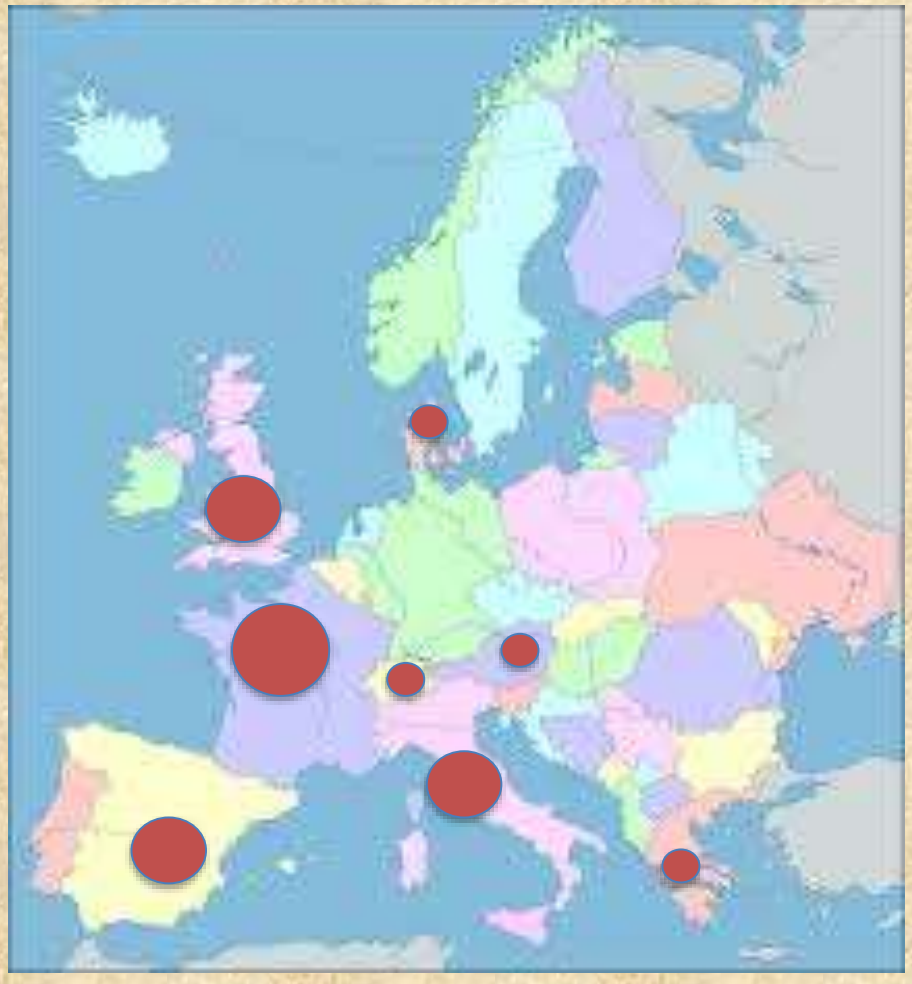
48 complete answers from “direct users” in 8 countries, including all the countries where there are more active seed networks



Spain
Italy
France
Denmark
UK
Switzerland
Austria
Greece

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IDENTIFICATION OF DIRECT USERS

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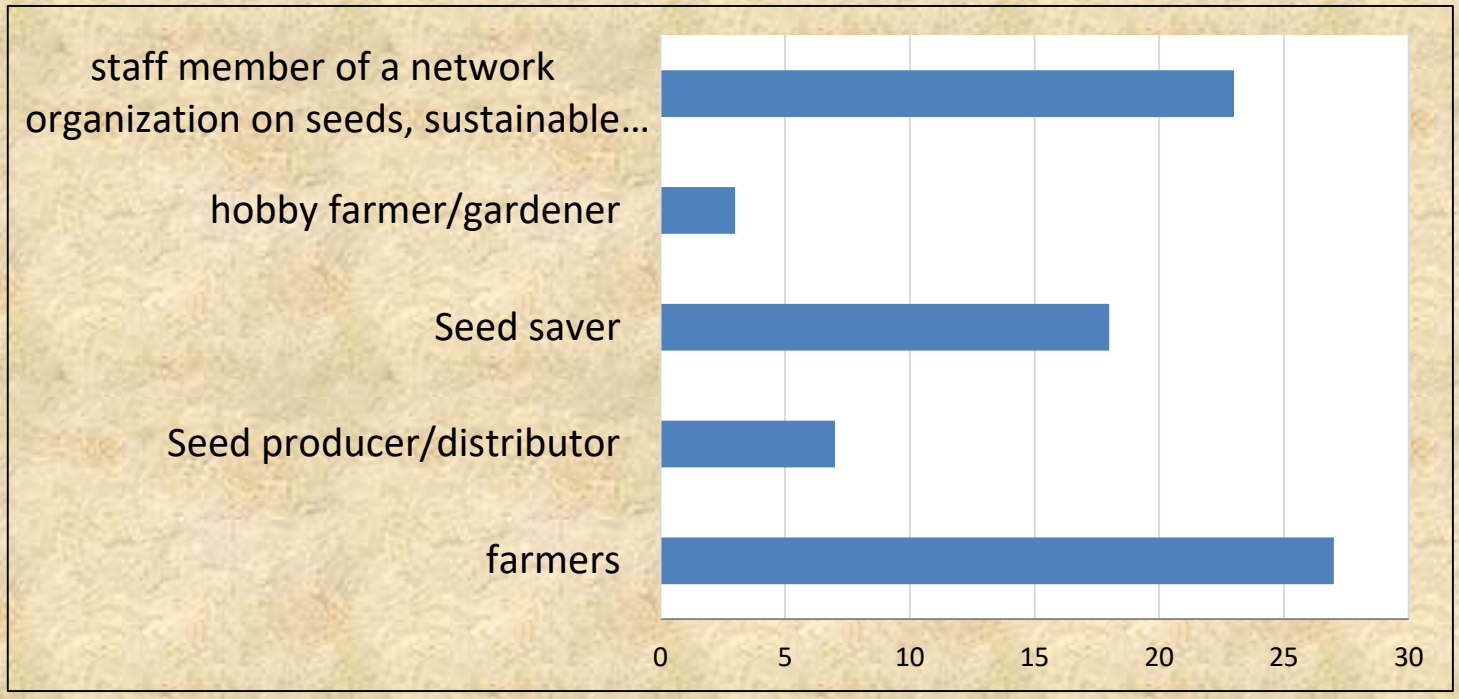
Who are the “direct users”?



Most of the actors interested in developing a link with genebanks are involved in ***network organizations*** both as farmers or as staff members

Low presence of ***seed producers*** and hobby farmers/gardeners

The seed producers includes:

1.small scale seed production and selling

2.Breeders

3.Mantainance of pure lines

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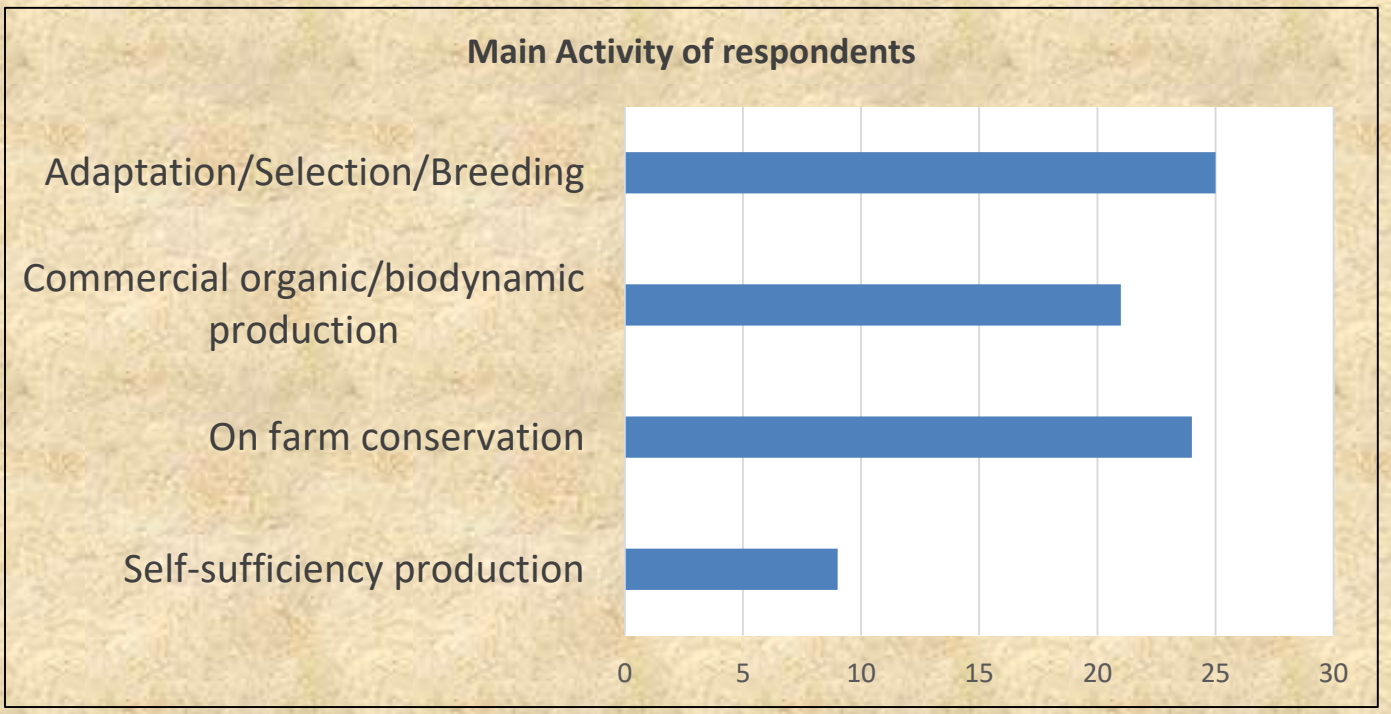
Who are the “direct users”?



On farm conservation and Adaptation/Selection/Breeding are as relevant as Organic production in direct users activities

Communities interested to be involved in Biodiversity Management

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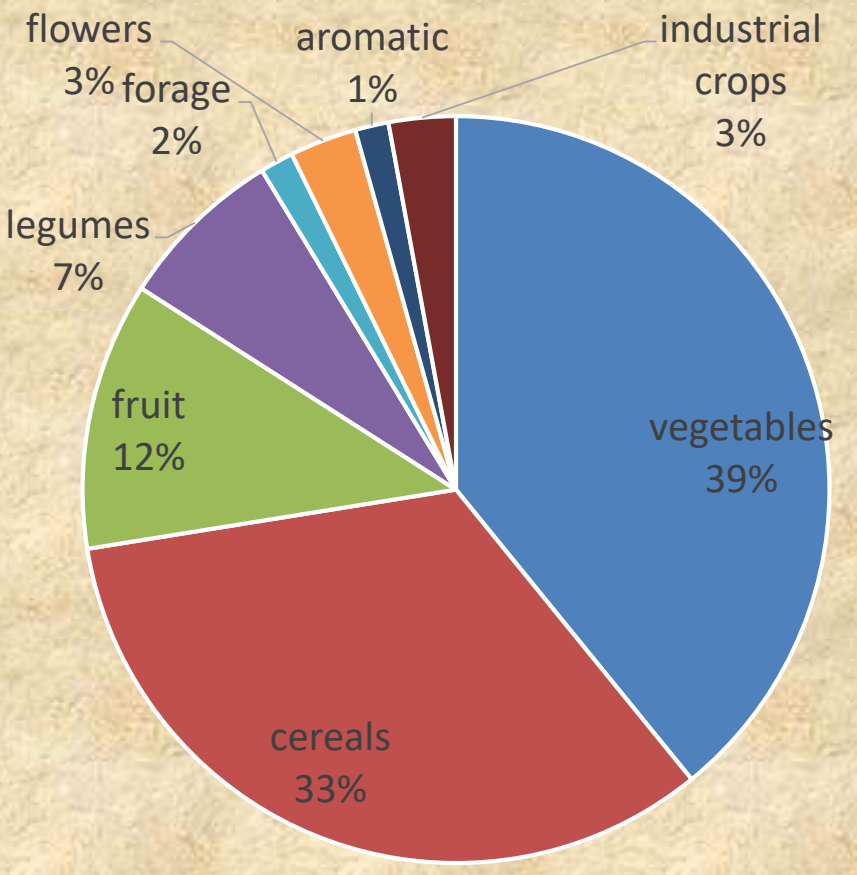
Which species are they interested in?



Among vegetables the most common is **tomato**, but also potatoes, brassica and beans have a role.

Among cereals there is a huge diversity, but a relevant role is covered by **wheat**, both durum and bread, **barley** and **buckwheat**.

Fruits include tropical fruits, but also chesnut, grapewine and olives.

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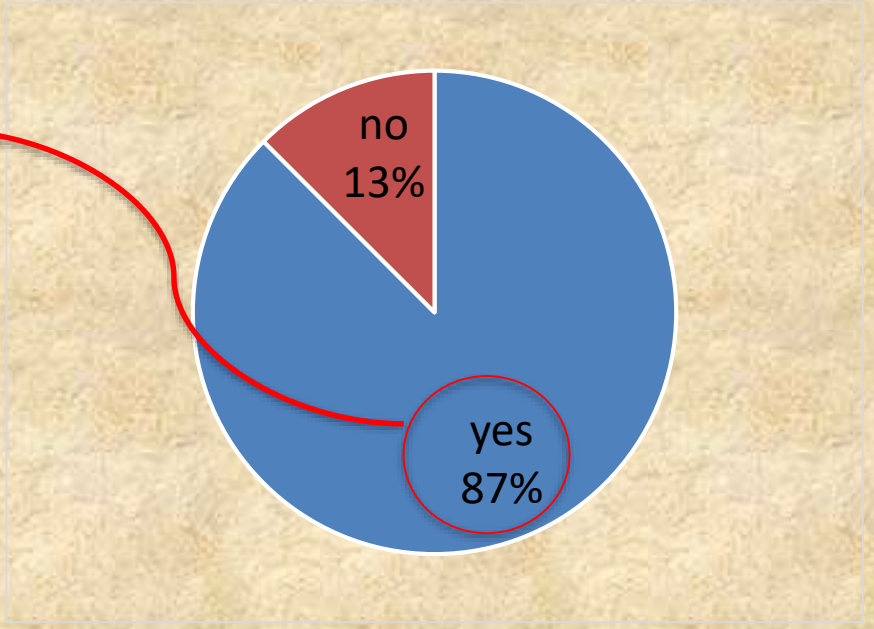
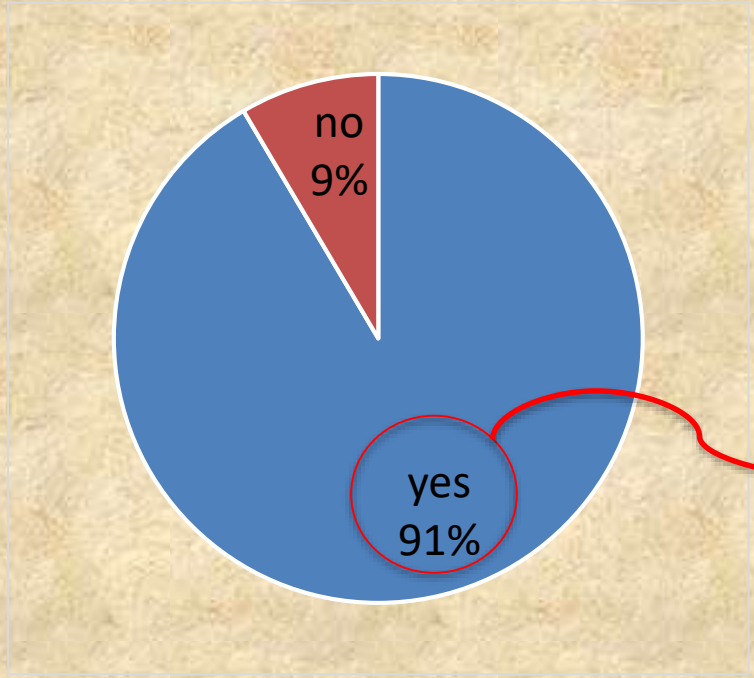
Relationship with germplasm banks

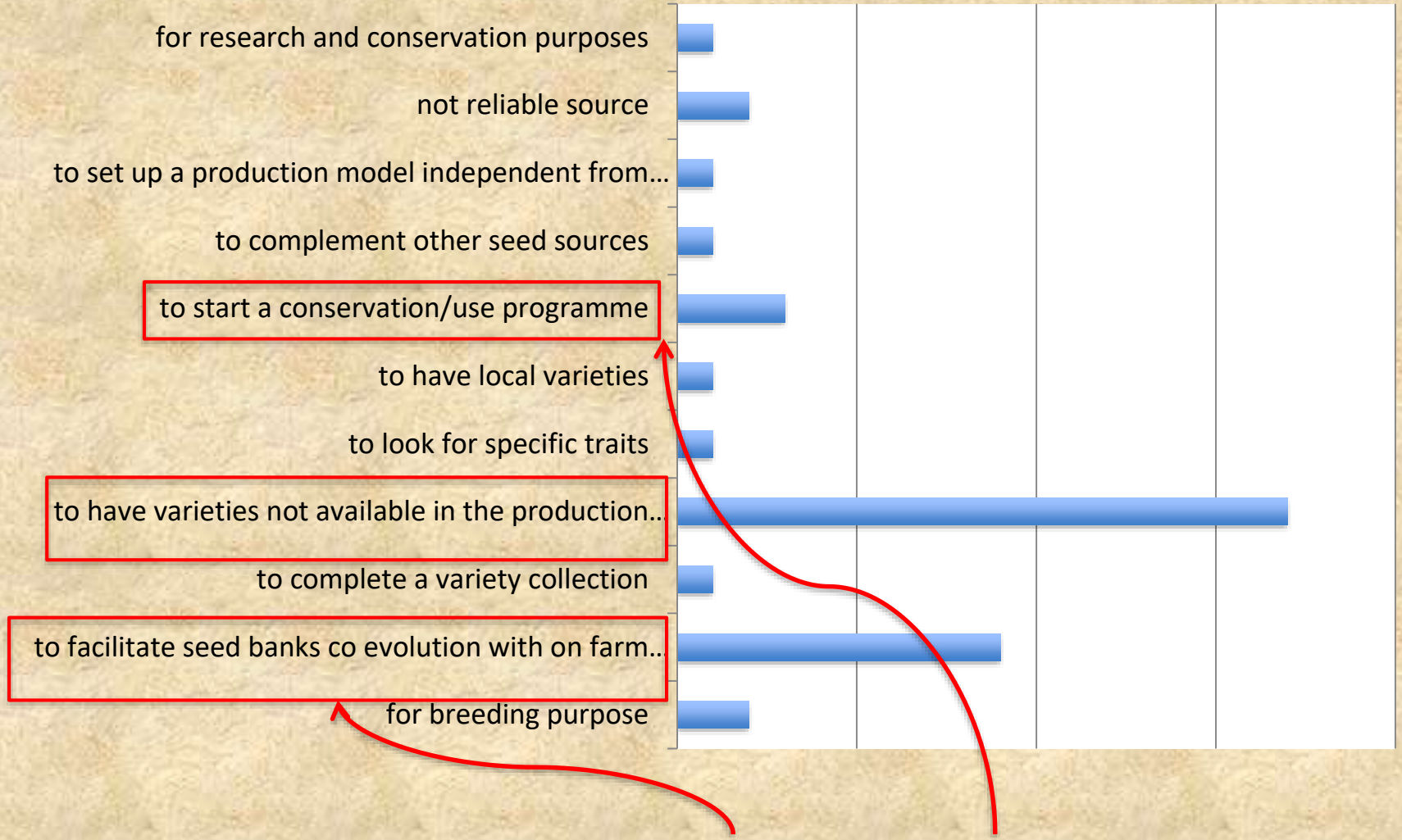
The 87% of the respondents believe that a germplasm bank is an **appropriate source** of seeds to match their preferences and needs





The 91% of the respondents have **requested seeds** from an ex-situ collection inside or outside Europe.

Why they connected to genebanks?



There is a growing interest of connecting with genebanks to develop an integrated system of agrobiodiversity management

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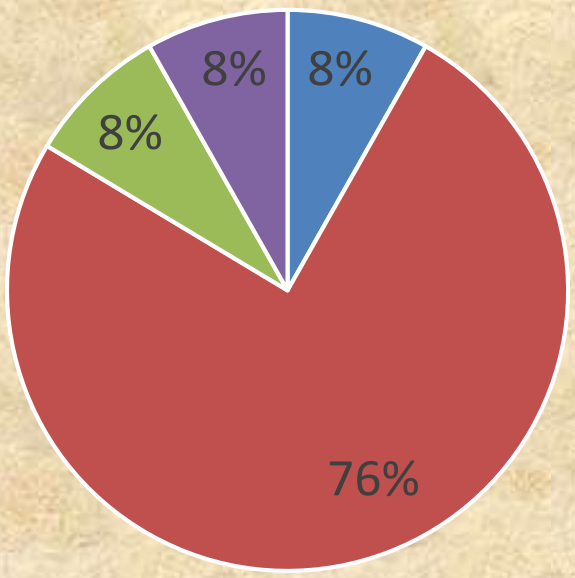
Which germoplasm banks



- International genebanks — e.g. CYMMIT, ICARDA, ICRISAT, IRRI, ILRI
- National genbanks systems in EU — e.g. IPK (DE), Vavilov (RU), INRA (FR), CREA (IT), UNIPG (IT), CNR Bari (IT), INIA (ES), CCBAT (ES), COMAV (ES), SASA (UK), ECRI (ET)….
- US genebanks — e.g. GRIN/USDA
- Seed Networks and informal seed systems — e.g. Arche Noah (AT), Irish Seed Savers (IR), RSR (IT), Pro specie Rara (CH)

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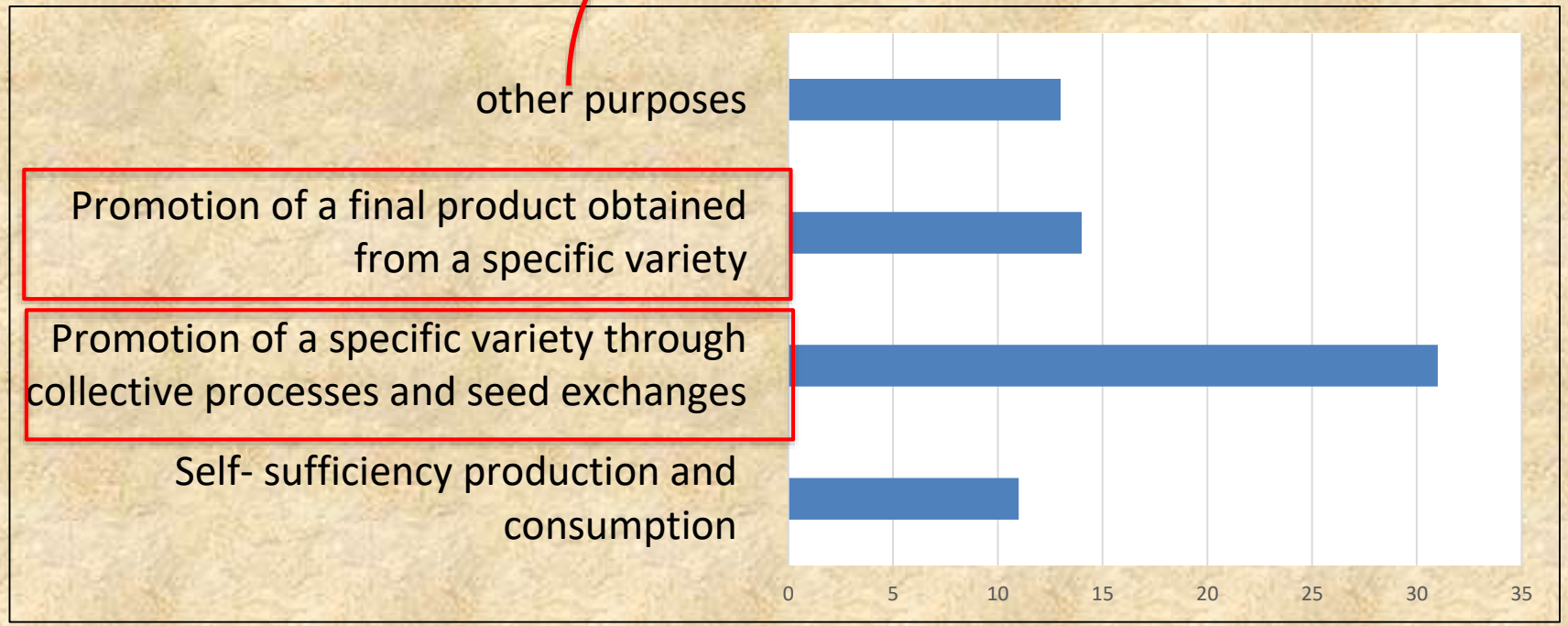
How the seeds requested have been used?

Other purposes often include **research** and **on-farm experimentation**, but also **conservation**, **breeding** and **multiplication**.



A growing interest from **collective processes** and **networks** working on the establishment of informal seed systems emerged.

Promote varities more than products

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CONNECTION WITH GENEBANKS AND INFORMATIONS ON THE MATERIAL RECEIVED

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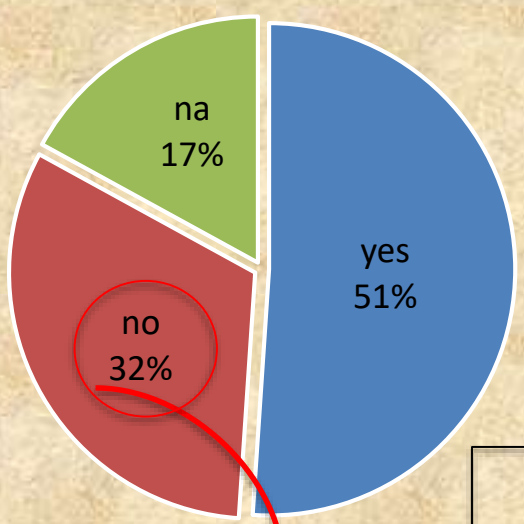
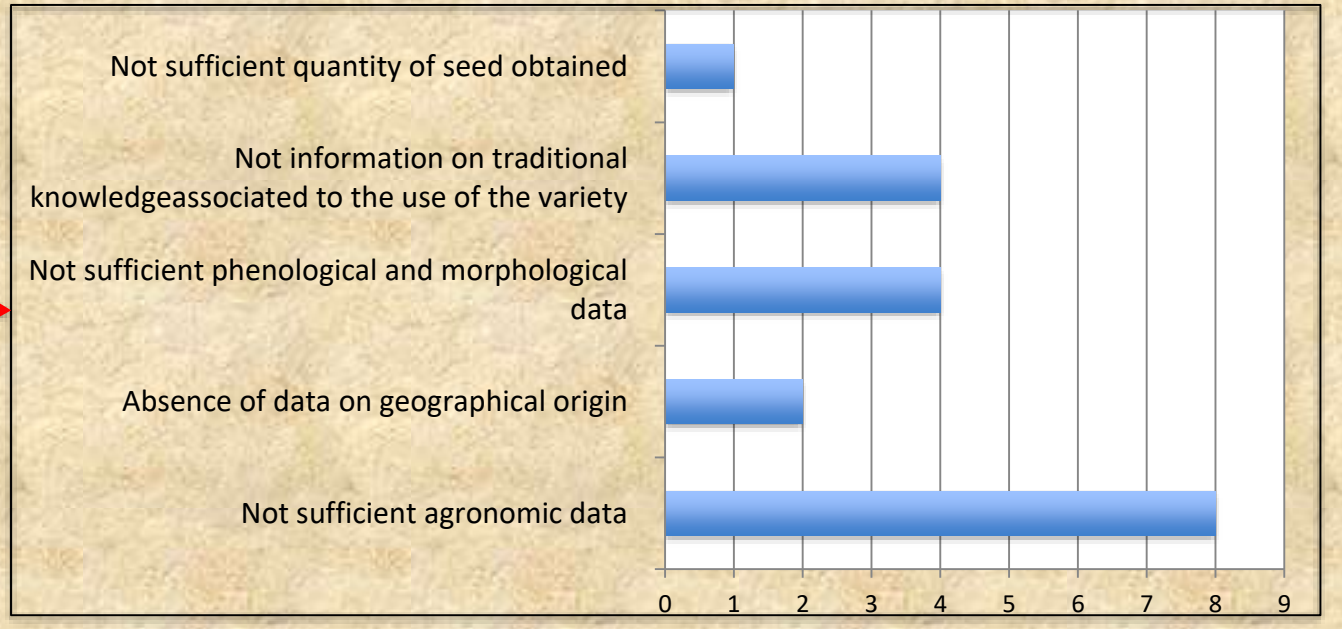
Information on seeds from genebanks



The information on the seeds held by the bank are considered **sufficient and useful** by the 51% of the respondents. The 17% was not seek specific info from the bank.

Concerning the main reason for considering the info provided by genebanks not sufficient:



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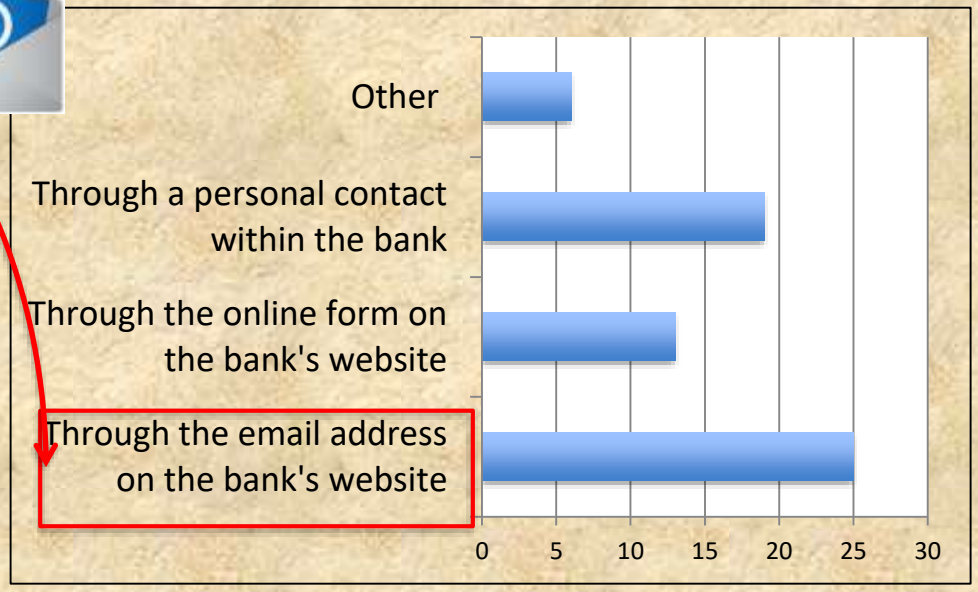
Contacting germplasm banks

The large majority of the respondents (85%) found **easy** to contact the germplasm bank(s) to make their request or to get instructions on how to do it.

The main mean to place request for seed was through **the email** address on the bank's website.



The contacts resulted **simple and fast** often through database and online modules.

However in many cases the **personal contact** with people working in the genebanks made the request easier as not all direct users are familiar with the ICT tools.

Sometimes the efficiency of the contact depends on the person you meet in the genebank and not on the system itself.

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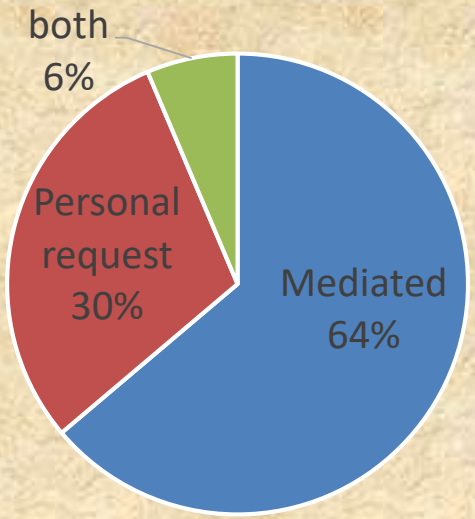
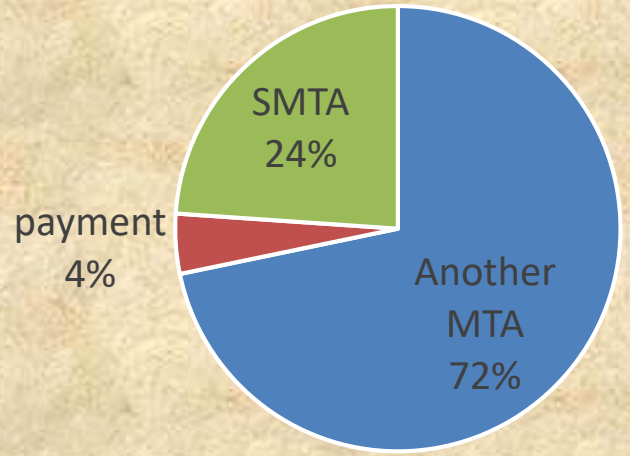
Getting the seeds

The 85% of the respondants **obtained the seeds** they requested and most of them (79%) were **happy with the material received** in term of shipment timeliness, seed quantity and quality, correspondence with variety description, uniformity etc.

Intermediaries



Agreement type



In case of intermediaries, **Seed networks** often supported individual users in their request to the genebanks

Sometimes personal requests are done by "**intermediaries**" who do not have the perception of this role.

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OTHER COLLABORATIONS WITH EX SITU COMMUNITIES AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

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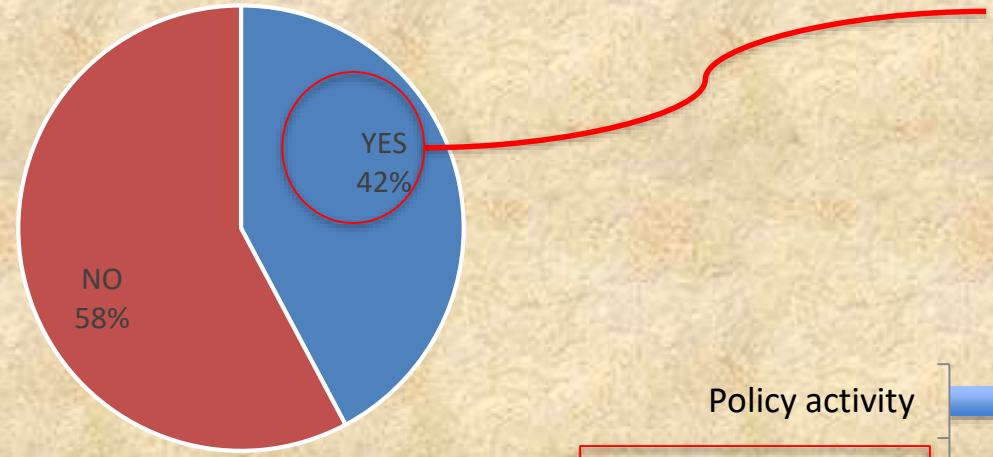
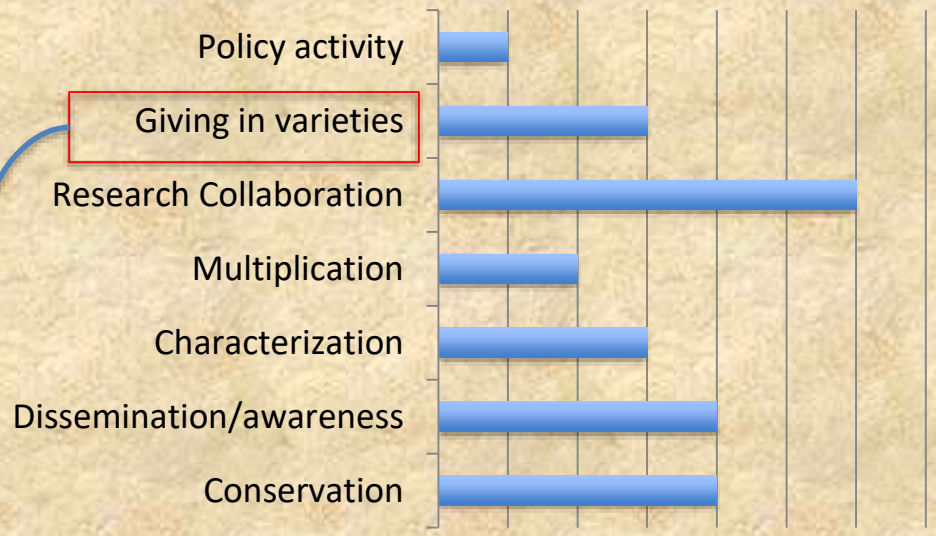
Collaborations

42 % of the respondents declared that their organization collaborate formally with ex situ institutions in other activities, a part from the distribution of seeds.



- Conservation
- Dissemination/awareness
- Characterization
- Multiplication
- Research Collaboration
- Giving in varieties
- Policy activity



Interesting role of direct users in Giving in varieties to genebanks

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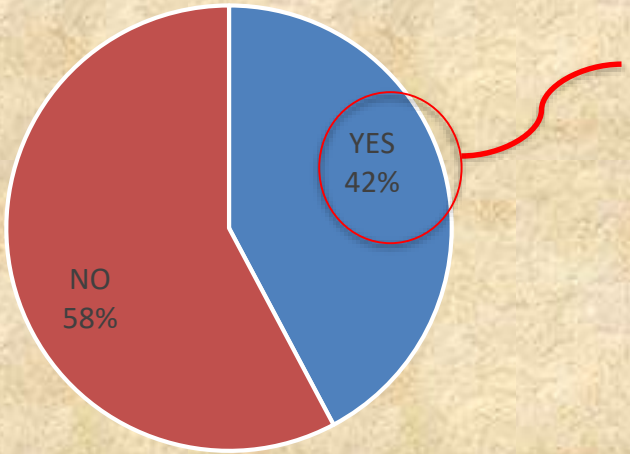
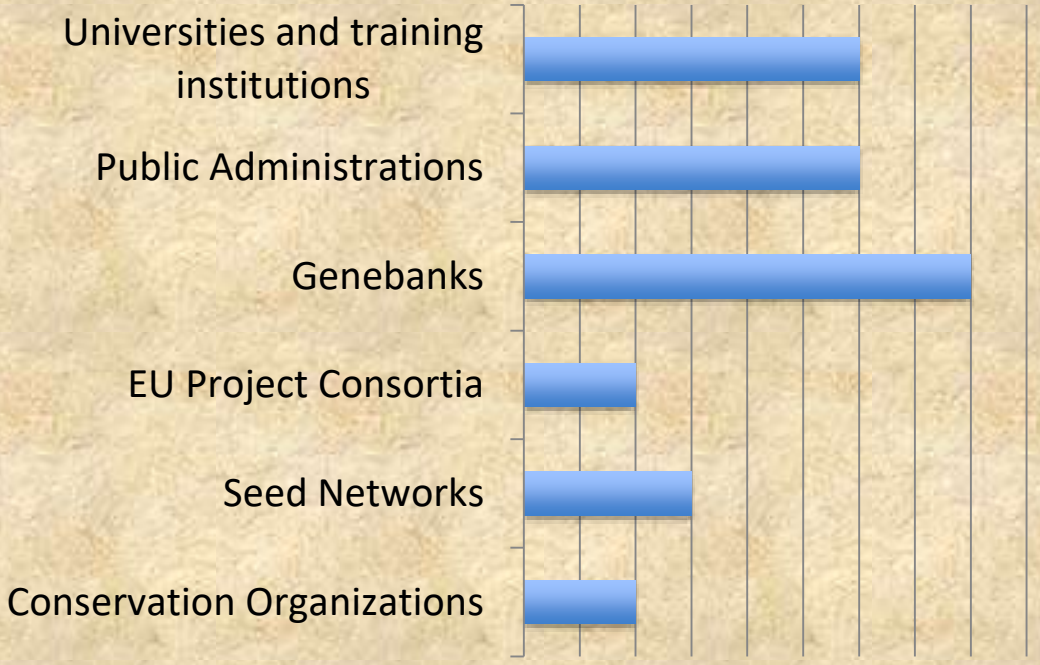
Collaborations





Relevant role of **Genbanks**,
But also other public institutions at local,regional and national level (municipalities, regions etc.). Universities and training institutions are other public actors that facilitate the networking activities with direct users

Seed Networks are also considered part of the *ex situ* community

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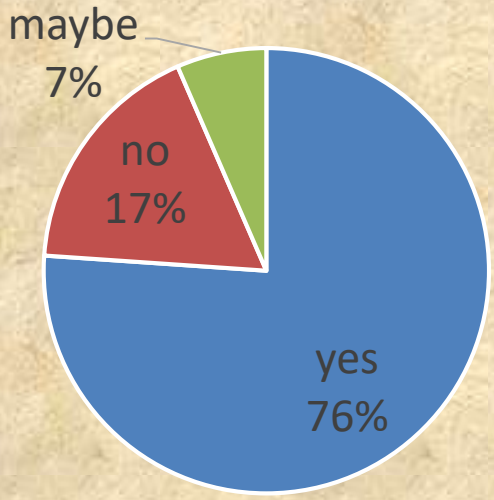
Future perspectives



Most of the respondents (76%) confirm their interest in continuing to interact and create linkages with genebanks.
However, a 17% is not supporting this type of links for different reasons.

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Why yes?

«***interesting traits*** can be found in this material»

«…bring ***new life to varieties*** in a different terroir…»

«Looking for reproducible varieties ***adapted to our production conditions***»

«access to endemic varieties of our territories»

«Both methods of conservation (ex situ and on farm) ***works together***»

«It would be good if a ***principle of reciprocity*** existed»

«…looking for ***new traits*** for my breeding»

«As CSB we hope to continue to ***bridge the gap between ex situ and in situ conservation*** through collaboration with ex situ collections and seed searches with in situ growers.»

«***recover lost varieties in the field*** and exchange information about varieties»

« large variability available in genebanks to work on ***specific adaptation***»

«when a variety is lost in a specific area, the access to ex situ resources is a ***good way to re-start***…»

«It is important that farmers make their ***land available for seed multiplication and conservation*** as agrobiodiversity is a public good»

On farm

Why not?

«need for ***improvement in the relationship*** between genebanks and direct users»

«Do not have ***time*** to do it»

«Do not interested in collaboration, but happy to receive seeds»

«lack for ***funding*** in ex situ conservation, genebamks will ask us to do their work»

«no ***trust*** in genebanks management»

«too small ***quantities*** of seeds»

«***bureocratic process*** too long and complex»

«***no info*** associated with the seeds»