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Realising Farmers' Rights: Examples from Nepal and Ethiopia

Results from an evaluation of
a programme funded by the
Development Fund, Norway

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Side event on Farmers' Rights realization
at the 17 Session of CGRFA at FAO in Rome

The evaluation

- **Topic:** The community-based agrobiodiversity programmes of the Development Fund, Norway in Asia, Africa and Central America
- **Period:** 2008/11 – 2016
- **Focus:** Impact, Relevance, Sustainability



The Development Fund

Fighting hunger and poverty



Contents of the presentation

- Community Seed Banks as platforms for the realization of Farmers' Rights
- Examples from Nepal
- Examples from Ethiopia
- Some conclusions relating to options for the realization of Farmers' Rights

CSB in Tanahun, Nepal



COMMUNITY SEED BANKS AS PLATFORMS FOR THE REALIZATION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS



CSBs: Some common features

- Saving/storing seeds for conservation, maintenance and making them available
- Jointly managed by the people involved, as networks, cooperatives or organizations
- Work mostly on a non-profit basis, with an aim of improving seed and food security and the livelihoods of farmers (DCs)
- Are often (in DCs) platforms for community based-agrobiodiversity management in a broad sense, including capacity building in agricultural methods and income generation



CSBs: Realizing Farmers' Rights

- Platforms for sharing traditional knowledge keeping it alive and further developing it, some become knowledge hubs (*IT Art. 9.2.a*)
- Platforms benefit sharing: Facilitated access to seed diversity, participatory plant breeding, developing capacity and livelihoods (*IT Art. 9.2.b*)
- Platforms for participation in decision making: Breeding decisions, influence of local and national policies and priorities
- Platforms for enhancing farmers' rights to **save, use, exchange & sell farm-saved seed**

EXAMPLES FROM NEPAL



Evaluation team members – Nepal



**Kanta
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Translator**

**Pitambar
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LI-BIRD**



The programme in Nepal

- **Partner:** Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)
- **Goal:** Increased “biodiversity-based” livelihood security of local communities
- **Number of CSBs:** 10
- **Project period:** 2008-2016





Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa

A thriving community seed bank (CSB):

- Organizes 23 village level groups
- 1070 households are members (around 20 %)
- Crop varieties conserved: 70 local varieties of rice, + vegetables, fruits and tubers
- Seed production for sale: 45 tonnes of seeds
- Seed fund: From 800.000 to 1,5 mio Rupees
- CBM-fund: From 900.000 to 1,7 mio Rupees
- Micro credit recipients in 2018: 120 farmers
- Focus on women and disadvantaged people



Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



A thriving rice diversity block

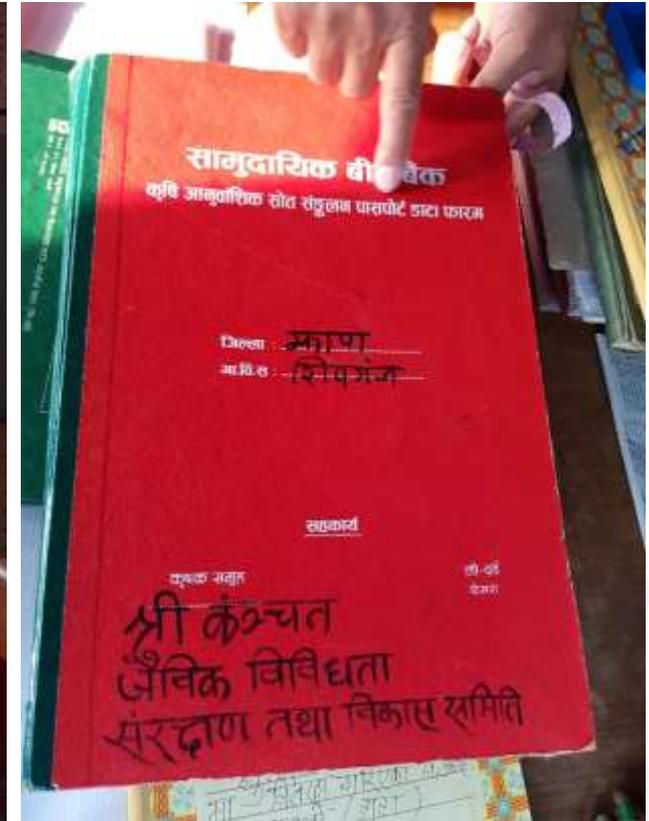


Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



A community seed bank with scope for improvements

Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



But the records show that the conservation work is going on in the fields and keep track

Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



Kalonuniya rice is a success story of local rice varieties: Great advantages and popularity

Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



Production of high quality seeds of improved varieties with great benefits for many

Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



Seed diversity kits are an efficient means of distributing diversity to many farmers

Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



Organic methods provide advantages, here:
Manure compost as a means to improve soil



Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



Vegetable diversity as an important source for nutrition and income generation



Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



Many stories of successful income generating projects, with CBM-fund loans. Here: Nursery

Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



Substantial benefits for farming families

Example: Shivagunj CSB, Jhapa



Capacity building, self-esteem among women

Key findings from Nepal

- The CSBs are functioning astonishingly well, two years after LI-BIRD left the sites: Expansive growth
- Skilled and deeply committed people take care of the organizations and activities
- Traditional knowledge is shared and maintained
- Through benefit sharing channeled through LI-BIRD, farmers have substantially improved seed security, food security and nutrition, income and livelihoods.
- Through close interaction with local and national authorities, the policies in Nepal are conductively addressing CSB's and Farmers' Rights
- Seeds are saved, used, exchanged and sold.



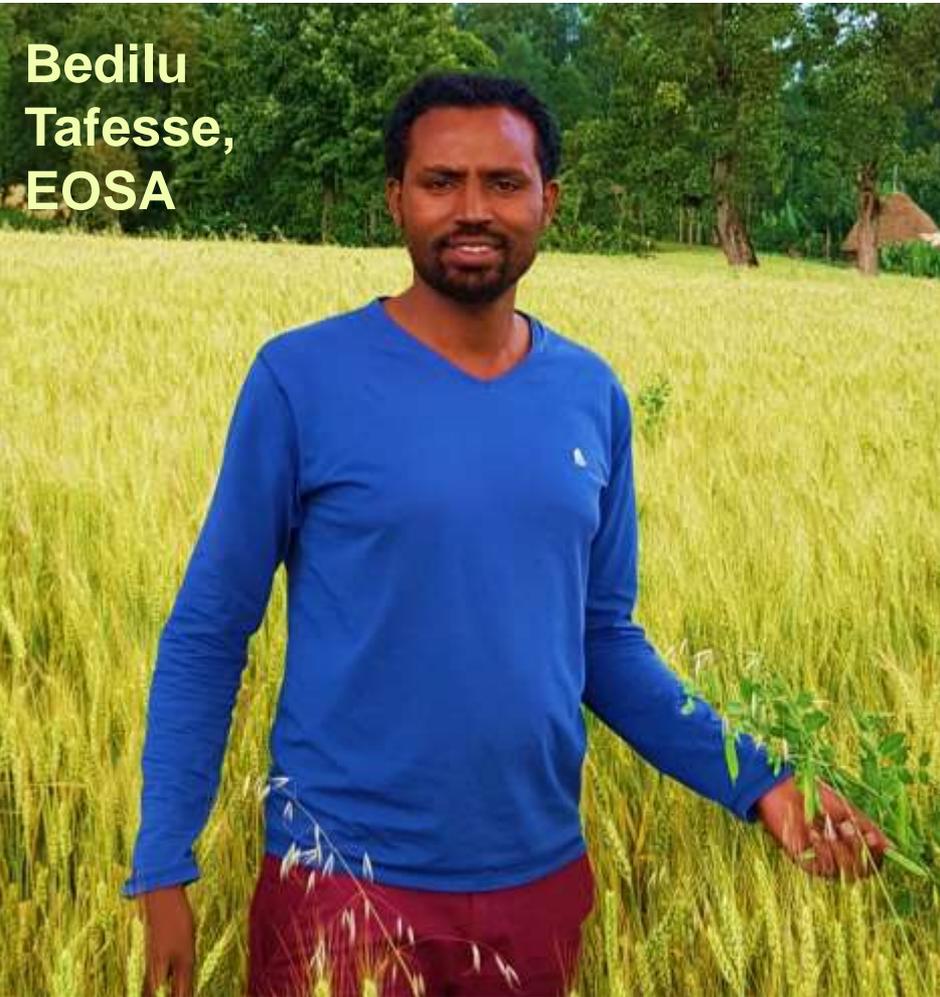
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EXAMPLES FROM ETHIOPIA



Evaluation team members–Ethiopia



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EOSA



Dr. Bayush
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The programme in Ethiopia

- **Partner:** Ethio-Organic Seed Action (EOSA)
- **Goal:** Sustainable climate change adaptation among farmer communities through enhanced capacity of farming communities to sustainably manage, develop and utilize local agro-biodiversity as an adaptive mechanism to climate change in Ethiopia
- **Number of CSBS:** 13
- **Project period:** 2011/2014–2016







Example: Ejere CSB, Oromia

- **Origin:** 1990 (Dr. Hailu, SoS, USC Canada)
- **CSB established:** 1994-95 (IBC/GEF-support)
- **Supported** by EOSA/DF/CBDC from 2003
- **Supported by EOSA/DF** 2011–2016 ++
- **Members:** Around 600 households (21 percent)
- **Covering:** 8 villages with groups
- **Conserved crops:** 142 varieties of 15 species
- **Developed with PVS:** 9 new varieties
- **Revolving Seed Fund:** Members receive seed as a loan and pay back with 20 % interest
- **Income generation:** Stoves, honey, vegetables

Example: Ejere CSB, Oromia



Long-standing members of the CSB

Example: Ejere CSB, Oromia



Storage of seeds in the community seed bank

Example: Ejere CSB, Oromia



Annual germination tests of the stored seeds

Example: Ejere CSB, Oromia



Impressive seed system with participatory varietal selection, adapting varieties to climate change & developing desired properties



Example: Ejere CSB, Oromia



Locally adapted varieties with high yields

Example: Ejere CSB, Oromia



**Income generation:
Fuel-saving stoves, poultry**

Example: Ejere CSB, Oromia



Great benefits for families



Key findings from Ethiopia

- A sophisticated system of participatory varietal selection is practiced, adapting local varieties to climate change and developing desired properties.
- Skilled and deeply committed people take care of the organizations and activities, good governance
- Traditional knowledge is shared and maintained
- Through benefit sharing channeled through EOSA, farmers have substantially improved seed security, food security and nutrition, income and livelihoods.
- Through close interaction with local and regional authorities, conducive policies have been developed addressing CSB's and Farmers' Rights
- Seeds are saved, used, exchanged and sold.



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SOME CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO OPTIONS FOR THE REALIZATION OF FARMERS' RIGHTS



Realizing Farmers' Rights: Options

- Models of CSBs have been developed that are highly successful: Important to derive conditions for success
- CSBs are the missing links between national gene banks and farmers – facilitating access and promoting active use and innovation
- Scaling out successful CSBs is a means of realizing Farmers' Rights: Promoting the active sharing of traditional knowledge, boosting benefit sharing, enhancing the participation in decision making and farmers skills of managing farm-saved seed



Thank you for your attention!

