



Community Seed Banks (CSB)

Hello and welcome to our survey on Community Seed Banks!

We hope for your kind support. Our aim is to better understand the objectives and characteristics of Community Seed Banks in Europe. The survey is carried out by the non-profit seed savers' association [ARCHE NOAH \(Austria\)](#). We are partner in the [Diversifood project](#) that aims at enriching the diversity of cultivated plants.

Your contact was provided by either a partner of the Diversifood project or by another participant in the survey.

You will be invited to a workshop in spring 2017 where the results of the survey shall be discussed, and where it will be possible to meet other people engaged in Community Seed Banks throughout Europe, but also worldwide.

Thank you for your valuable participation!

You can download a pdf version of the survey here: [CommunitySeedBanks](#)



"I have to do with **seeds or other plant propagation material** that is managed - for example conserved, propagated, distributed - by a **community**"

Does this description fit your situation?

Yes No

Notice: This questions has only to be answered if at Question 1: "" the answer "No" was chosen.

If your answer is "no", your activities might be outside the scope of our survey on **Community Seed Banks**. In this case, you can stop here, and we thank you for your willingness to participate! However, if you like, you can still continue with the survey and send us a comment, using the textfield below. Thank you!

★ 3. Data protection and privacy policy

Data protection is an important issue. We will treat your data confidentially. Furthermore, we are trying to avoid the collection of sensible data. Please check and agree to our data protection and privacy policy before starting. [Read our privacy policy here!](#)

Yes, I agree to the privacy policy

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General data

★ 4. Name of the Community Seed Bank

Please fill in!

★ 5. Legal Form?

Please choose one option!

Is your Community Seed Bank organized as an informal initiative or network with no legal form? Or does your Community Seed Bank constitute, or belong to, a legal entity - e.g. as an association?

- Our Community Seed Bank has no legal form
- Our Community Seed Bank has a legal form (e.g. association)
- Our Community Seed Bank belongs to a legal entity (e.g. association)
- other

★ 6. What legal form?

Notice: This question has **not** to be answered if at Question 5: "Legal Form?" the answer "Our Community Seed Bank has a ..." was chosen, *and* if at Question 5: "Legal Form?" the answer "Our Community Seed Bank belong..." was chosen.

Please choose one option and then add the name of the legal entity.

- association
- co-operative
- limited
- other:

7. Internet

Notice: This question has **not** to be answered

Please provide, if possible, an URL-address or link describing your CSB or the legal person your CSB is associated with - or both!

URL or link to CSB

http://

URL or link to associated legal person

http://

★ 8. Please choose one answer

Our community seed bank is...

... for-profit ... not-for-profit

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Please tell us a little about the history of your Community Seed Bank

When was your Community Seed Bank founded? Please make your choice:

- 2015 or after
- 2010 to 2015
- 2005 to 2010
- 2000 to 2005
- 1995 to 2000
- 1990 to 1995
- 1985 to 1990
- 1980 to 1985
- before 1980

★ 11. Who were the main founders of your Community Seed Bank?

farmers

horticulturalists

private gardeners

teachers, advisors

genebank managers

plant breeders

journalists

others - please specify:

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What are the aims and activities of your Community Seed Bank?

★ 12. When your Community Seed Bank was founded - what were the main motivations?

Please, think of the foundation period. In the next question, we will ask you about the most important aims of your Community Seed Bank *today*.

Please, chose the most import motivations (max. 3)

The main motivations to found a Community Seed Bank were to...

- conserve certain crops
- make non-market-seeds and special crops better available
- make non-hybrid-seeds better available
- make GMO-free-seeds better available
- make genebank material better available
- provide a storage for own selections and breeding lines
- others - please specify

★ 13. What are the main aims of your Community Seed Bank today?

Please, chose the most important aims (max. 5)

- Crop conservation (similar to a genebank)
- Providing samples of seeds or other plant material
- Providing data on the crops in the Community Seed Bank
- Providing a common storage for seeds or other plant material from farms or gardens
- Providing a safety backup for seeds or other plant material
- Provide a pool / working collection for own breeding activities
- Sensibilisation
- others - please specify

★ 14. What are the activities in your community?

Please choose as many answers as appropriate

- Storage of material
- Multiplication of seeds etc.
- Characterisation of accessions
- Evaluation of accessions
- Management of a Database
- Crop improvement
- Breeding of new populations and lines
- Providing stakeholders with seed samples
- Providing farmers with seeds
- Education and Training
- Participatory plant breeding
- Others

15. Does your Community Seed Bank take over public responsibilities?

Example: Your Community Seed Bank is recognized as national collection

Yes - please specify

No

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Stakeholders of the Community Seed Bank

Who are the stakeholder of your CSB and how do you interact with them?

★ 17. Stakeholders and interactions

What stakeholders does you Community Seed Bank (CSB) address and how do you interact?

Please tick where appropriate; when there is little or no interaction, please tick the last column!

	Get samples from CSB	Multiply samples for CSB	Donate samples to CSB	Store samples in CSB	Screen / evaluate crops	Get data from CSB	Provide CSB with data	Interact with the CSB network	Breeding activities	Get training from CSB	Provid trainin for CS
Farmers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horticulturists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private gardeners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other genebanks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breeders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scientists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other state institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enterprises of the food chain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you want to mention other stakeholder-groups or interactions?

Other stakeholders

Other interactions

19. Special Stakeholder Groups

With regards to the main services provided by the CSB, do you distinguish between stakeholder groups? Example: *only members might have the right to access seed samples*

Yes

No

20. How are those groups defined?

Notice: This questions has only to be answered if at Question 19: "Special Stakeholder Groups" the answer "Yes" was chosen.

Please pick one or more answers

by membership

by other ways of associating, please specify:

by general criteria, please specify:

others, please specify:

21. Which rights or services are restricted to certain groups?

Notice: This questions has only to be answered if at Question 19: "Special Stakeholder Groups" the answer "Yes" was chosen.

Please pick one or more answers

access to seeds

access to data

access to special conditions

others, please specify:

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Plants and samples in the Community Seed Bank

★ 23. What kind of plant material do you keep in your Community Seed Bank?

Please pick one or more answers

- seeds
- bulbs and tubers
- field collection (e.g. perennial and non-generative)
- crafts
- trees shrubs berries
- tissues
- others, please specify:

★ 24. What are the groups of plants you keep in your CSB?

Please tick one or more answers

- cereals
- maize
- potatoes
- oilseeds
- other field crops
- leafy vegetables
- fruiting vegetables
- tuber vegetables
- legumes
- herbs
- fruit trees
- berries
- vines
- nuts
- ornamentals
- wild plants
- others, please specify:

25. What are the predominant plant groups, botanical families or species in your Community Seed Bank?

Please choose an answer

- Please mention the main group(s)

★ 26. How many distinct samples do you keep in your Community Seed Bank?

Please choose an answer

- 1-100
- 100-1.000
- 1.000-10.000
- >10.000

27. How is the usual sample size, or, in case of field collections, the usual population size in your Community Seed Bank?

Please choose an answer

- Small:** for conservation on small plots. Most of the harvest is going back to the CSB
- Medium:** for conservation on small plots. Most of the harvest is for the CSB, plus for providing small samples to stakeholders
- More:** for cultivation purpose; only a small part of the harvest is going back to the CSB, the main part is used in other ways.

★ **28. What were the initial sources for plant material in the Community Seed Bank?**

Please choose one or more answers

- Founder´ / Members´ own Material
- Material Donations from farmers, gardeners, breeders etc.
- Active collections of material in the field, by calls etc.
- Material from genebanks
- Own breeding material
- Material from the market
- Others, please specify:

★ **29. Under which categories does the main part of samples in your Community Seed Bank fall?**

Please choose one or more answers

- Older commercial varieties
- Recent commercial varieties
- Local varieties; farmers varieties
- Other non-market material
- Own breeding material
- Others, please specify:

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What infrastructure supports your CBS?

★ 30. What infrastructure supports your CBS?

Please choose one or more answers

- indoor storage facilities
- cooling facilities
- deep-freeze-facilities
- database
- climate control
- laboratory for quality testing
- permanent plots for perennials
- fields or gardens for propagation, characterisation, evaluation efforts run by the CSB itself
- 'members' fields or gardens for propagation, characterisation, evaluation efforts
- others, please specify:

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Manpower - who is carrying out the necessary activities in your Community Seed Bank?

★ 31. How many individuals are involved in running your Community Seed Bank each year?

Please fill in the numbers

Own staff	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> no answer
Members or volunteers	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> no answer
Others	<input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> no answer

Notice: This questions has only to be answered if at Question 31: "How many individuals are involved in run..." in "Others" not 0

Please specify "others"

33. What is the background of the people involved in running the Community Seed Bank?

Please mark the groups involved with 0 to 5 stars, with regards to their input.
0 stars - no involvement / 5 stars - great involvement

professional growers



e.g. farmers

private growers



e.g. hobby gardeners

technicians



academics



trainees, volunteers



no specific background

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How do you finance your Community Seed Bank

★ 34. What sources do you use to finance your Community Seed Bank?

Please choose one or more answers

Individual private donations

Membership or similar fees

Public money

Funds and Sponsors

Own income

Others

★

How many members do you have in your Community Seed Bank or association?

Number

36. What are the estimated yearly costs for running your Community Seed Bank?

Please make your choice if you want to answer

- < EUR 1,000
- EUR 1,000 -5,000
- EUR 5,000-10,000
- EUR 10,000-50,000
- EUR 50,000-100,000
- EUR 100,000-500,000
- EUR 500,000-1,000,000
- > EUR 1,000,000

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Governance of the Community Seed Bank

★ 38. Who decides on what in your Community Seed Bank?

	On general objectives	On activities	On internal rules	No
A Collective	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Those who are engaged in the work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A General Assembly or delegates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

39. Remarks and notes

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Values and Culture in the Community Seed Bank

What are important values and guiding principles? What are important aspects of the culture?

★ 40. What are important terms with regards to the values and culture in your Community Seed Bank?

Please choose max. 5 answers

Community Culture Conservation Diversity

Economic viability Exchange Experiment

Free access to genetic resources Health

Independence Individualism Partnership

Personal Contact Privat sphere Quality of food

Reciprocity Respect and esteem towards certain persons

Respect for nature Commons Self-Sufficiency

Sovereignty Tradition Use

Volunteering & Engagement

Others, please specify:

Others, please specify:

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Achievements and challenges

★ 41. Where do you see the most important achievements of your Community Seed Bank?

Please choose max. 5 answers

- In the conservation of rare crops
- in crop improvement
- in involvement and participation
- in training, education, awareness raising
- in product innovations
- in social innovations
- in political work, advocacy
- in research
- in economic success
- others

Room for free answers and comments

★ **43. What do you consider the greatest barriers for reaching your objectives?**

Please choose max. 5 answers.

- Lack of manpower
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of technical resources
- Lack of land
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of publicity
- Obstructive legal environment
- conflicts or opponents
- other - please specify

- other - please specify

- other - please specify

Please write a few sentences or keywords

45. What do you consider the greatest strength of your Community Seed Bank to overcome those barriers?

Please add a few keywords, if you like!

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