

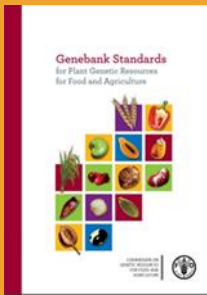


## Preservation of the heritage of local varieties through expeditions in Bulgaria

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Although the main part of European agricultural production currently relies on officially registered and genetically identical varieties, local populations are still grown *on farm*.

Still there is no European list of farmer's varieties, and therefore there is limited and scattered information on distribution of these materials and to which species they belong. Without knowing where landraces are still preserved *on farm* and to what extent, the development of an adequate national conservation plan and its implementation is clearly hampered. These resources are critically important for crop breeding in conditions of climate change, as landraces grown in different ecological environments possess different adaptability characteristics to specific conditions.

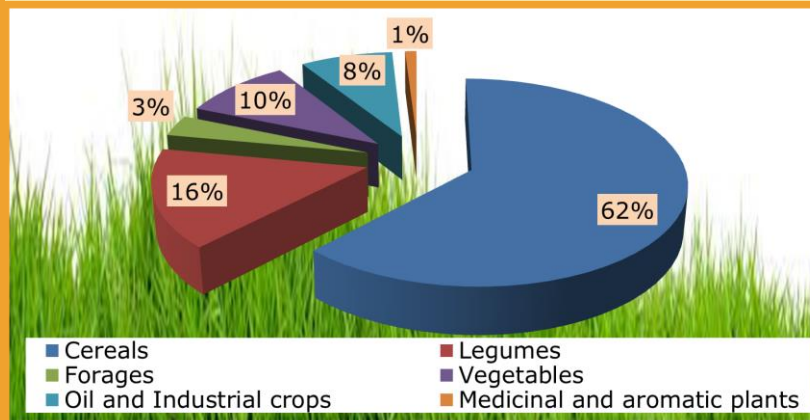
The purpose of the research is to examine passport databases and information collected during expeditions for local varieties in rural areas of Bulgaria.

During the period 1982-2024, the genebank of IPGR-Sadovo was enriched with 11,067 local accessions, characterized by diverse ecological-geographical origin, different botanical composition and biological status.



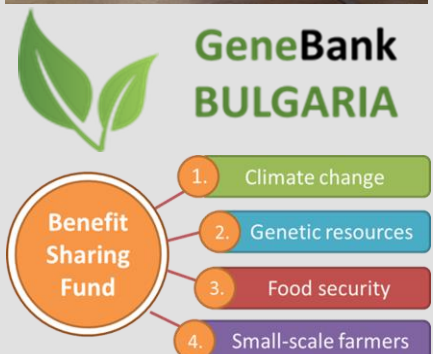
The preservation of local varieties and populations *on farm* is the most effective way to conserve their characteristics in the specific agro-climatic conditions that formed this diversity.

Status of germplasm collection by crop group



- ❖ *On farm* conservation creates additional economical effects for farmers, such as development of organic and ecological agriculture, traditional crafts, rural tourism, production of clean and healthy foods.
- ❖ Conservation of the local gene pool has ecological, scientific, social and economic importance.

As a result, a national list (information database) of local varieties in accordance with the FAO/Bioversity descriptor and the ECPGR concept for conservation and management of plant genetic resources *on farm* was created.



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