

Community seed banks system in Spain

Meeting with the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA

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María Carrascosa-García. Red de Semillas maria_carrascosa@riseup.net

Red de Semillas "Resembrando e Intercambiando"



- Platform for exchange and coordination of more than 20 local seed networks.
- Active for 20 years.
- Aim: promotion of the dynamic use and community management of cultivated biodiversity.



MEMBERS

- Subscribe Food Sovereignty.
- Walk towards Agroecology.
- Opposition to GMO.
- Reject patents, PVP and appropriation of knowledge.



CSB Objectives

Beyond conservation: tools to manage cultivated biodiversity in/by the communities

> 40 initiatives

Raising awareness and training

Promote access and exchange to farmers

Generate information: description and assessment

Maintain and multiply



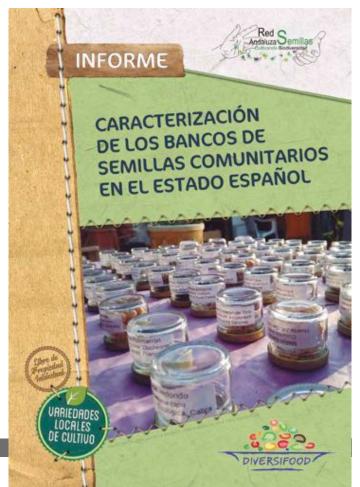


Characteristics of the CSB in Spain



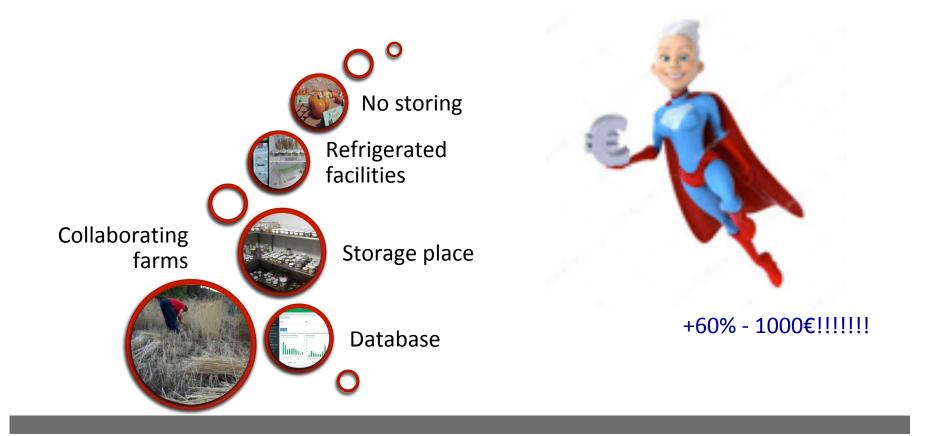
- Supported mainly by voluntary work
- 50% are ran by less than 20 people
- Almost no contribution from researchers
- >50%: 100-1000 accessions
- 100% local varieties, 40% ancient
- > 18 crop groups







Infrastructure and financial resources



CSB of the Seed Network of Andalucía **7** (RAS)



CSB in numbers

11 years

3000 accessions

900 participants: Individuals (farmers, gardeners) and organisations (farmers's/OA associations/cooperatives, social gardens, etc).

Rules for participating

Participants must share seeds before asking.

It is not needed to be a RAS member. Participation is free.



RAS CSB activity

- Seed exchange: poste/ events.
- 2. Management of the seed bank and database (public protocol)
- 3. Preparation of reports and technical sheets
- To organise training and raising awareness activities (workshops and campaigns)

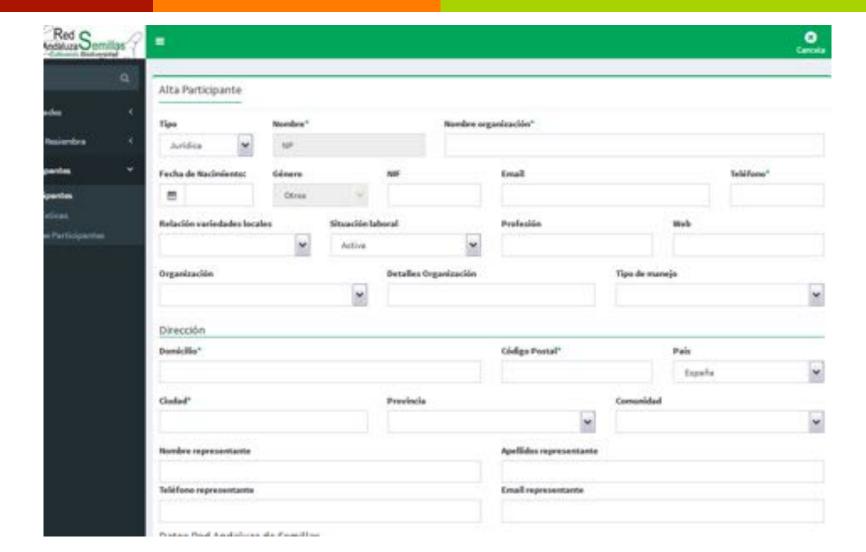






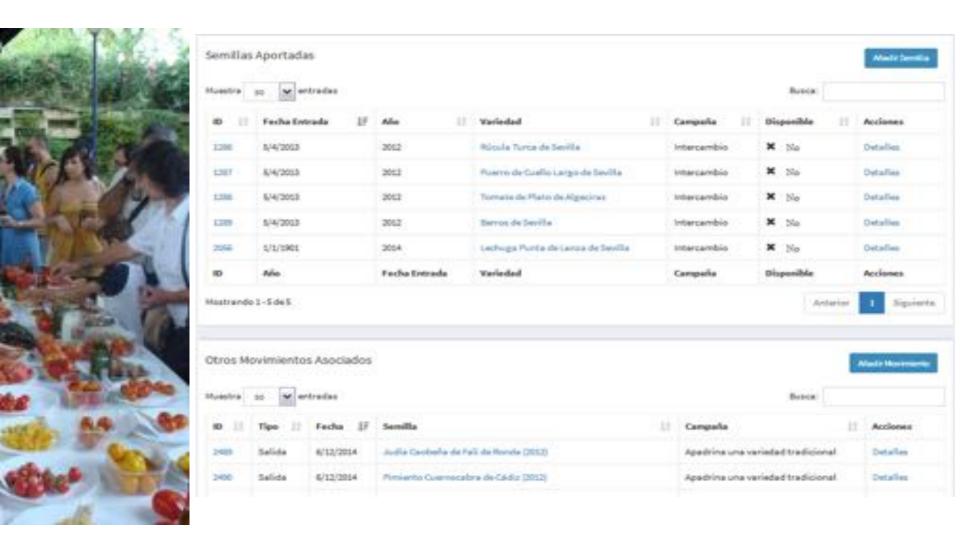


RAS CSB Database: participants and RAS members



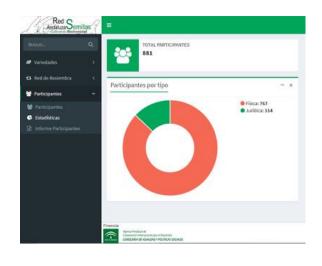
RAS CSB Database:

varieties (name, place) and movements (exchanges, sponsorships, donations), participants, events/campaigns



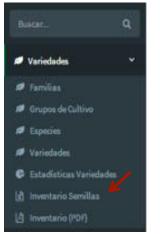
RAS CSB:

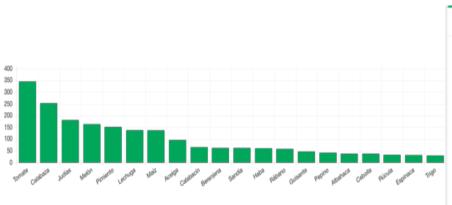
Show/share information CSB users, RAS, farmers, gardeners, policy makers

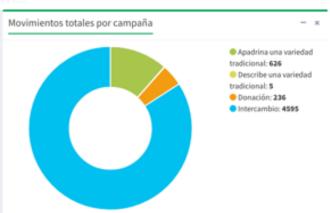




2017. Red Andaluza de Semilla









CSB Main obstacles



financial









Relation with public administration

- Not in the national system
- Space for participation: COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM ON CONSERVATION AND USE OF PGRFA (waiting since 2006!)
- > 20 members (several from the formal sector-seed production, BR sector, etc.): 1 from seed networks.
- First Action Plan (2018-2022) all for ex situ (on farm in a WG)





Relation with public administration

Decree on Access (includes FR)

- Harmonize access by ITPGRFA and NP
- ITPGRFA: no access to registered varieties.
- NP: Public and private collections, curators can decide.
- FR: compilation of regulations, not clear status for CV and IV producers, heterogeneous material not included.
- Commission: no civil society
- Need transparency and control
- 1. Role of CSB must be recognised
- 2. Technical, political, financial and build community abilities should be strengthen





- Some CSB have nothing.
- Others have a record with the information of the participants and varieties exchanged.
- Some have a "hard" agreement, also with farmers.

Danger when sharing seeds with gene banks and research:

IRP in the varieties developed from an accession of the CSB.

Proposal: To commit the user

- To respect the name and the population received as it is.
- To recognise/manage seed as a commons.
- To don't use the seeds to breed a variety with IPR.
- No genetic engineering breeding techniques.
- Information generated about the variety must be open/free
- To don't develope research projects without the approval of the CSB.
- To share the seeds under the same conditions.



Cultiva diversidad

Siembra tus derechos

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Thanks!