



# Assessing linkages between genebanks and direct users

## LINKAGES

Overview of the project

# Overview

## ECPGR funded Activity (2015 call for proposals)

### Submitting WG: On-farm Conservation and Management

- Responds to ECPGR objective 5: “Relations with users of germplasm are strengthened” (focuses on relation between genebanks and farmers/seed savers and their organizations around the possibility of using *ex situ* materials directly)
- Takes into account the proposals developed by the task force on enhancing user engagement:
  - Proposal 2 (Establishing a EU network for direct use)
  - Proposal 3 (Making genebanks more attractive for the user)

# Overview

Providing greater opportunities for direct use of *ex situ* materials and facilitating information sharing, sets the stage for greater synergies between *ex situ* and in situ/on-farm, making **PGRFA conservation more effective, decentralized and dynamic.**

## HOWEVER

- ❖ not clear to which extent direct users engage in formal requests for germplasm from genebanks and through which channels or modalities;
- ❖ their needs, interests, expectations and problems are not well documented
- ❖ the extent to which genebanks' distribution modalities and processes are well fit to the needs of direct users' communities is not clear

# Overview

## Activities

To assess whether European public collections are easily available to direct users such as farmers or seed savers, and what sort of challenges, opportunities, solutions are adopted, the project will undertake:

- ~~• Analyses of the reports to the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA on European genebank distributions, to assess the relative weight of direct users among overall recipients of germplasm and any changing trend over time.~~
- An online survey among genebank curators to record their experience with distributions to direct users, and their use of the SMTA or other simplified options in these cases.
- An online survey among farmers' and seed savers' to assess the extent to which they use *ex situ* materials (and for what), their expectations, needs and difficulties.

Partner institution	Person	Thematic area	Role	Contribution
1. Rete Semi Rurali - RSR	Riccardo Bocci	On-farm/sustainable use (farmers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACTIVITY COORDINATOR</li> <li>Develop initial and final survey drafts</li> <li>Circulate and follow up on the survey in the farmers' constituency</li> <li>Analyze the data from all respondents</li> <li>Develop/discuss recommendations for improving ex situ/on-farm linkages</li> <li>Disseminate the results in the farmers'</li> </ul>	ECPGR  In-kind (Diversifood project)
2. Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands – CGN	Theo van Hintum	ex situ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide input to survey development</li> <li>Follow up on the survey, disseminate its results in the ex situ</li> </ul>	ECPGR
3. Pro Specie Rara-PSR	Bela Bartha	on-farm conservation/sustainable use (seed savers/amateurs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide input to survey development</li> <li>Circulate and follow up on the survey, disseminate its results, in the seed savers'/amateurs' constituency</li> </ul>	ECPGR
4. University of Perugia	Valeria Negri	on-farm conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PARTNER</li> <li>Provide scientific/technical advice during meetings</li> </ul>	ECPGR

In kind contributions:  
CREA-FRU (Italy)  
ITPGRFA

# Overview

## Impact

- ❖ better understanding stakeholders' needs, expectations and difficulties
- ❖ identify measures to improve the flow of materials and information among *ex situ* and on-farm actors
- ❖ support decentralized research initiatives, and the dissemination of materials with limited or localized relevance but high potential for low input agricultural systems.

## Link to DIVERSIFOOD

- ❖ Diversifood project has a number of activities related to on farm/*ex situ* interactions (Community Seed Banks, PVS/PPB, databases), to which the results of the LINKAGES surveys are relevant
- ❖ opportunity to include LINKAGES' outcomes in DIVERSIFOOD final policy recommendations (10-12 December 2018).



And now... to the project's results...

