



Conservation of Indigenous Crops and Wild Food Resource Diversity



BAIF Institute for Sustainable Livelihood and Development, Pune

Crop Biodiversity Programme

Clusters	Districts	No. of Villages	Priority Crops
Jawhar	Palghar	11	Paddy, finger millet, proso millet, hyacinth bean and cowpea
Dhadgaon	Nandurbar	12	Sorghum, maize, barnyard millet and foxtail millet
Etapalli	Gadchiroli	15	Paddy and hyacinth bean
Akole	Ahmednagar	10	Paddy and hyacinth bean
Junner	Pune	06	Paddy
Total		54	

Maharashtra Gene Bank Project (MGBP) focuses on participatory *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation, management and revival of local resources i.e. crop landraces, livestock types, forestry species (Non-Timber Forest Produce) and habitat types in select clusters and diverse agro-climatic zones of Maharashtra. Work is in progress in eight clusters covering 92 villages across Maharashtra. Crop biodiversity component entails participatory *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation, management and revival of crop landraces and wild food diversity focusing on food security, risk mitigation and livelihood development.

Approach:

- ▶ Documentation of crop diversity and associated knowledge in diverse agro-climatic zones
- ▶ Germplasm collection, characterization, evaluation and participatory seed production
- ▶ In-situ conservation with active involvement of local community
- ▶ Community level processes including networking, establishing community seed banks and participatory events

Priority crops:

Local cultivars of paddy, millets (foxtail, finger, proso and barnyard millet), hyacinth bean, maize, cow pea, sorghum, wild vegetables and tuber crops.



Plant Genome Savior Community Award 2011-12



Agrobiodiversity exhibition

Crop Genetic Diversity



Maharashtra Gene Bank Project for Conservation, Management and Revival of Local Bio Resources

Supported by: Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission (RGSTC), Govt. of Maharashtra

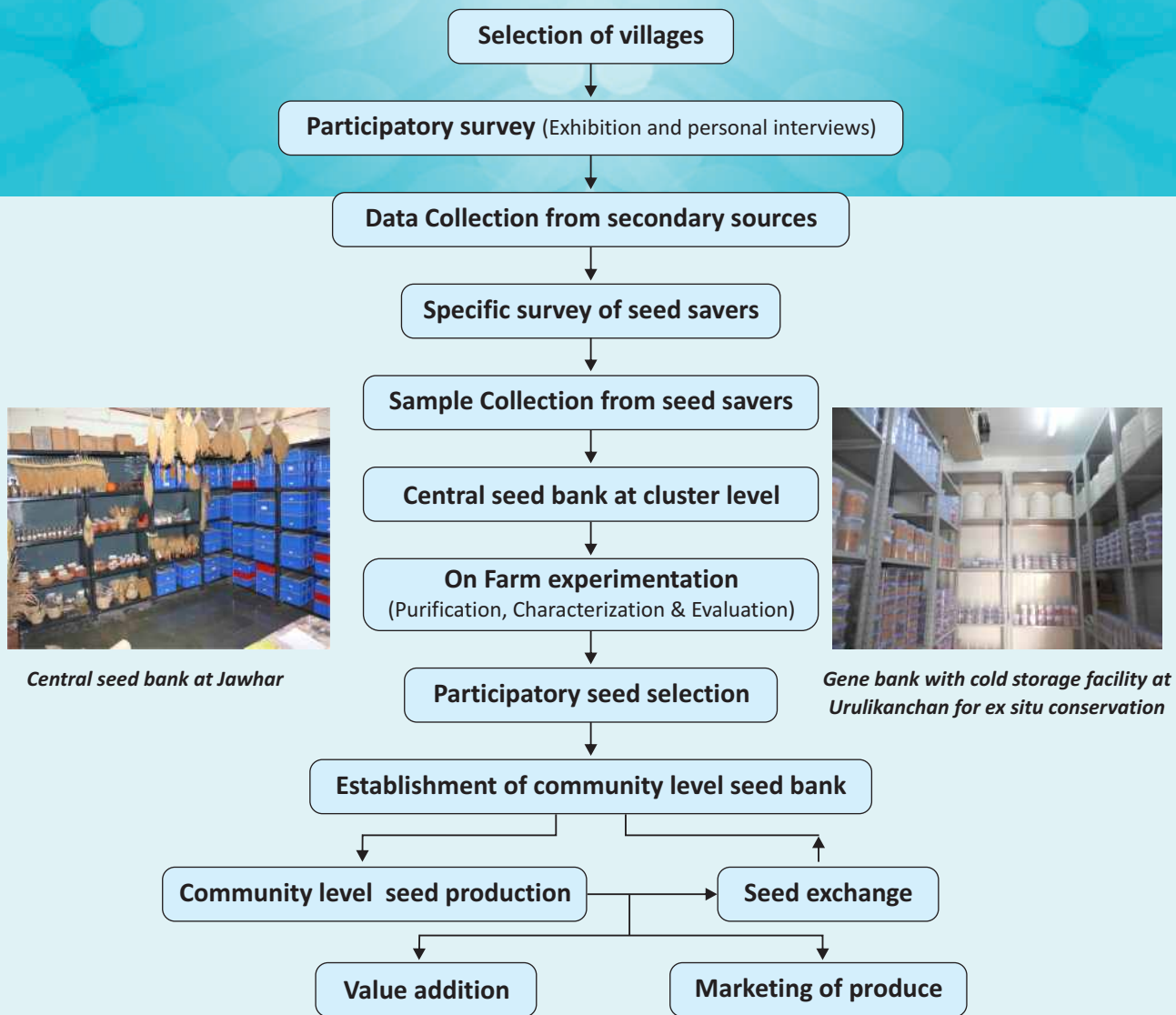
Coordinated by: Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune

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Community-led seed conservation programme



Participatory Seed selection in paddy



On-farm experimentation



Wild food diversity Exhibition

Salient Achievements

- ▶ Established seven community seed banks conserving 722 landraces of cereals, pulses, oil seeds, local vegetables and wild food and established 27 in-situ conservation centres.
- ▶ Documented 352 wild food resources consumed by local communities.
- ▶ Purification and morphological characterization of 118 landraces of five species done as per DUS guidelines.
- ▶ Programme reached upto 4820 farmers through seed exhibitions, wild food recipe competitions and 1909 students through school level events.
- ▶ 53 landraces including 33 of paddy applied for registration under PPV & FRA Act.
- ▶ 6700 Kg of community level seed production of selected crops.
- ▶ Community mobilization and awareness creation through village level seed exhibitions (28), wild food recipe competitions (14) and awareness programmes (20).
- ▶ Seed Saver Farmer group in Jawhar, Palghar district, Maharashtra was awarded by Plant Genome Savior Community Award 2011-12. Two farmers from community were awarded Plant Genome Savior Farmer Recognition award.
- ▶ Nutritional evaluation of selected landraces of different Millet types (22) in Jawhar and Nandurbar blocks.
- ▶ Established a Gene Bank at Central Research Station of BAIF for ex-situ conservation of plant genetic resources having 5°C temperature and 33 % relative humidity with a storage capacity of 2 MT.

Germplasm Collection

Sr.	Crops	Total Accessions
1	Paddy	109
2	Finger millet	10
3	Proso millet	10
4	Foxtail millet	5
5	Barnyard millet	3
6	Maize	22
7	Sorghum	21
8	Cowpea	9
9	Hyacinth bean	26
	Total	215



Hyacinth bean diversity



Exposure visit



Seed exhibition for community awareness



Creating biodiversity awareness among students



Community seed bank