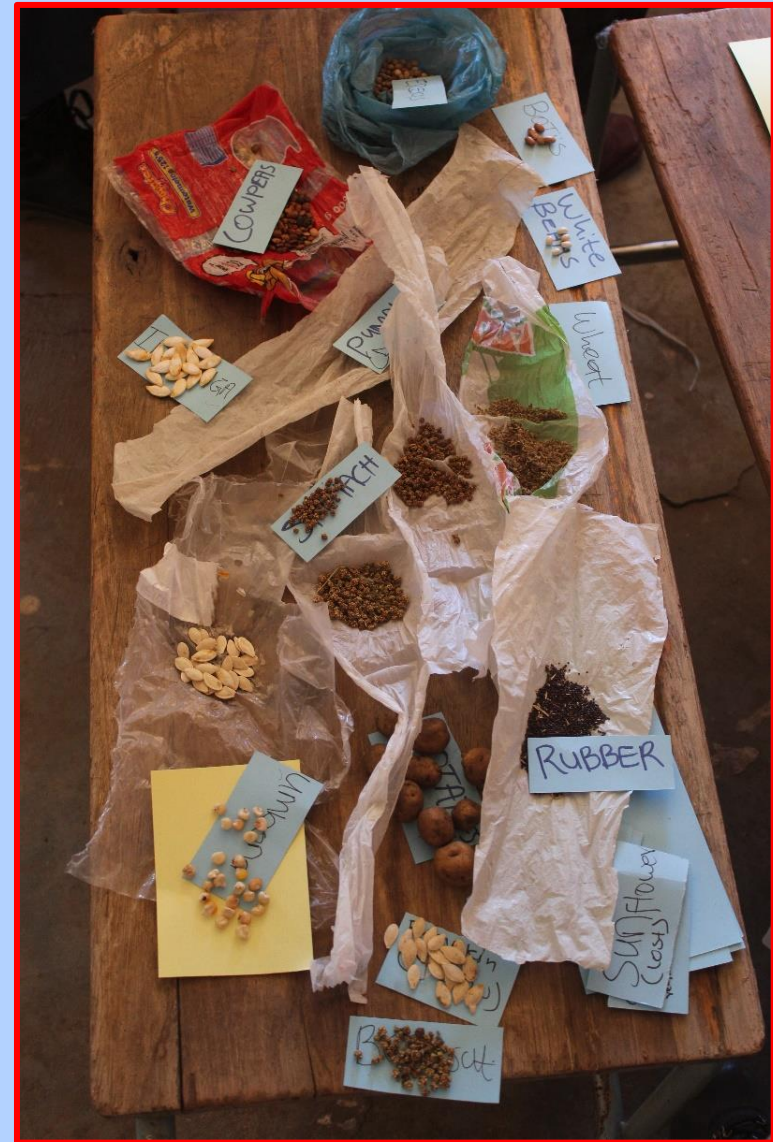




Book launch, 8 December 2015, GIZ, Bonn, Germany  
A presentation prepared by Ronnie Vernooy

# Background

- Project “Strengthening national capacities to implement the ITPGRFA”
- Theme “Linking farmers to the ITPGRFA”: **What are the roles or could be the roles of community seed banks?**
- Review of the literature and cases studies from the eight project countries; **review became a book project**
- Funding of Dutch government (DGIS)
- Funding of BMZ and technical support of GIZ



# Case study framework

- Origin and evolution
- Functions and activities
- Governance and management
- Technical issues
- Support and networking
- Policy and legal environment
- Sustainability and prospects
- Cross-cutting: social and gender variables



# Multiple functions and activities

## Conservation: short and long term

- Local/rare/heirloom varieties
- Restoration of “lost” varieties
- Climate resilient varieties
- Documentation and protection of indigenous/local knowledge

## Access and availability

- Exchanges of quality seeds
- Introducing new diversity
- Seed production
- Participatory crop improvement

## Seed and food sovereignty

- Community biodiversity management
- Farmers' rights

# Diverse governance and management modalities



# Technical strengths and weaknesses



# From light to dense networks



# A more positive policy environment

- Bhutan
- Brazil
- Central America
- Ethiopia
- India
- Nepal
- Uganda
- South Africa



# Community seed banks and farmers' rights

- Recognition: importance of traditional varieties and related knowledge, of smallholder farmers and their livelihoods; potential roles of community seed banks as part of national conservation strategy
- Access and benefit sharing: financial and technical support, access to 'new' seeds and knowledge, farmer to farmer exchange, connections to the national genebank, crop improvement, improved extension service
- Participation: through national network of community seed banks, through cooperation with national genebank
- Key roles of women recognized and valued

# Sustainability

- Farmers' interest and leadership
- Responsiveness to crop diversity decline/loss
- Possibility to respond to climate change stresses
- Possibility to link with crop improvement activities and to national genebank
- Potential to develop into a broader community organization
- Availability of sound technical support; technical capabilities of farmers
- Availability of local facilitator and interlocutor with other organizations
- Enabling policy and legal environment



# Prospects and possible pathways...





# Strengthening farmers organizational capacity



# Recognition and rewarding of custodians



# Towards a national gene/seed banking system

*National Agriculture Genetic Resources Center (Gene Bank), Nepal*  

**Proposed Programs for strengthening/linking community seed banks**

1. **Survey of existing CSBs and their types in the country**  
(conservation/seed business/both)
2. **Accessing/registration and safety duplication in NGB**
3. **Characterization and evaluation**
4. **Further exploration and passport data**
5. **Documentation of traditional knowledge related to storage and upgrading the system**
6. **Capacity build up on maintenance of seeds and crop breeding**
7. **Linking Farmers into MLS at all levels through national gene bank (Modalities- PIC/MAT/SMTA)**

# Adding value



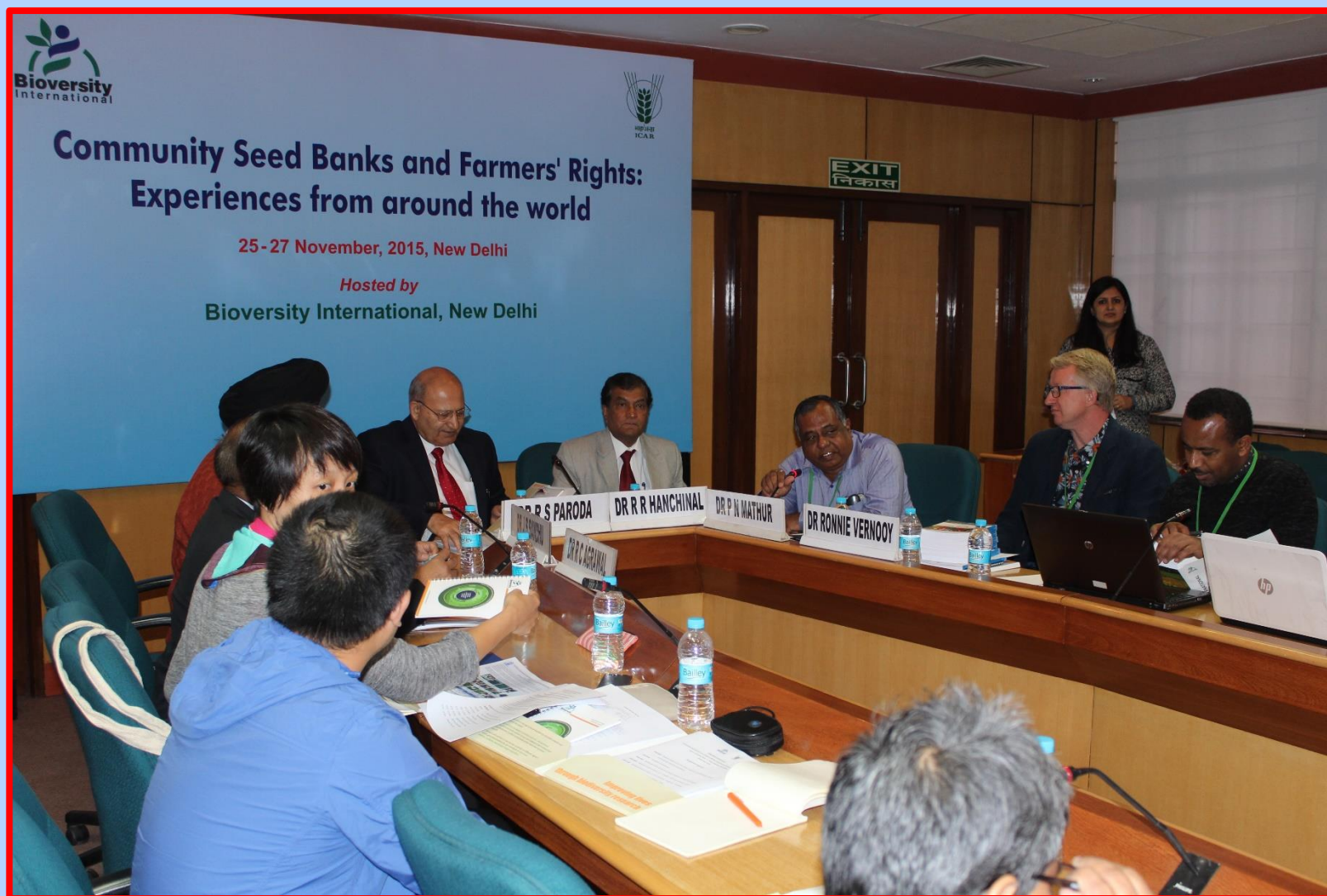
# Strengthening the capacity to adapt to climate change



# Community seed banks as platform for local rural development



# Stronger policy and legal support





# Photo credits

Joyce Adokorach, Uganda

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Prem Mathur, Bioversity International

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The Spanish Seed Network

UBINIG, Bangladesh

Ronnie Vernooy, Bioversity International

# Thank you

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