



# SEED CONSERVATION NETWORKS

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# MY PRESENTATION

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- Some findings from the Preparatory Action II Project (DG AGRI);
- How to guarantee seed quality?
- Points to be considered in the Seed reform;
- References



Who

Why

How

# SEED CONSERVATION NETWORKS..

What

Where

When







Citizens

Multi-actor

**Who**

Collective  
organisati  
on



Farmers

Gardeners







*Rejection of conventional agriculture and the need of repositioning agricultural production in its social environment and landscape, taking into consideration heritage, are the main motivation factors for initiating new valorisation initiatives.*







Old varieties

Landraces

**What**

Populati  
on

Conservatio  
n varieties

*In a certain number of cases, genetic resources are valorised as a service and not as a commercial product. In these cases the initiative does not aim to develop new products from underutilised genetic resources but rather to valorise the genetic resource for other objectives.*







Locality  
(art de la  
localité)

Cultural  
heritage

**Where**

Linkages  
with the  
specific  
territory



Niche  
market



Products from neglected genetic resources should be not reproduced elsewhere and the ties among the agricultural products, the stakeholders and the places can be enhanced. The local origin of products can be used as a marketing tool when needed.







From project  
to process  
based

Link with  
tradition/  
past

**When**

Takes time !



The implementation  
of the initiatives is  
often a secondary  
activity

*Relation with time is the key point in the process of valorisation (e.g. time for being traditional, time for the local development process)*







Education/  
training

Awareness

**How**

Modern  
technologies  
(e.g. social  
media)

Voluntary  
based



*It should be noted that recognition processes (e.g. PDO/PGI) are often long and expensive and therefore not all the initiatives can undertake them during their initial stages;*



# KEY ELEMENTS

- **Diversity of the initiatives.**
- **Collective action.**
- **Paradigm change.**
- **Alternative food chains.**
- **Communication.**
- **Innovation within the tradition.**
- **Role as advisors/facilitators/innovation brokers.**







# Networks and association interested in EC-LLD activities



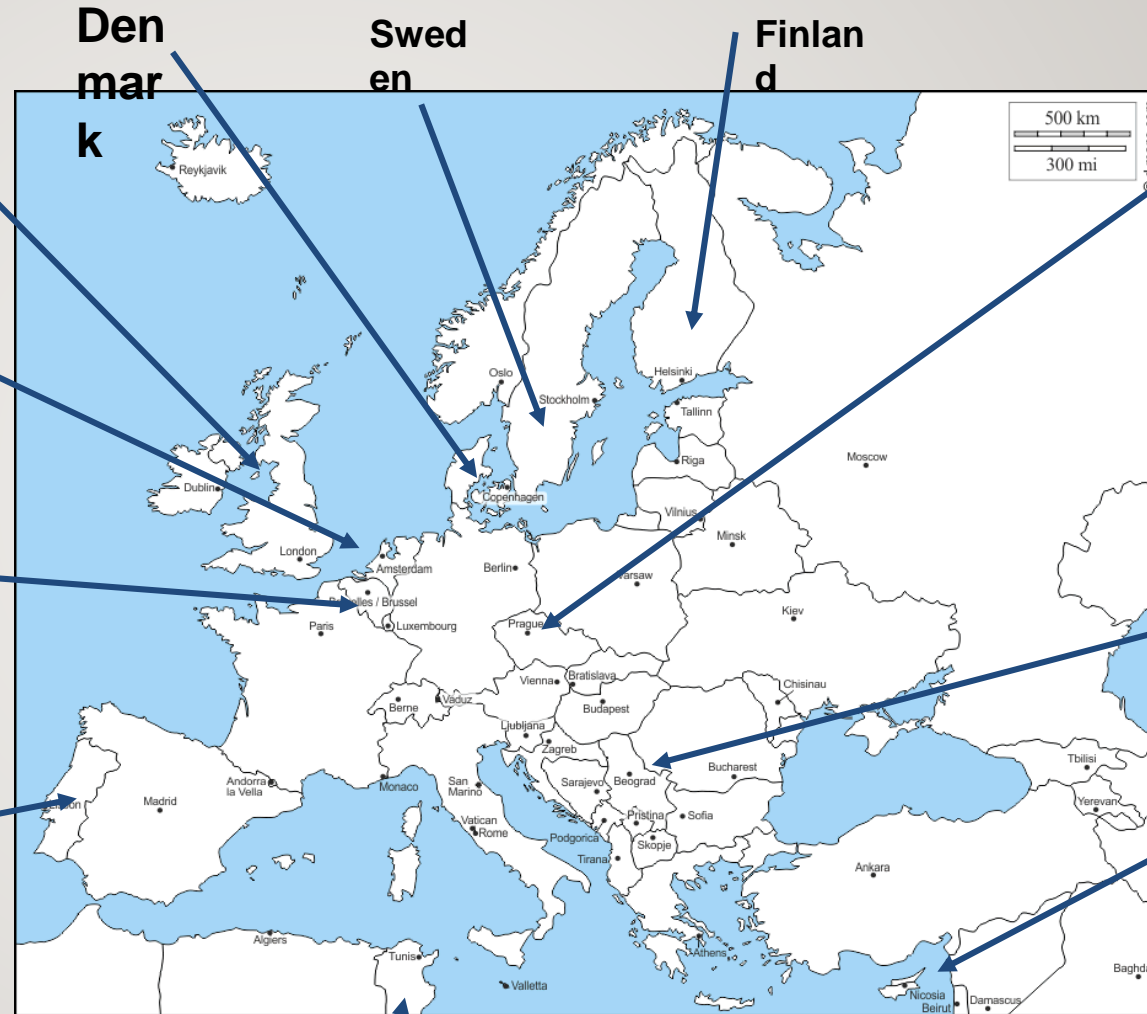
**Sussex - UK**



**Belgium Sud**



**Portugal**



**Czech Republic**



**Macedonia  
SAVEGEA  
CYPRUS**



**Tunisie**



# SEED QUALITY

Trust



Local  
market

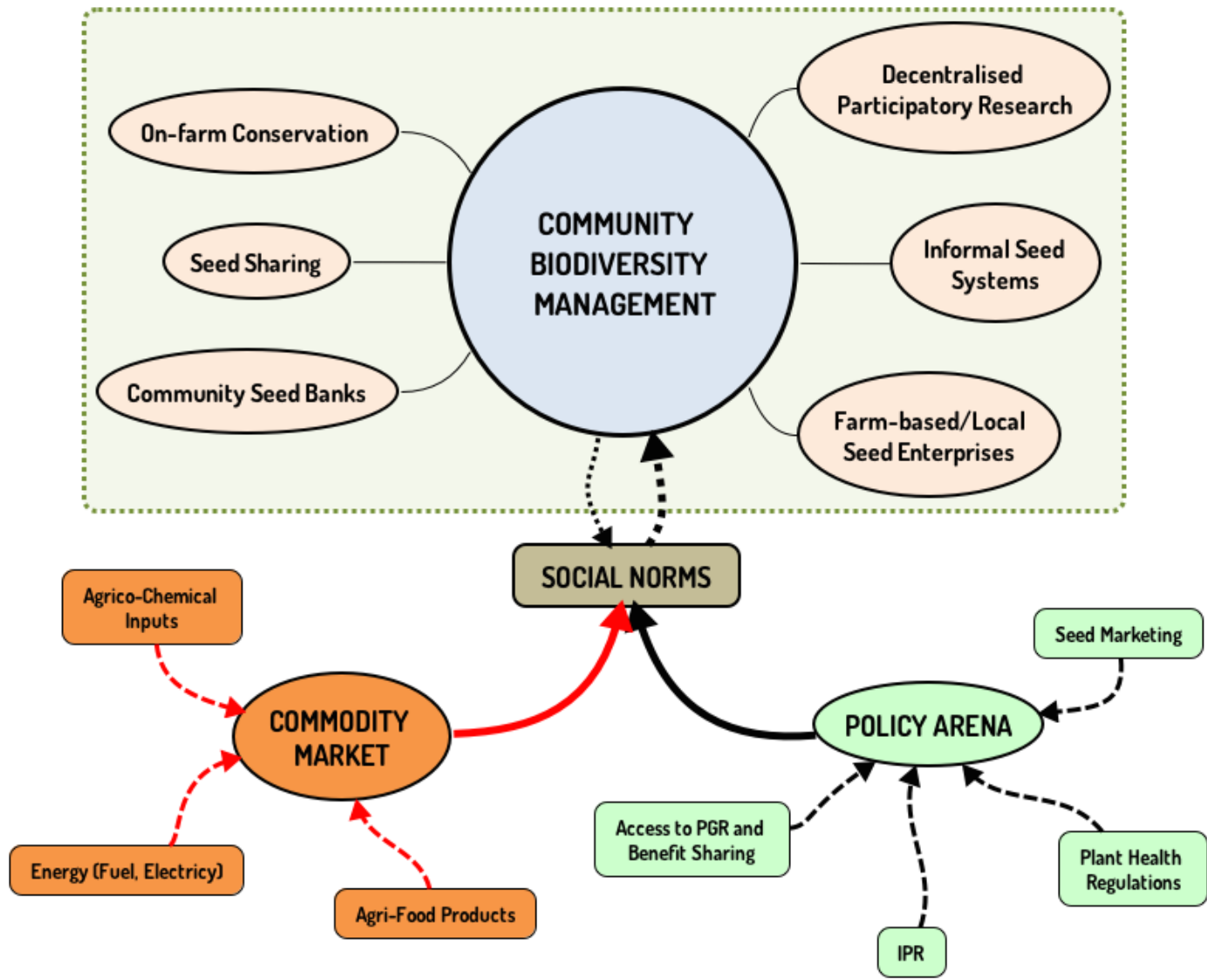
Reciprocity



# 8 years of European research projects between conservation and innovation..







## Key points for the Seed reform:

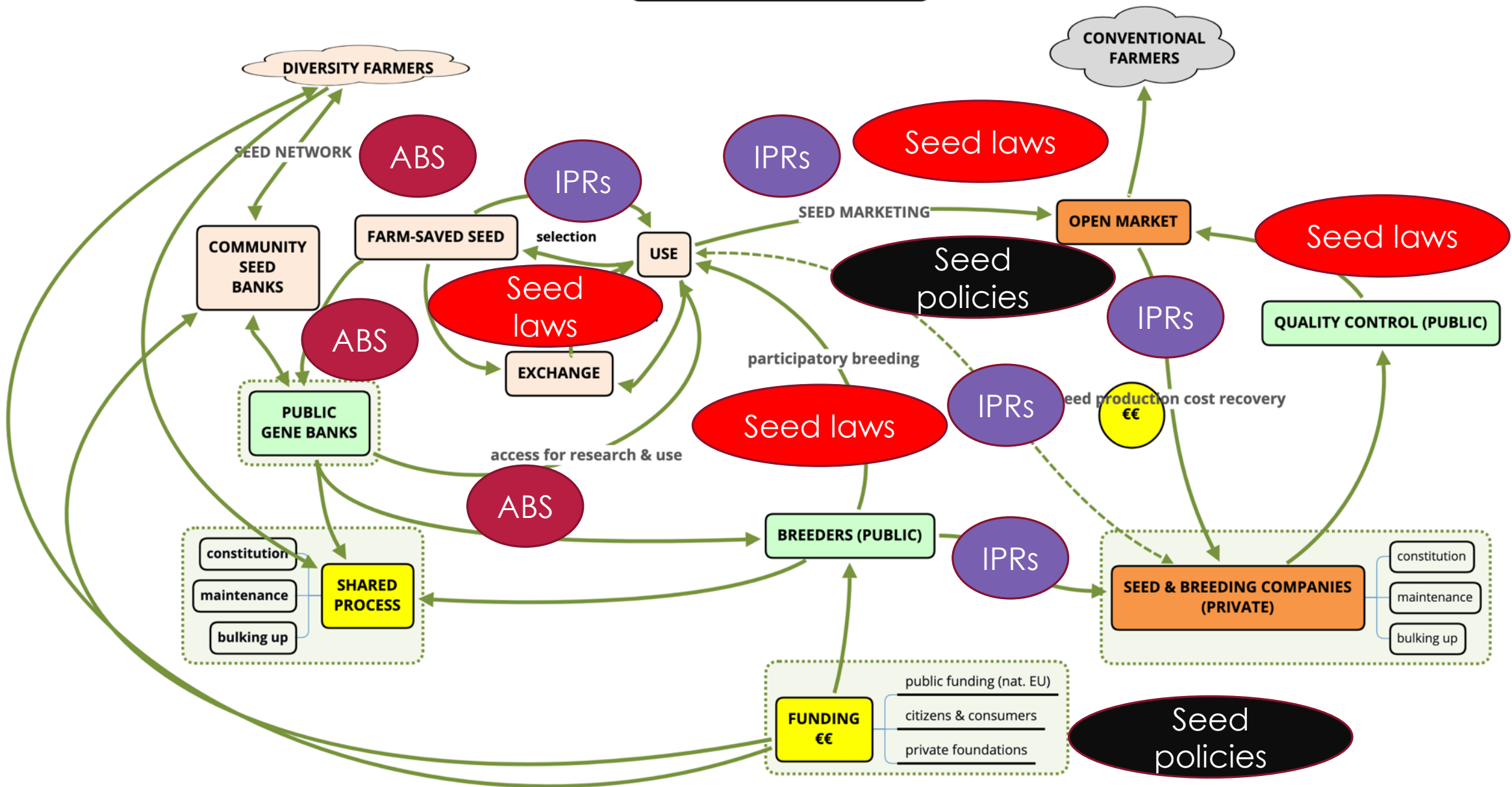
1. Seed conservation network outside the scope of the legislation;
2. No mandatory registration for the varieties circulated within the network;
3. No IPRs on the varieties;
4. Traceability of the breeding process;
5. Avoiding burdens for the operators.

In 2008 the Food Chain Evaluation Consortium already suggested that: “that the two different systems of the large commercial breeding companies and the smaller market or regional breeders and producers could run side by side because they are targeting completely different markets”





DIVERSIFIED SEED SYSTEM



A detailed still life painting of a woman, likely a personification of Agriculture or a noblewoman, seated amidst a vast array of fresh produce. The scene is filled with baskets and bowls of various fruits and vegetables, including lemons, grapes, tomatoes, and leafy greens. In the background, a woman and a child are visible in a garden setting. The overall composition is rich and detailed, with a focus on the textures and colors of the food.

REINVENTING FARMING,  
BRINGING BACK  
DIVERSITY TO FARMING  
SYSTEMS, CREATING  
NEW SYSTEMS OF RULES  
ADAPTED TO THESE  
CHALLENGES



## SOME FURTHER READINGS

- N. Louwaars, Seeds of Confusion, PhD Dissertation, 2007.
- N. Louwaars, Plant breeding and diversity : A troubled relationship ?, Euphytica, 2018.
- N. Louwaars, W.S. de Boef, Integrated Seed Sector Development in Africa: A Conceptual Framework for Creating Coherence Between Practices, Programs, and Policies, Journal of Crop Improvement, 2012.
- C. Fowler, Unnatural Selection: Technology, Politics, and Plant Evolution, 1994
- F. Batur, R. Bocci, B. Bartha, 2021, Marketing Farmers' Varieties in Europe: Encouraging Pathways with Missing Links for the Recognition and Support of Farmer Seed Systems, Agronomy 11(11):2159

Technical manual series on Community Seed Banks



Manual 1  
Community Seed Banks  
Establishment, management and governance



Technical manual series on Community Seed Banks



Manual 2  
Community Seed Banks  
Documentation systems: a tool for data and information management



Manual #1

Community Seed Banks "Establishment, management and governance"

Banques de semences communautaires "Création, gestion et

Technical manual series on Community Seed Banks



Manual 3  
Community Seed Banks:  
access to germplasm and benefit sharing models



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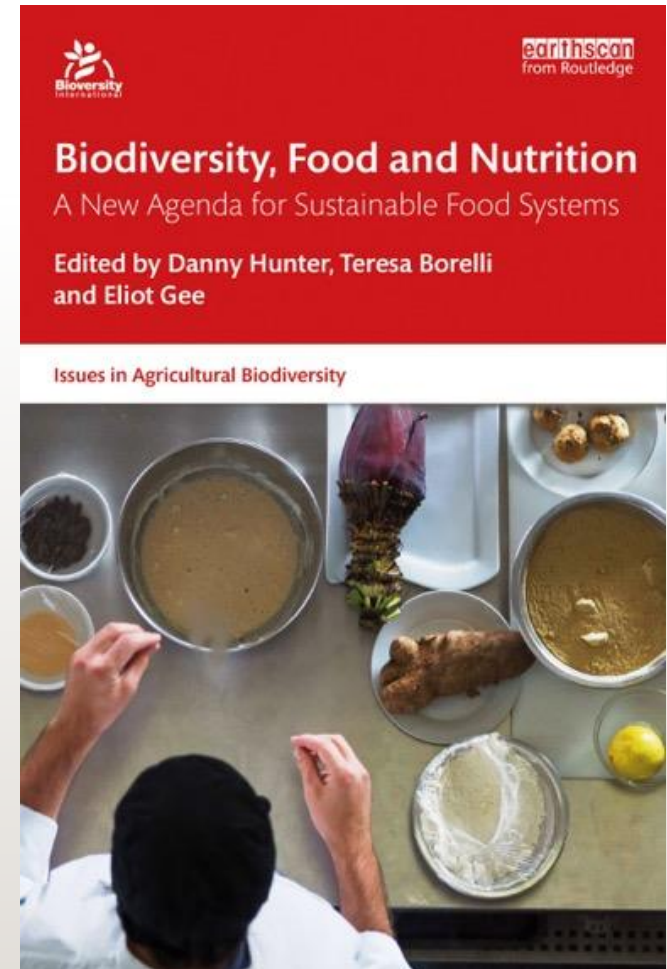
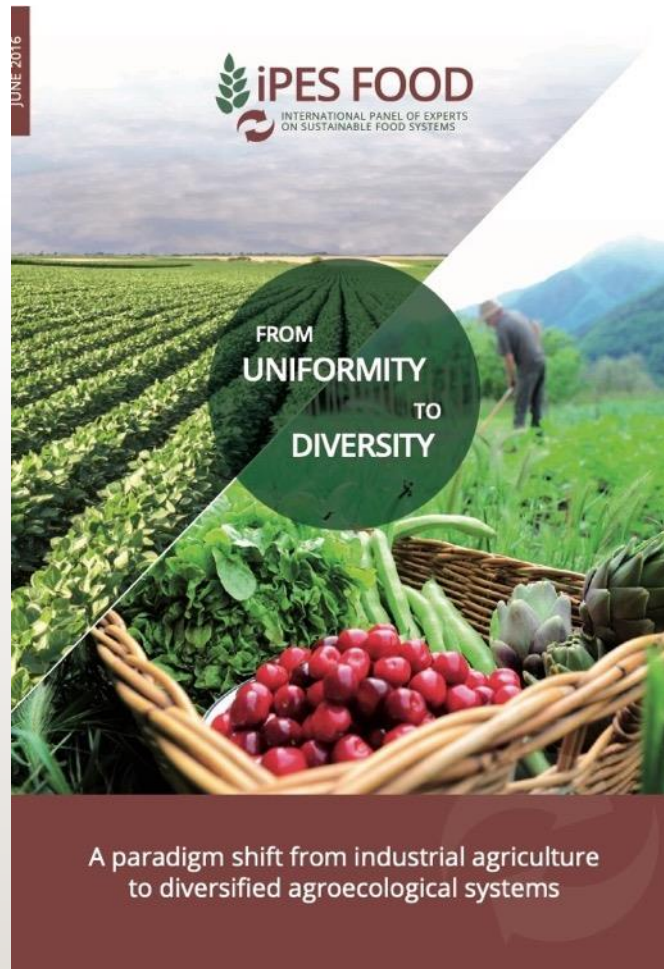
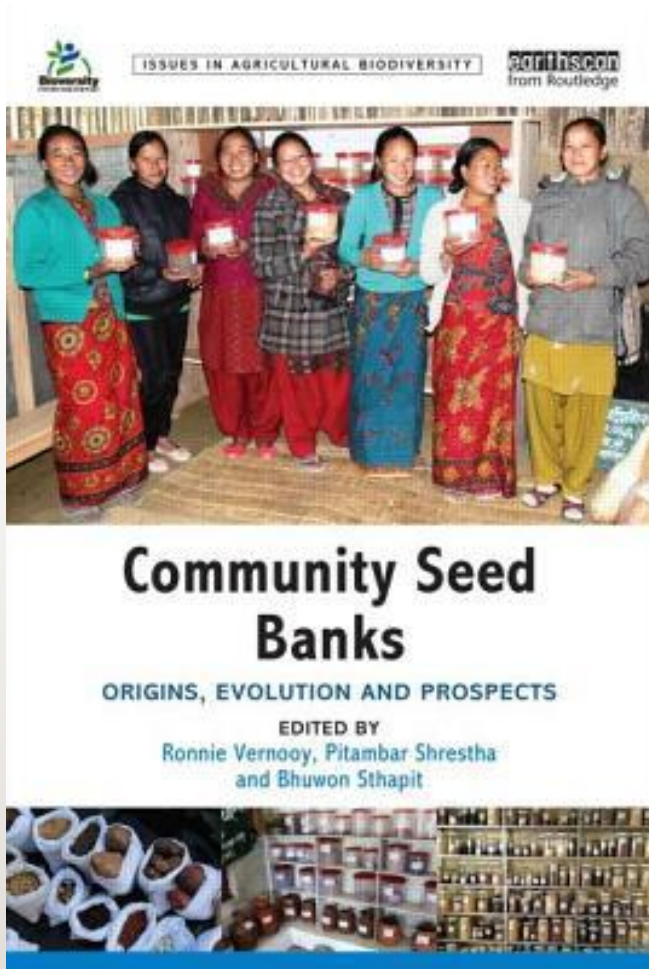
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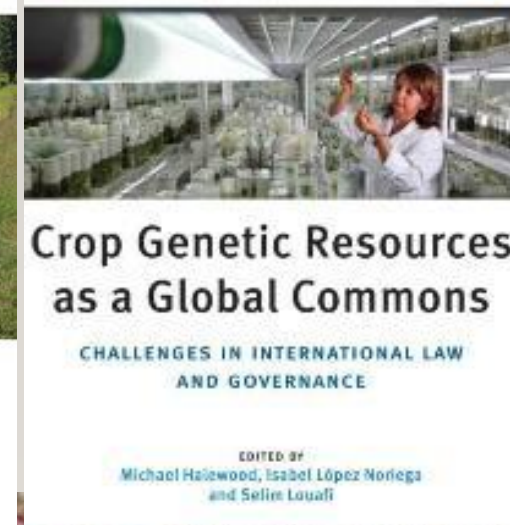
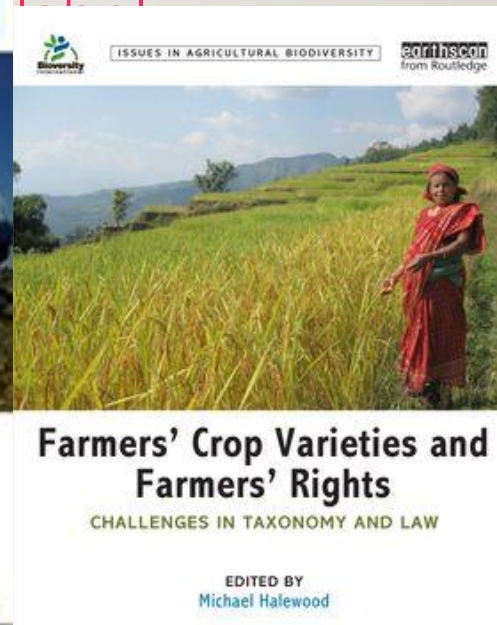
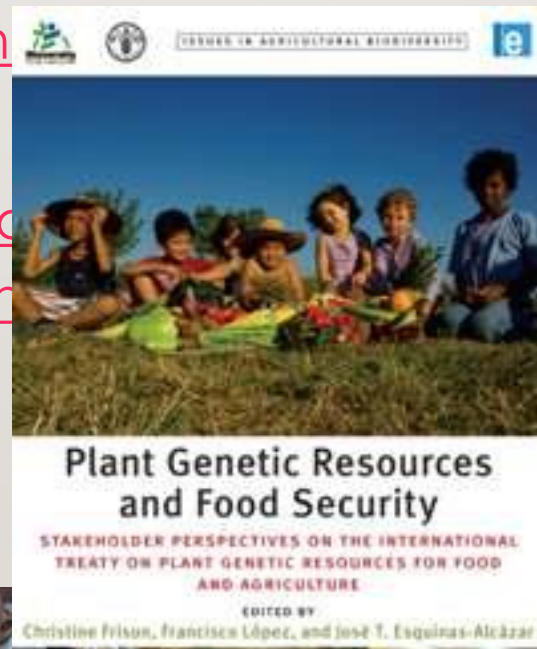
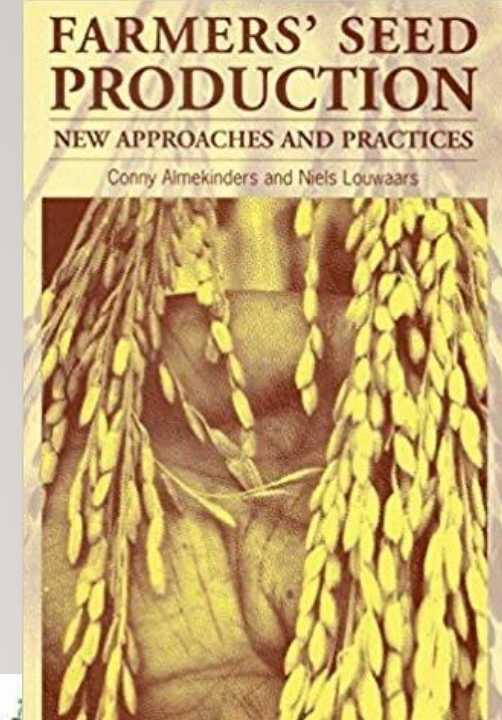






# RESOURCES

- <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/overview/en/>
- <https://enb.iisd.org/biodiv/itpgrfa/gb8/>
- [https://www.bioversityinternational.org/index.php?id=244&tx\\_news\\_pi1%5Bnews%5D=8690](https://www.bioversityinternational.org/index.php?id=244&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=8690)
- <https://www.bioversityinternational.org/e-library/publications/detail/crop-gen-commons/>
- <https://www.bioversityinternational.org/e-library/publications/detail/plant-gen-security/>





► <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuAduRqbEjk&list=PLQ8E5W9xFGdLTccwi44FL0LPsZ-oDwNOw&index=5&t=26s>

