



Connecting farmers through community-level institutions to strengthen on-farm conservation

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Three Pillars of On-Farm Conservation

Adapt	Maintain	Promote
<p>Dynamic process of conservation</p> <p>Crops continually adapted to local climatic conditions, pests, disease, cultural requirements and preferences</p> <p>Varieties introduced and discontinued</p> <p>New skills and techniques developed to improve performance</p>	<p>Cultivation of traditional crops and landraces, rare and endangered varieties,</p> <p>Application and transmission of knowledge</p>	<p>Sharing seed</p> <p>Sharing knowledge</p> <p>Marketing traditional diversity</p>



Current Definition of Custodian Farmers

Custodian farmers are those farmers (men and women) who actively **maintain, adapt and disseminate** agricultural biodiversity and related knowledge, over time and space, at farm and community levels and are recognized by community members for it. Often, custodian farmers are actively supported in their efforts by family or household members.

From the Workshop on Custodian Farmers of Agricultural Biodiversity: Policy support for their roles in use and conservation (New Delhi, 11-12 February 2013)



Custodian Farmer Roles

Adapt	Maintain	Promote
Selecting high quality seed and seed with desirable attributes	<u>Cultivating crops:</u> preparing the land, building, fertilizing, grafting, planting, transplanting, grafting, watering, weeding, controlling pests, etc.	Sharing seeds with other community members and farmers from other communities
Developing and introducing new varieties	Harvesting crops	Sharing knowledge associated with crops
Experimenting with new farming techniques or post-harvest processes	Storing seed	Improving marketability of crops through value-addition
Participating in farmer field schools and participatory breeding/ selection activities	Holding knowledge associated with crops: cultivation and use	Showcasing crops and seeds at diversity fairs
		Engaging with the community



All Custodian Farmers Maintain Diversity

Within farming communities one can find

- a) farmers who maintain
- b) farmers who maintain and promote
- c) farmers who maintain and adapt
- d) farmers who maintain, adapt and promote



From the Workshop on Custodian Farmers of Agricultural Biodiversity: Policy support for their roles in use and conservation (New Delhi, 11-12 February 2013):



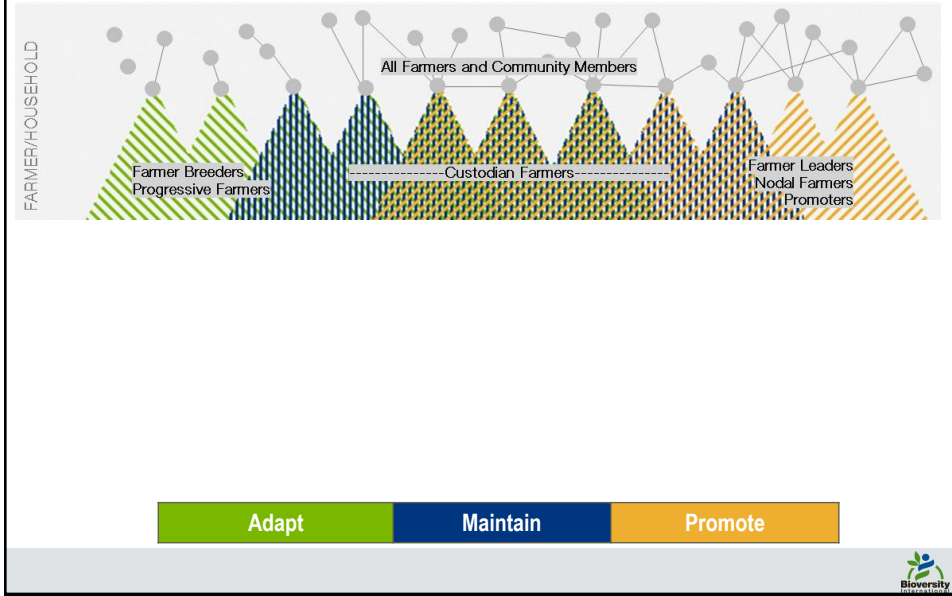
Custodians for different crop types

Custodian farmers may specialize on a particular crop type or may care for a range of species

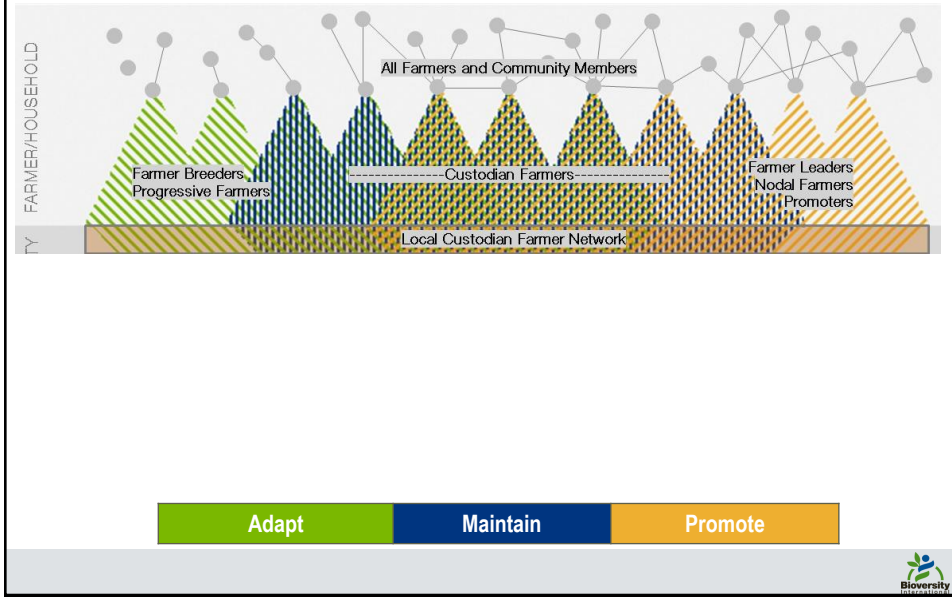
Division of tasks for different crops may occur within the household or within the community



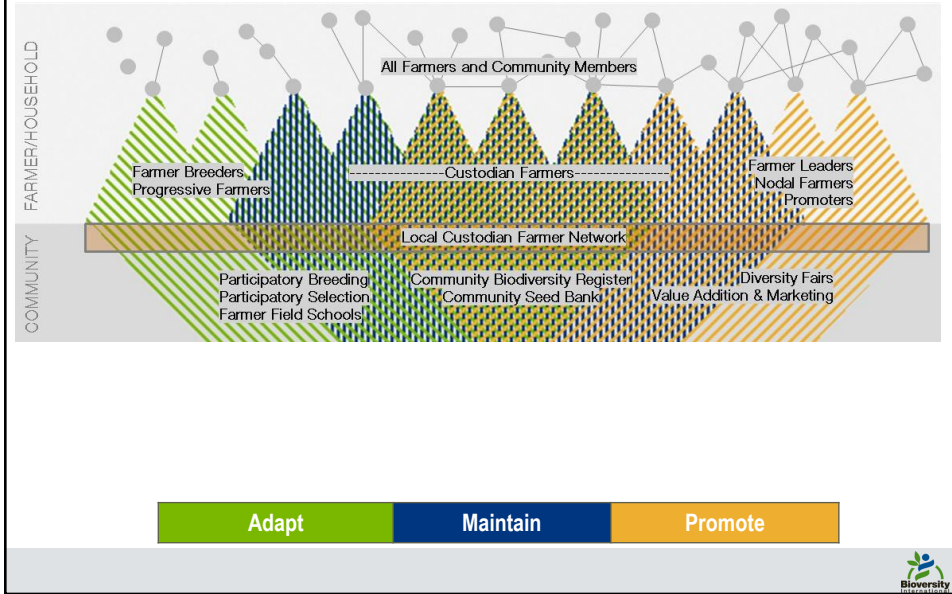
Custodian Farmers



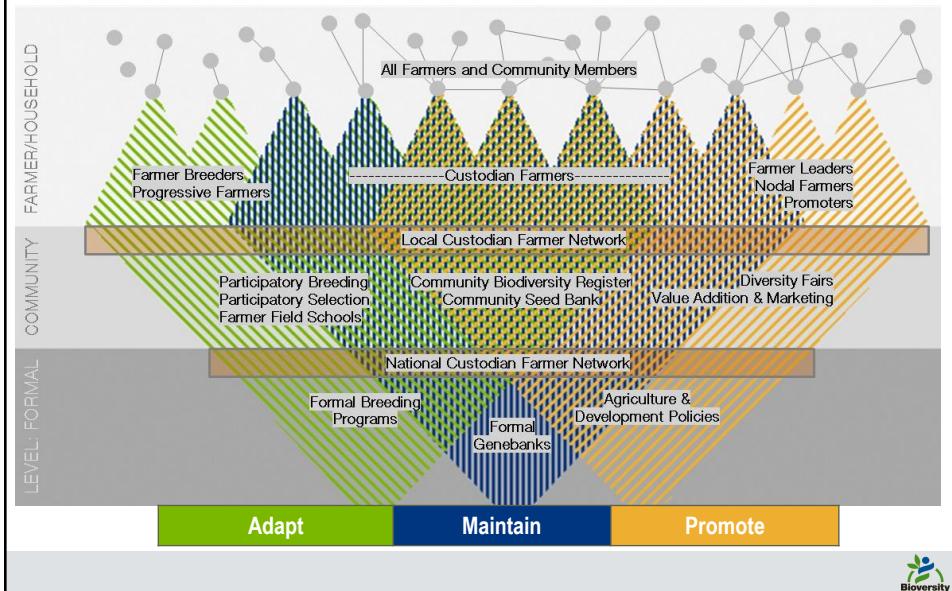
Custodian Farmer Network



Formal Level Supports Conservation



Formal Level Supports Conservation



Shared Custodianship in Household



Adapt

Maintain

Promote

Wife

Husband



Custodian Farmer Roles

Adapt	Maintain	Promote
<p>Selecting high quality seed and seed with desirable attributes</p> <p>Developing and introducing new varieties</p> <p>Experimenting with new farming techniques or post-harvest processes</p> <p>Participating in farmer field schools and participatory breeding/ selection activities</p>	<p><u>Cultivating crops:</u> preparing the land, building, fertilizing, grafting, planting, transplanting, grafting, watering, weeding, controlling pests, etc.</p> <p>Harvesting crops</p> <p>Storing seed</p> <p>Holding knowledge associated with crops: cultivation and use</p>	<p>Sharing seeds with other community members and farmers from other communities</p> <p>Sharing knowledge associated with crops</p> <p>Improving marketability of crops through value-addition</p> <p>Showcasing crops and seeds at diversity fairs</p> <p>Engaging with the community</p>





Consolidating Initiatives to Maintain, Adapt, and Promote Crop Diversity at Different Levels

First Step: To understand what contributions to maintaining, adapting and promoting are made at individual, household and community scales and see if there are gaps.

This will be the subject of the group discussions today

Tomorrow we will discuss ideas for how to strengthen these roles by connecting farmers in the community



Thank you

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