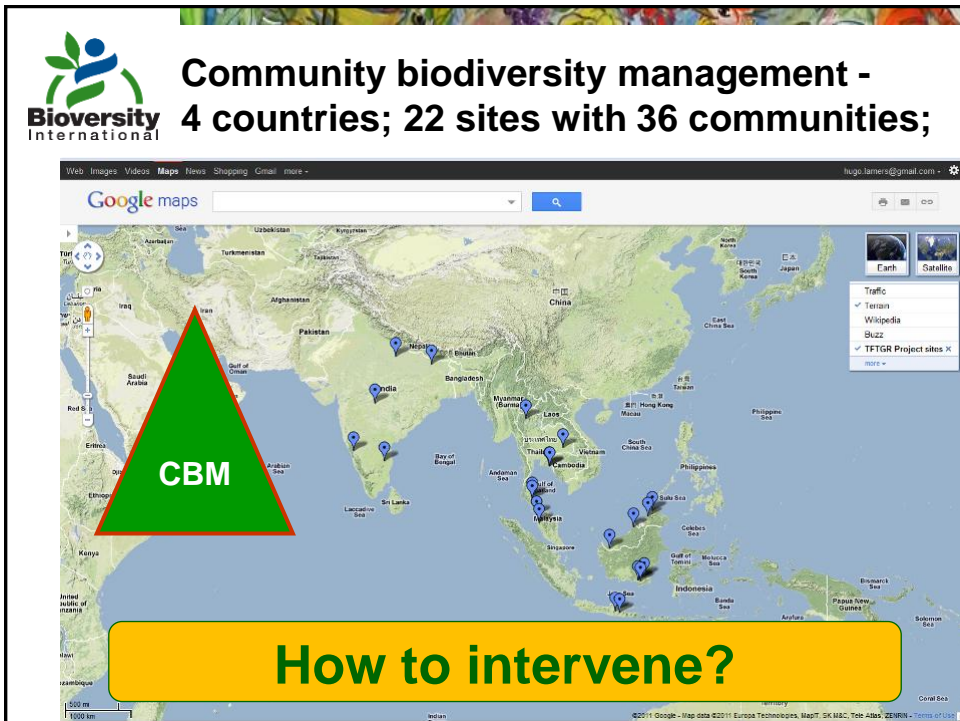


Custodian Farmer Workshop Delhi Feb 2013
Update on insights and findings
 Hugo Lamers, Phokara, Nepal 30 July – 02 Aug 2013

Outline of presentation

Custodian farmers:

- From fruit trees to CF
- Identification
- Documentation
- Functions
- Motivations
- Assistance requested
- Linkages
- Reflections from CF





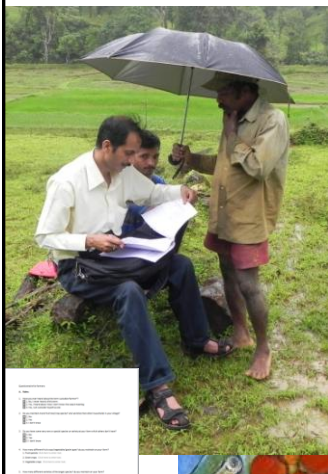
Two lessons:

1. Not all men and women are equally involved
2. Entry point to work with communities



Activities

1. Profiles of custodian farmers
Personal description



The Custodian of Richest Diversity of Seedling Mangos in Pasa Block, Samsatpur, India
Vinod Rai

...of the forest that have been lost, the old custodian of the seedling mangos with unique and specific characteristics is Vinod Rai, a custodian of the rich diversity of mangos in Pasa Block, Samsatpur, India. He has been cultivating mangos for over 40 years and has a deep knowledge of the different varieties and their characteristics. He has been instrumental in the conservation and promotion of these varieties, which are now being grown in a community seedling bank. The seedling bank is a place where farmers can get high-quality seedlings for their own farms, and it is also a place where they can learn about the different varieties and their characteristics. The seedling bank is a great example of how a community can work together to conserve and promote its own diversity.

Motivation
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The Custodian of Indigenous Mango Diversity in Pasa Block, Samsatpur, India
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3. Exercises Motivations, policies



2. Questionnaire
Functions, motivation, support, linkages

How to identify custodian farmers?

- Formulate **checklist questions** based on definition, functions and characteristics of a custodian farmer
- Use **earlier information** collected during FGD, FCA and baseline survey to identify list of potential men and women
- Conduct **FGD** or consult **key community informants** to discuss the definition, functions and characteristics for identifying potential candidates
- Short-list potential 5-6 farmers in each community per site and carry-out several **informal interviews** with selected individuals and families to document their story
- **Record** conversations by audio or video recorders, take pictures of farmer, family and surroundings
- Use **four cell analyses** to assess level of diversity on-farm
- Most importantly, try to understand **triggers and driving factors** of farmers to maintain, adapt or promote diversity

How to document custodian farmers?



Profile structure:

- Introduction – *household, landscape, farm, livelihood*
- Maintain – *which crops and landraces?*
- Promote – *share knowledge and seeds – what and how?*
- Adapt – *improve, evaluate or select seeds – what and how?*
- Motivations – *Anecdotal stories showcasing why?*
- Unique features – *why different then others?*
- Continuation – *involve younger generation?*
- Support – *needs and requests?*

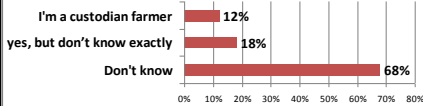


Custodian farmer functions

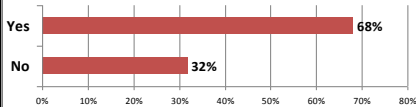
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	species	varieties
AVERAGE	17.68	22.95
STDEV	16.84	27.58
MIN	1	3
MAX	70	138

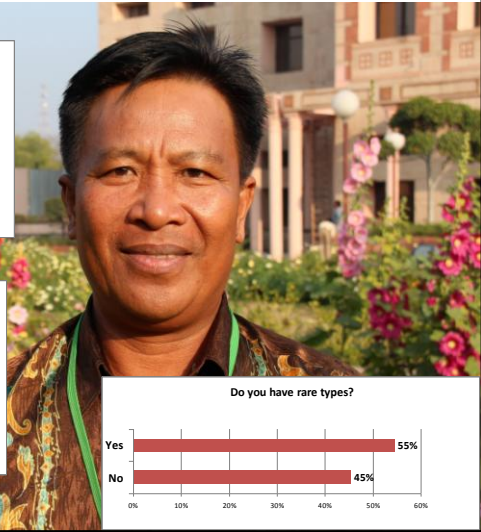
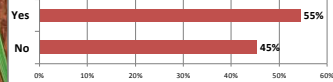
Do you know term custodian farmer?



Do you have more diversity than others?



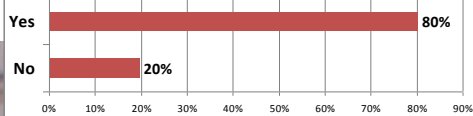
Do you have rare types?



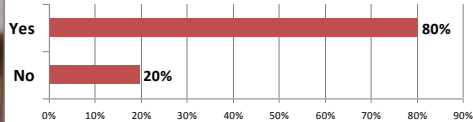
Custodian farmer functions

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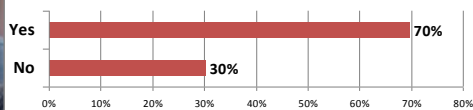
Do you share or exchange plant material?



Do other farmers ask your help or advice for buying or selecting seed material?



Did you experiment or improve seed material by selection of mother plants or apply grafting?



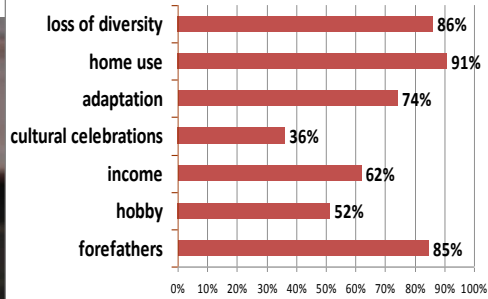


Custodian farmer motivations

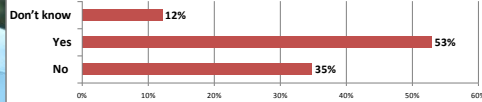
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Why do you maintain a wide range of different fruit tree species and varieties at your farm?



Actually I could get more income if I replace and grow only commercial types

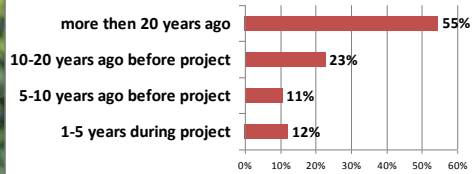


Custodian farmers Continuation

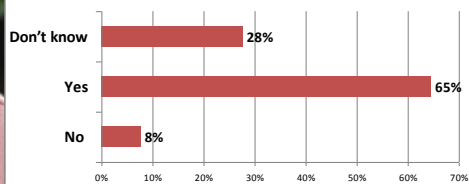
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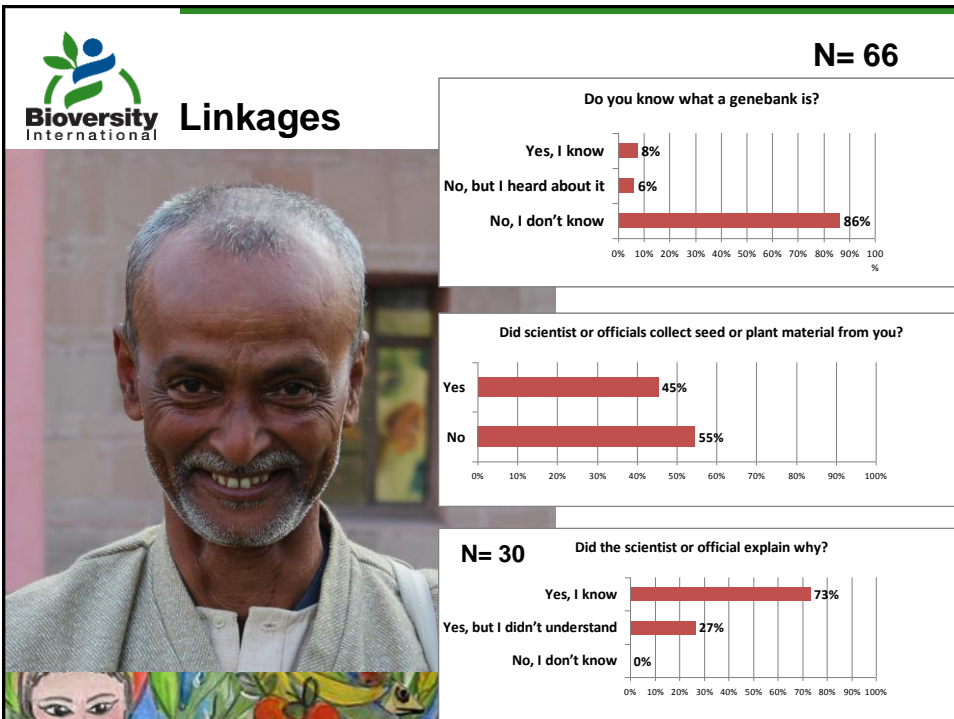


When did you start to be concerned and interested in fruit tree or grain crop diversity?



Do you think your children or a younger person will take over?





TECHNICAL ISSUES

- Limitation of the land (area)
- Early spraying (?)
- Electricity problem (related to irrigation)
- Unavailability of irrigation facilities in the orchard (3 times)
- Pruning of extra branches/leaves
- Maintenance (3 times)
- Inputs (3 times)
- Technical knowhow of orchard management of mango
- Labour problem/labour shortage (2 times)



MARKET AND USE

- Non-availability of marketing channels for the product such as Garcinia (Main reason if there is a fluctuation in prices from year to year)
- Economic use from the rare species/varieties still low
- Markets (3 times)
- There are still no processing products developed that match with the unique varieties
- Lack of market facilities, labour scarcity, protocol of value addition
- Traditional varieties have comparatively less yield (2 times)





PROPAGATION AND EXCHANGE

- to collect seeds of tropical fruit species in forest
- production of planting material
- to identify and get a female tree have to wait until 7 years when it start flowering
- grafting technique skills still weak
- there still no disease free seedling for propagation
- Maintaining seeds for seed purpose is being difficult.
- seedling of rare species/variety are very hard to get
- costly planting material etc.



ENVIRONMENTAL

- Climate change (2 times)
- flooding in planting area
- Some plants I have from other areas cannot withstand tusaro. Might need greenhouse to help these trees establish. For the rest, not much difficulty.
- Protecting from birds on farm
- Lack of timely rain fall/water scarcity



SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL

- Collaboration with the community.
- Awareness of conservation and conscious mind
- lack of formal support



Reflections on workshop 11-12 Feb 2013

- Mr. Palin from Papar, Malaysia Happy and excited about the workshop – feels responsibility to create awareness about conservation of fruit trees among youth and other farmers and will try to find more custodians in his village





Bioversity Reflections

- Mr. Suradet from Chiangmai, Thailand: Delhi is a nice city. The meeting, exchange of knowledge was very educated and difficult to grasp sometimes. However it was interesting to learn from other farmers and other countries about their crops and varieties.



Dhanyawad!

