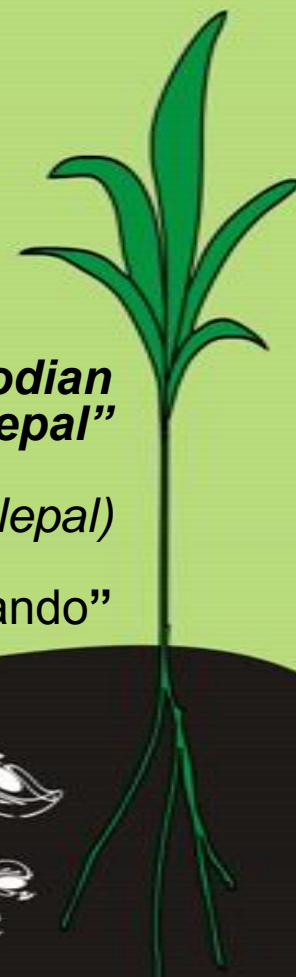


The role of seed networks in the management and use of cultivated biodiversity: the case of Spain

National Workshop “Enhancing the contribution of custodian farmers to the National plant genetic resources system in Nepal”

31st July to 2nd August 2013, Pokhara (Nepal)

María Carrascosa - Red de Semillas “Resembrando e Intercambiando”



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The current state of
agricultural biodiversity

The Spanish Seed Network

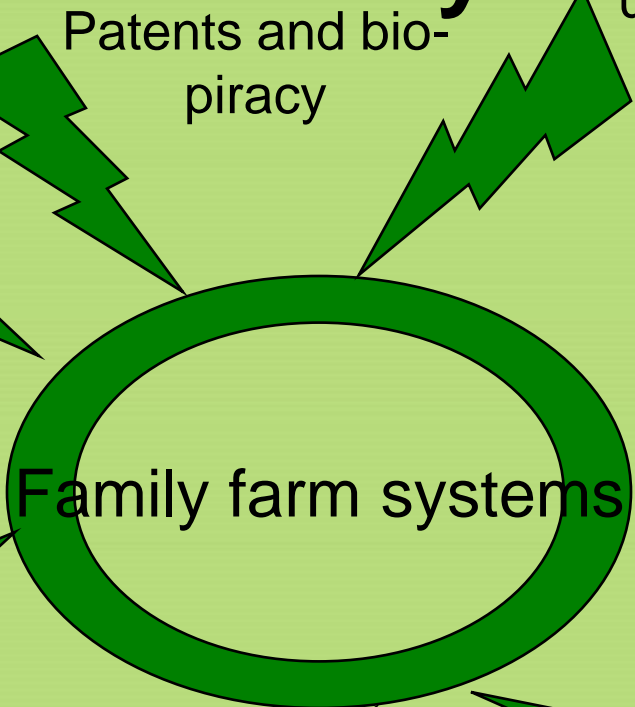
Local Seed Networks:
working from a local level



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The current state of agricultural biodiversity



Crops subsidies with certified seeds

Patents and bio-piracy

Research in intensive and unsustainable agriculture

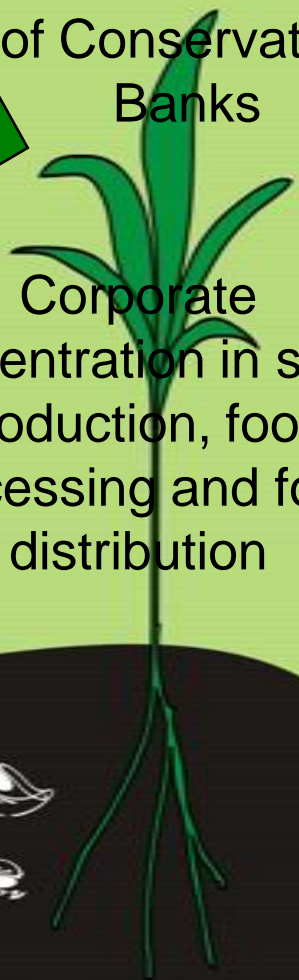
Difficulty of access and contamination of Conservation Banks

Corporate concentration in seed production, food processing and food distribution

Economical and climatic crisis

GMO Crops

Disappearance of farmers' and traditional knowledge



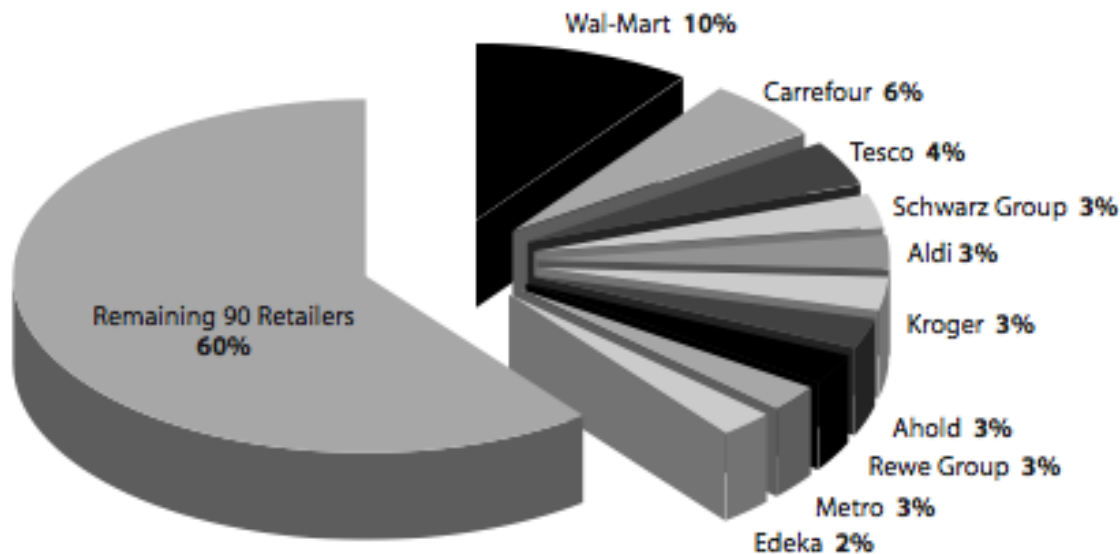
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The current state of agricultural biodiversity

Monopoly in the food processing and distribution chain:
Intended cultural and food habits standardization.

Global Food Retailers: Top 10 Account for 40% of Groceries Sold by Top 100



Grocery sales of top 100 retailers in 2007= US\$1.8 trillion

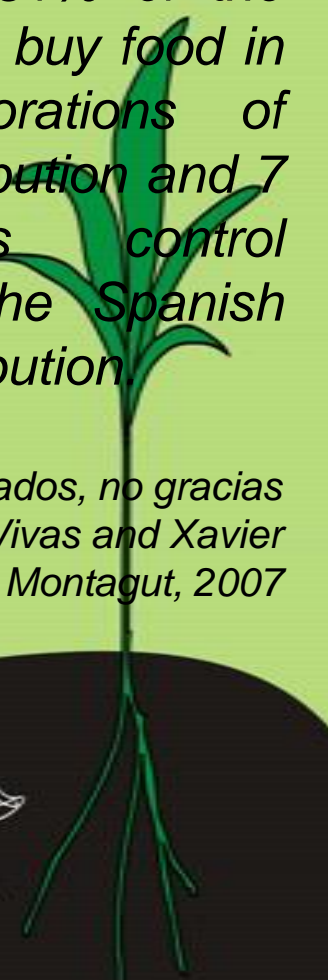
Who Owns Nature? Corporate Power and the Final Frontier in the Commodification of Life. ETC Group, November 2008.

In Spain 81% of the population buy food in big corporations of food distribution and 7 enterprises control 75% of the Spanish food distribution.

*Supermercados, no gracias
Ester Vivas and Xavier
Montagut, 2007*

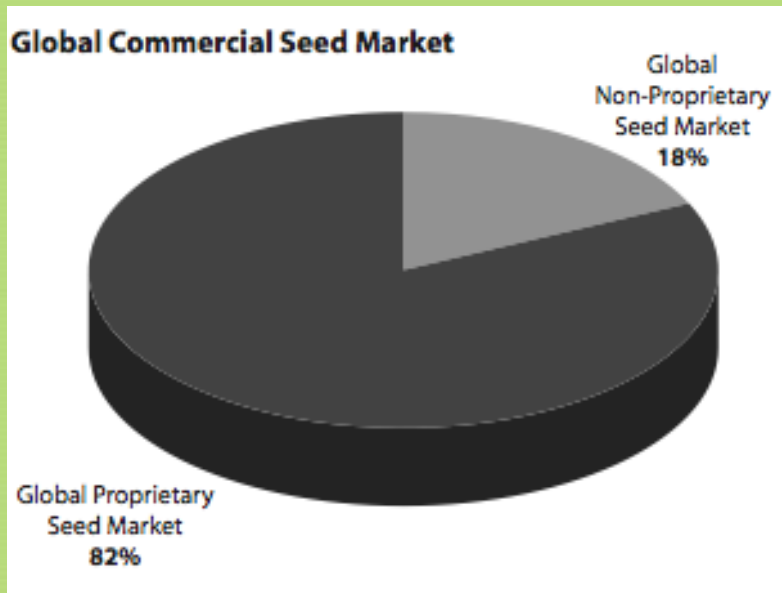


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The current state of agricultural biodiversity

Use of the **Intellectual Property Rights** as a powerful tool to strengthen the **monopoly of the corporations and consolidate their power in the market.**

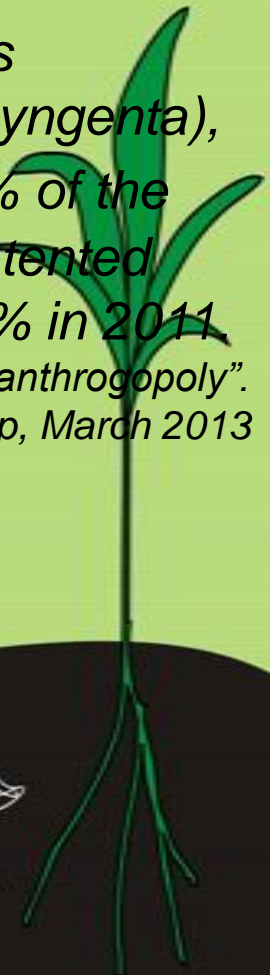


The 3 main companies (Monsanto, DuPont, Syngenta), have passed from 22% of the world market of the patented seeds in 1996 to 53,4% in 2011.
Gene Giants Seek "Philanthrogopoly".
ETC Group, March 2013

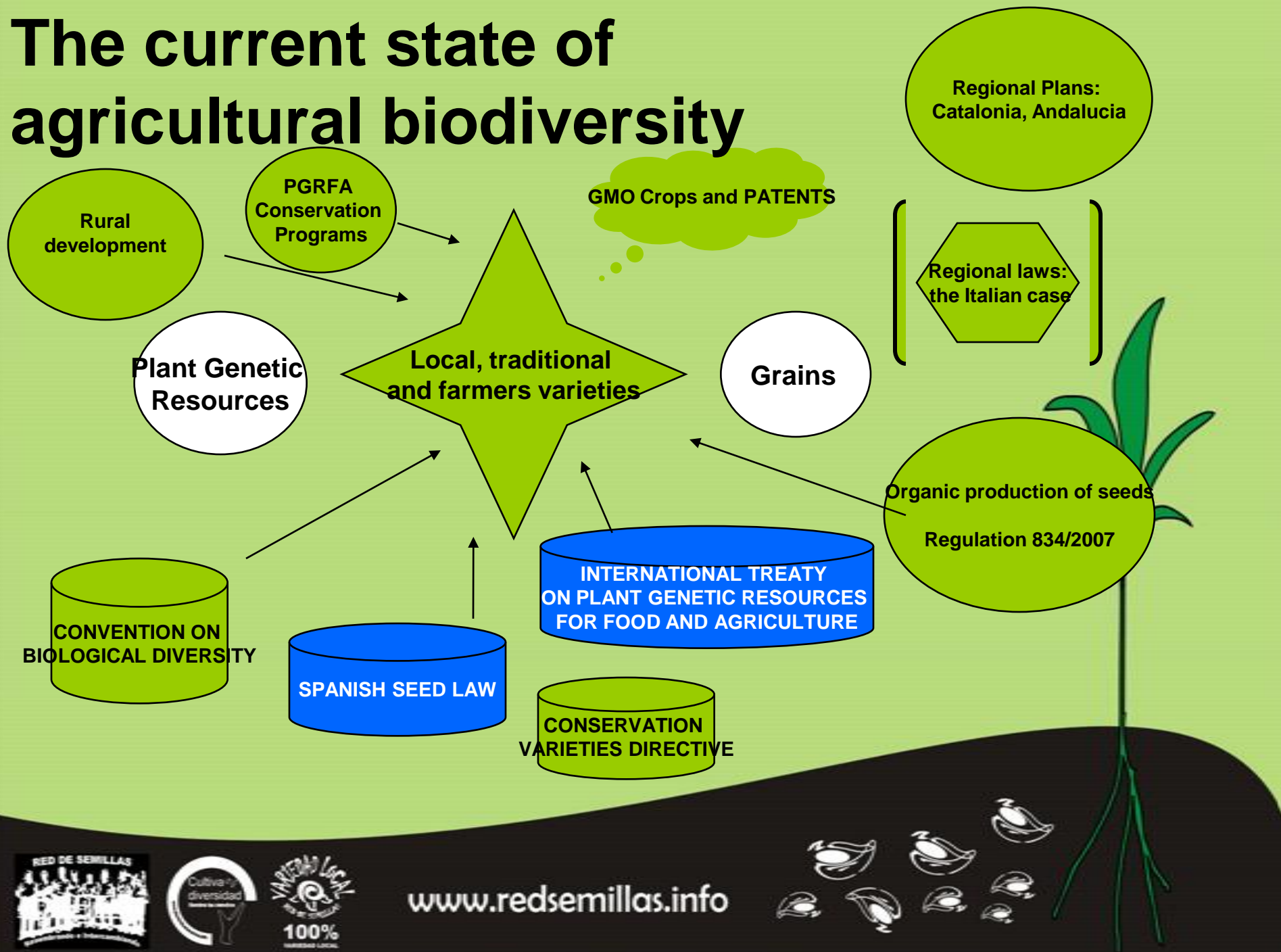
Who Owns Nature? Corporate Power and the Final Frontier in the Commodification of Life. ETC Group, November 2008.



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The current state of agricultural biodiversity



Where are we going?

Farmers' Right

Food sovereignty

Participative
research in
agroecological
systems

Creation of micro
enterprises
managed by
small farmers
and seed
networks

Elimination of
the use of
certified seeds as
a condition for
receiving certain
subsidies

Family farming systems

Ease of access
to Conservation
Banks

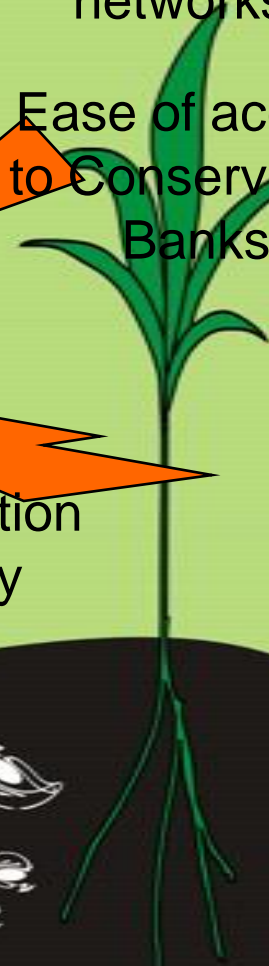
Eradication
of GMO crops

Recovery of traditional and
farmers' knowledge

Local food production
and short supply
channels

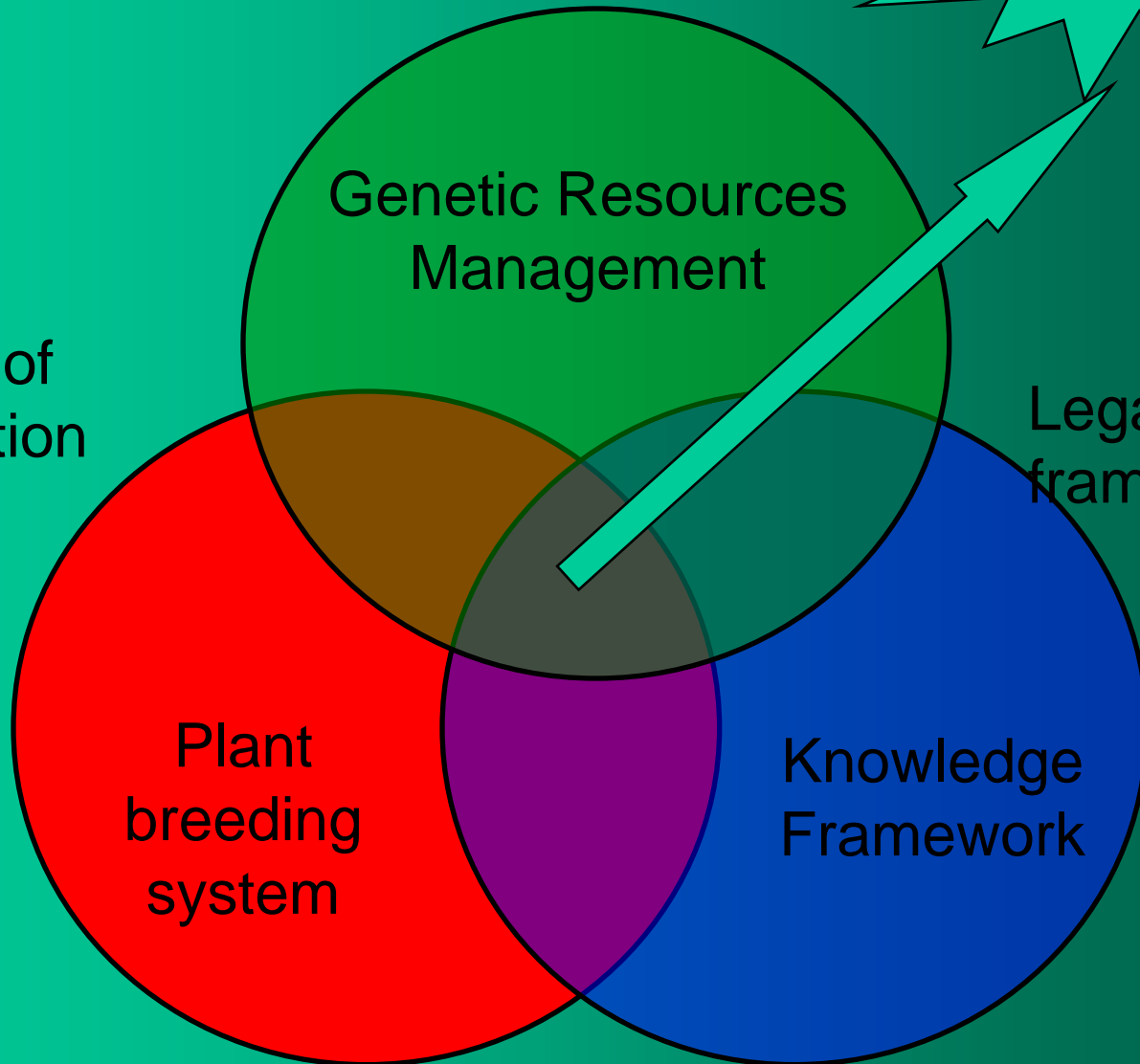


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Factors involved in seed production

Means of production



Legal framework

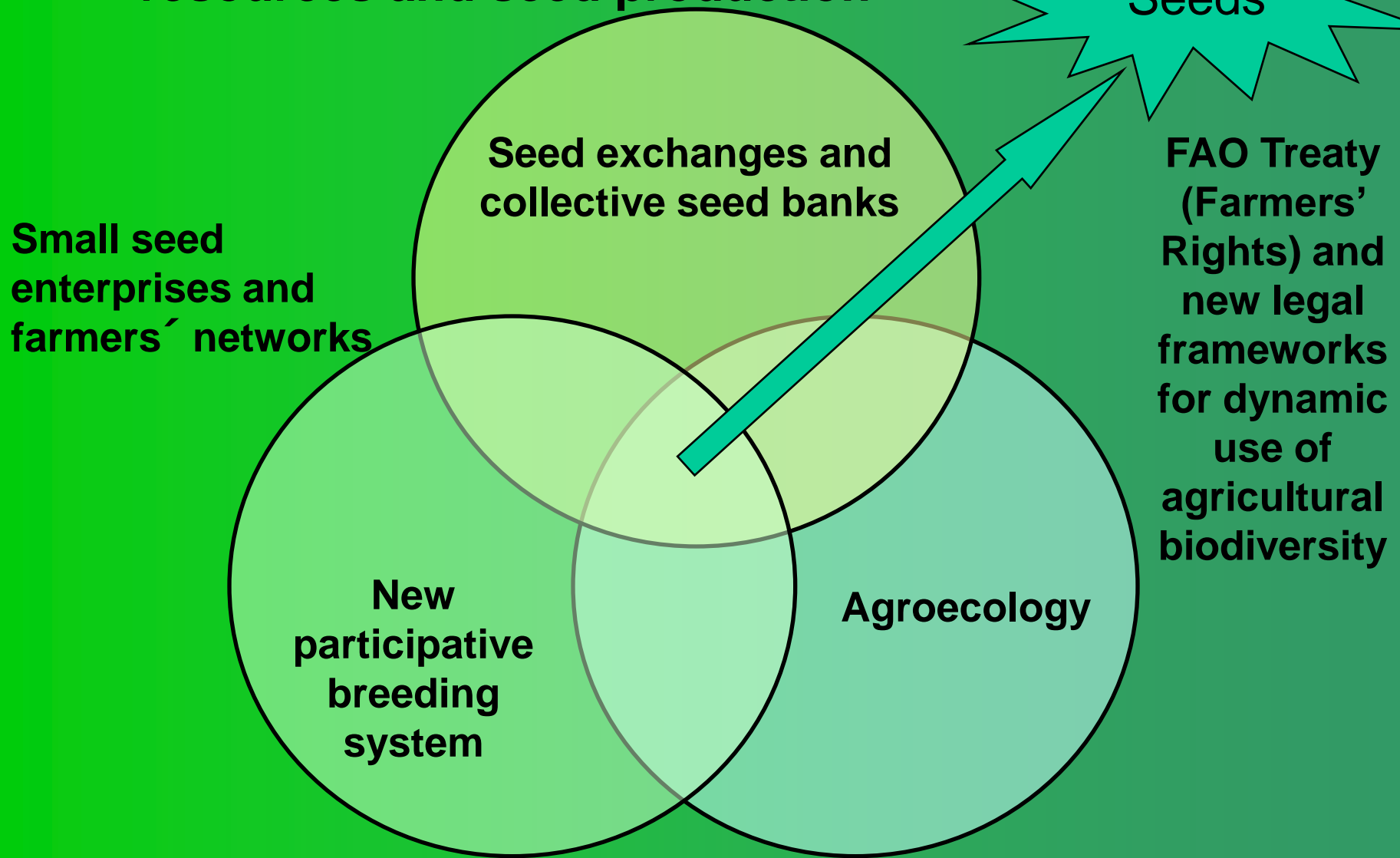
Seeds

Plant
breeding
system

Knowledge
Framework

Genetic Resources
Management

Sustainable management of the genetic resources and seed production



The current state of agricultural biodiversity

WE ARE VERY OPTIMISTIC AND HAPPY:

- Agricultural biodiversity in Spain is still very big.
- The number of farmers and collectives working in the dynamic conservation and use of farmers' varieties is increasing.



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What is the Spanish Seed Network?

- Decentralized organization of a technical, social and political nature that has been active for the last 14 years.
- Federation that brings together more than 26 local seed networks.

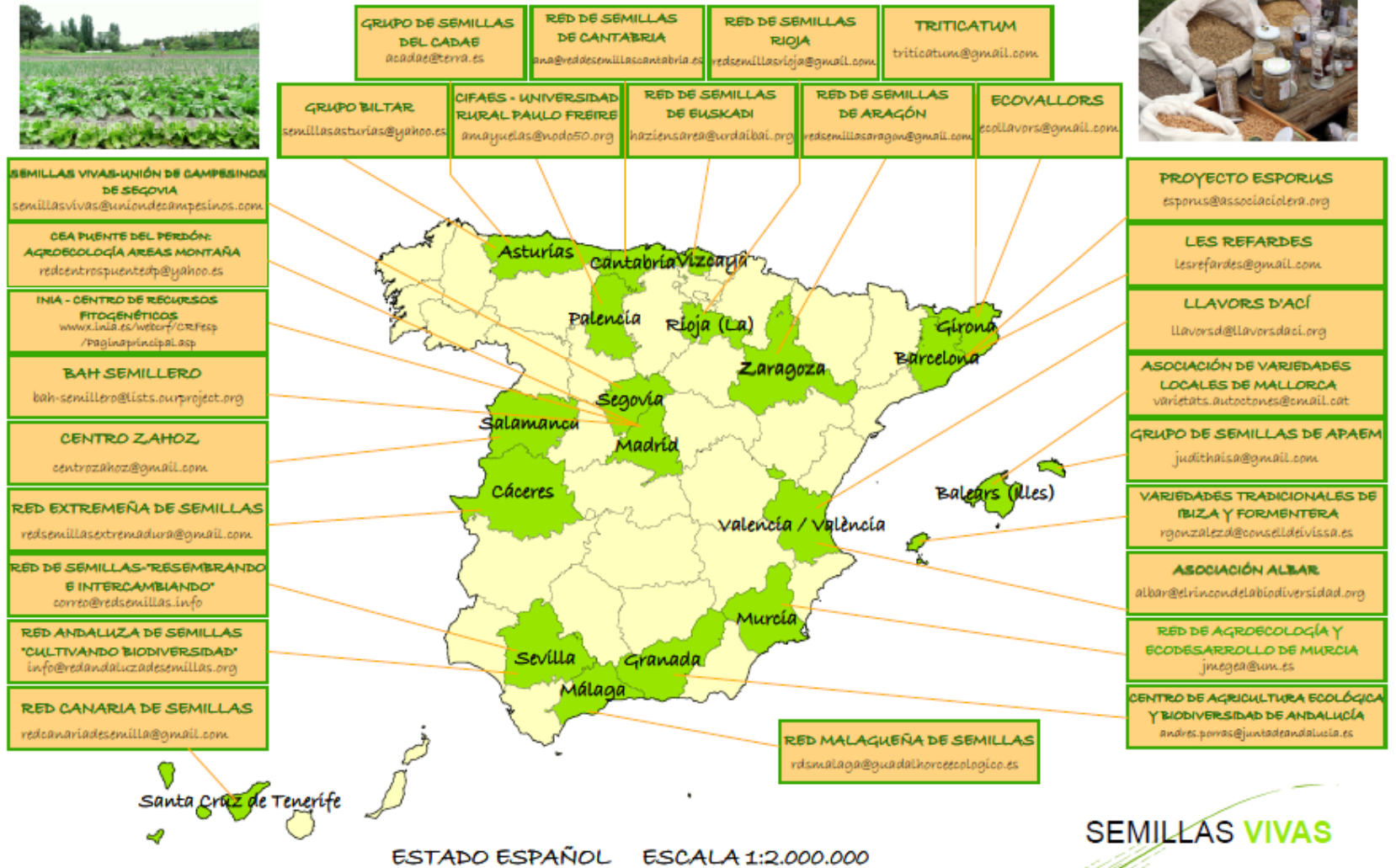


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What is the Spanish Seed Network?

PROYECTOS DE USO Y CONSERVACIÓN DE LA BIODIVERSIDAD CULTIVADA



ESTADO ESPAÑOL ESCALA 1:2.000.000

SEMILLAS VIVAS

What is the Spanish Seed Network?

Members:

- Farmers and farmer organisations
- Technicians and agricultural experts
- Supporters of responsible consumption
- Local action groups
- University staff and students
- Ecologist movements
- Researchers
- All kinds of different collectives



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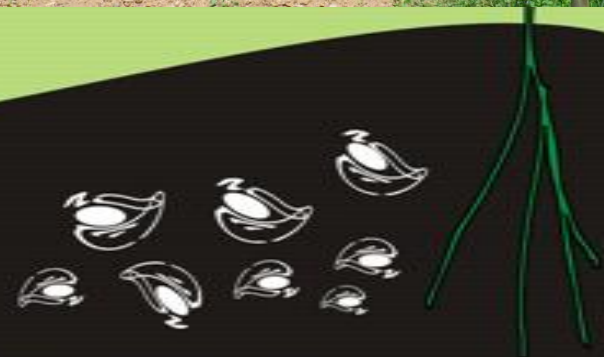
What is the Spanish Seed Network?

Main objectives

- Reintroduction of local, traditional and farmers' varieties in the agri-food system, in the framework of the agroecology, food autonomy and family farming system.
- Helping to coordinate activities amongst the different members and promoting their participation in the national and international level.

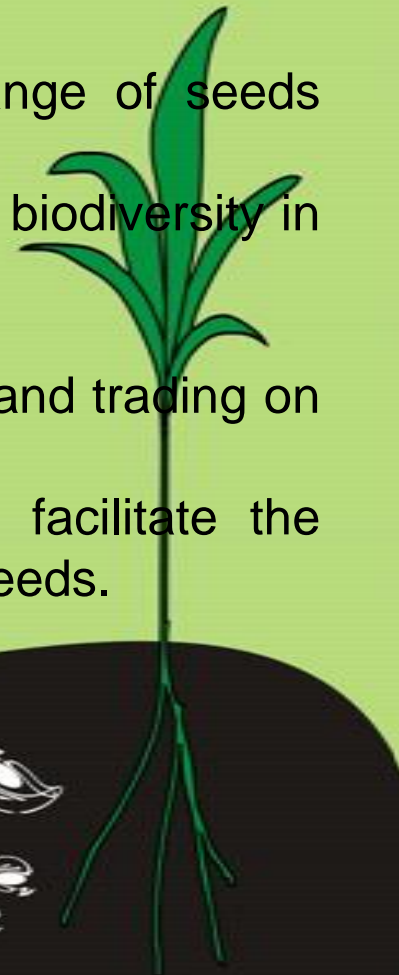


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Our specific objectives

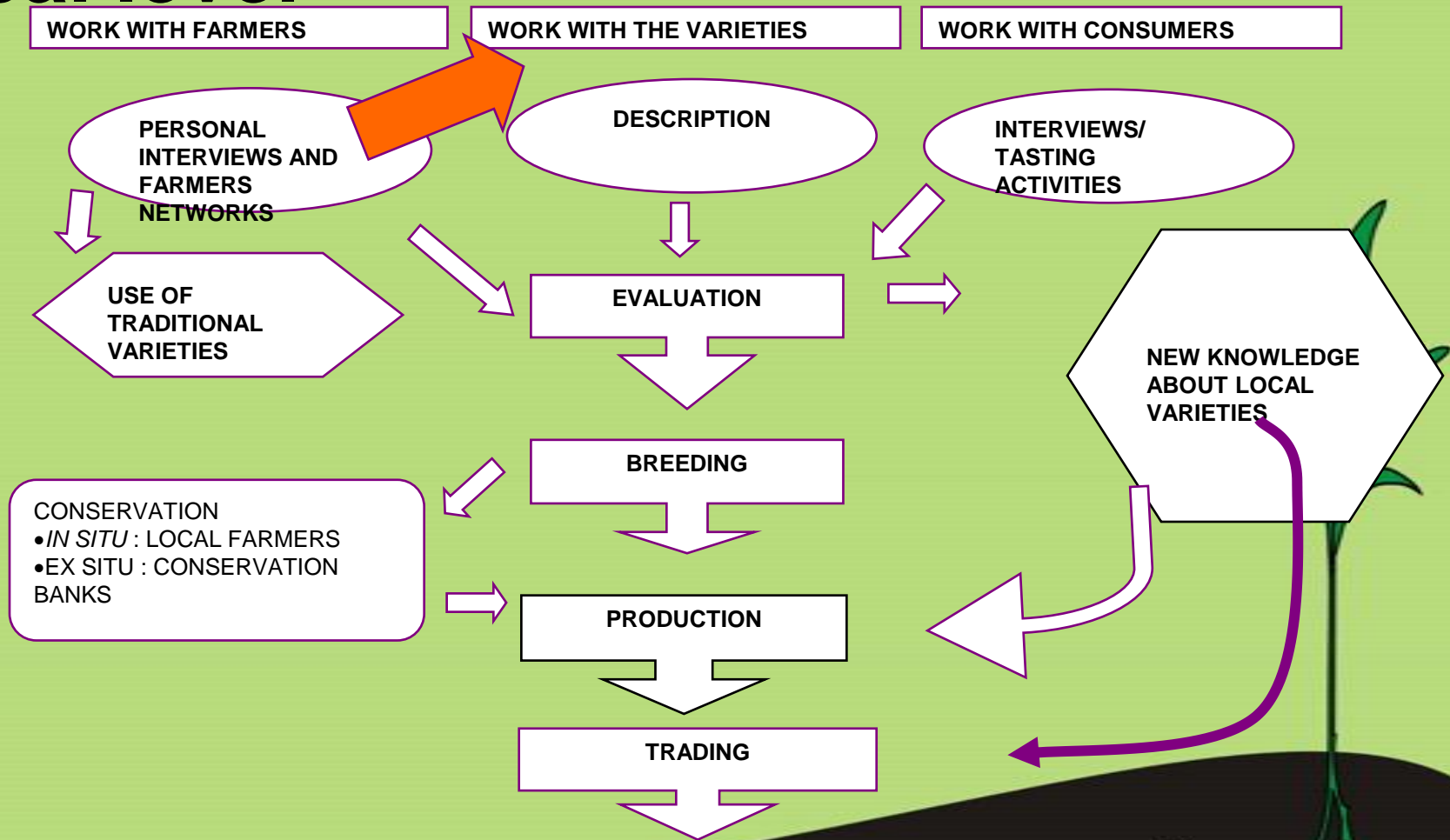
- To face the loss of agricultural biodiversity and traditional knowledge.
- To promote a family farming system and organic agriculture.
- To support and facilitate conservation and use activities carried out by farmers.
- To facilitate and support the access, production and exchange of seeds among farmers.
- To raise public awareness about the importance of agricultural biodiversity in the agri-food system.
- To promote local and traditional varieties among consumers.
- To create employment in rural areas through seed production and trading on a local level.
- To reclaim the development of public policies intended to facilitate the farmers´ rights to conserve, use, exchange and sell their own seeds.
- To ban the GMO crops from the Spanish agri-food system.



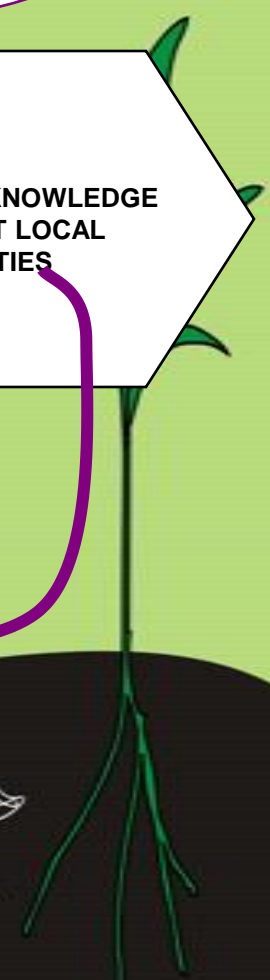
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Local Seed Networks: working from a local level



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Research: Recovery of traditional knowledge



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Research: Participative work in local varieties description, testing and evaluation



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Research: Participative work in local varieties description, testing and evaluation



Training and counselling



Seed Exchange Networks



Consumption



100%
MAYORÍA LOCAL

Publications

Red Semillas
Andaluza
Cultivando Biodiversidad
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Fichas de saber campesino



Vol. I

Manual

para la utilización y conservación de variedades locales de cultivo

10 preguntas básicas sobre variedades tradicionales

Red Andaluza de Semillas

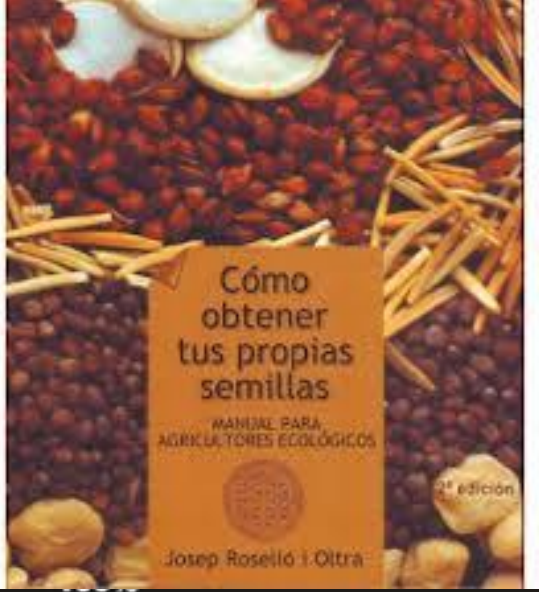


Cómo obtener tus propias semillas

MANUAL PARA AGRICULTORES ECOLÓGICOS


1ª edición

Josep Roselló i Oltra



Guía

sobre el manejo de la biodiversidad agrícola en la huerta regadía



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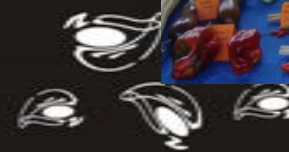
Agricultural Biodiversity Fair



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100%
MARCHES LOCALS



Building alliances



LIBEREMOS LA DIVERSIDAD!



Better Regulation



The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Internal Workshops for Reflection



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Campaign: "Cultivate diversity. Sow your rights"

- To demand a legal framework that allows farmers to produce and sell their own seeds (Farmers' Right to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material)
- To demand a strong support of public administrations to the task of the recovery of our cultivated heritage.
- To visualize the importance of small farming and organic production systems, the use of local varieties, the recovery of traditional knowledge and the gastronomic local culture.
- To fight against an agriculture of patents and GMO.



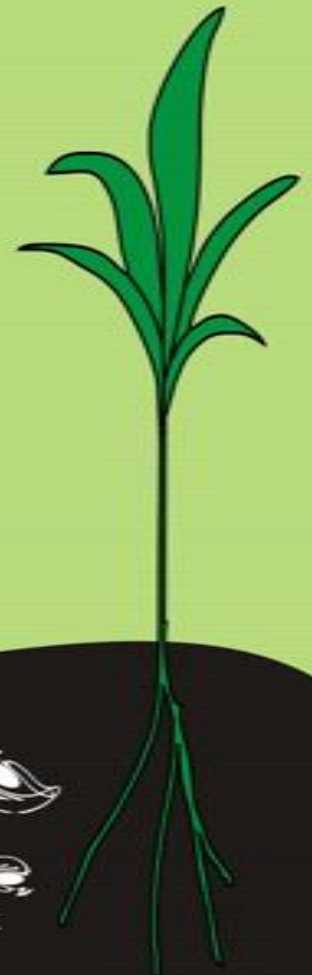
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Thank you very much!



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