

COMMUNITY SEED BANKS

In 2011, the Development Fund of Norway published a relevant Report on the impact and results of the Community Seed Banks. The Report [*Banking for the future: savings, security and seed's*](#) highlights the role of the Community Seed Banks in ensuring seed security and improving farmers' access to seeds, conserving agricultural biodiversity and the associated traditional knowledge.

The report presents the experiences realized in Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Nepal, Thailand, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These Countries pioneered various types of Community Seed Banks. The report concludes with a very significant speaking of Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, at the 64th session of the UN General Assembly (October 2009) encouraging all States to support local seed exchange systems such as Community Seed Banks.

Community Seed Banks are collections of seeds that are maintained and administered by the communities themselves. Seeds can be stored either in large quantity to ensure that planting material is available, or in small samples to ensure that genetic material is available should varieties become endangered. Community Seed Banks play a strategic role in enhancing farmers' access and control of seeds, as well as their contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of crop genetic diversity.

Community Seed Banks experiences are spreading in a lot of Countries thanks to the initiative of farmers' organizations, NGOs, relevant national institutions and the academic sector. For example, the Nepalese Ministry of Agriculture (whose website provided the beautiful pictures here presented) promotes Community Seed Banks as a national strategy. The future desirable scenario is for every territory and every Country to have its own Seed Bank, created with the active participation of farmers' organizations. These tools, that in normal periods help the development of agricultural activities, have a strategic function in moments of crisis and natural disasters, when native seeds are lost and the dependence on external resources create well-known consequences on loss of biodiversity.

The websites shown below present guides and methodological information useful to implement Community Seed Banks in all interested Countries and territories. These guides coming from different contexts also show the variety of ongoing positive experiences in the world, related to this fundamental element for food security and sovereignty.

To know more

[A typology of Community Seed Banks](#)

[National Workshop on Community Seed Bank, Nepal](#)



[Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agricultural Development of Nepal](#)

[Article in Biodiversity International](#)

[Article in Biodiversity International](#)

[Establishing Community Seed Bank complexes in Africa](#)

[Starting a community seed bank, Kenia](#)

[How to set up a seed bank, Kenia](#)

[Guidelines from Green Foundation, India](#)

[Guide Community Seed Bank, Nicaragua](#)

[Community seed bank in Nicaragua](#)

[Community Seed Bank in Guatemala, FAO](#)

[Seed bank in Mexico](#)