

Conservation of Agrobiodiversity and Ecology in Greek Agriculture

ΑΙΓΙΛΟΠΙΑΣ
AEGILOPS



ΔΙΚΤΥΟ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΒΙΟΠΟΙΚΙΛΟΤΗΤΑ
ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ ΟΙΚΟΛΟΓΙΑ ΣΤΗ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑ
NETWORK FOR BIODIVERSITY AND
ECOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

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**AEGILOPS – Network for Biodiversity and
Ecology in Agriculture**

Greek nature



- Grate diversity of habitats
- Grate diversity of plant species (6500 species and subspecies, 1275 endemic)

agrobiodiversity

- Indigenous wild and weedy species close relatives/ancestors of cultivated plants
(*Triticum*, *Aegilops*, *Hordeum*, *Haynaldia*, *Avena*, *Secale*, etc)
- Forages (*Trifolium*, *Medicago*, *Festuca*, *Lolium*, *Phleum*, etc)
- Pulses (*Lens*, *Vicia*, *Lupinus*, etc)
- Fruit plants (*Malus*, *Pirus*, *Prunus*, etc)
- Vegetables (*Cruciferae*, *Compositae*, *Umbelliferae*, *Liliaceae*, *Chenopodiaceae*)
- Grapevine (*Vitis ssp*)
- Olive (*Olea ssp*)
- Wild species directly used for human nutrition, with industrial or other uses and for ornamentation
(*Origanum ssp.*, *Ocinum*, *Majorana*, *Capparis*, *Sideritis*, *Matricaria*)
- Aromatic and medicinal plants (*Salvia*, *Mentha*, *Lavandula*, *Digitalis*, etc)

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Traditional crops..



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Landraces

Species originated or diversified in Greece:

- leguminous crops such as *Cicer*, *Lens*, *Vicia*, *Pisum* and *Lupinus*,
- vegetables such as *Brassica*, *Lactuca*, *Cichorium*, *Beta*,
- trees such as *Olea*, *Ficus*, etc. and
- grapevine

Species introduced in Greece centuries ago which were afterwards evolved and adapted to the local conditions:

- many fruit-plants such as *Malus*, *Pirus*, *Prunus*, etc.,
- cereals such as *Triticum*, *Hordeum*, *Secale*, etc., and
- vegetables such as *Phaseolus*, *Lycopersicon*, *Solanum*, *Capsicum*, etc.).





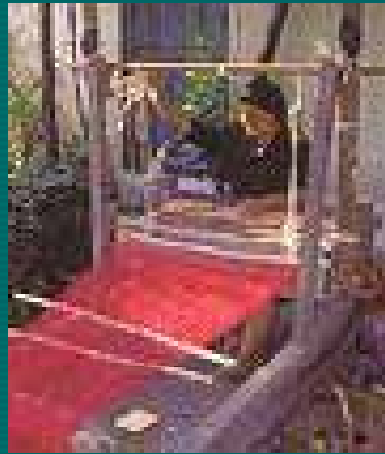
Traditional knowledge....



Constructions and tools..



..art



Relationship with animals



...and ethos



Erosion

- Dramatic losses of germplasm
- Populations and local cereals today: 1% of total acreage and
- 2-3% vegetable old varieties still being cultivated
- Traditional varieties still being used in many tree crops and in the grapevine



Systematic collections

- In early 1920's started
- Early germplasm collections were soon lost
- Modern era in 1981 :
Greek Gene Bank, 11,000 accessions
today : Wheat, Barley, Maize, Oats, Rice,
Gabbage, Sugar Beet, Carrot, Onion,
Eggplant, Grapevine, Minor fruits)
- Other institutes, universities, NGOs



www.aegilops.gr

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ΑΕΓΙΛΟΡΣ



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Seed activities

- On farm conservation under organic farming
- Participatory evaluation and selection of adapted varieties
- Reproduction of seed and distribution
- Strengthening the local seed supply systems





Movement activities



- Networking, information exchange, collaboration
- Struggling for farmers' rights and raising public awareness



- Supporting local diverse, high quality food production and creation of niche markets



- Old Wheat Day,
- Heritage Varieties and Organic Garden Festival



www.archipelagos.gr

Aegean Seed Bank



www.peliti.gr
Seed exchange festivals



Obstacles conserving agrobiodiversity

- Legal framework for farm-saved seed and
- commercial use of landraces and registration
- Deficit on research and traditional knowledge
- GMO crops
- Environmental degradation



Greek agriculture

- Adverse affects of globalization
- Genetic erosion
- Presses to adopt policy friendly to patents and biotechnical products



Community needs and actions

- the Farmers' rights on seed and genetic resources (conserve, use, exchange, and sell propagating material - benefit sharing of agrobiodiversity)
- Consumers' free choice on food

Farmers' rights

Third European Seminar

Let's Liberate Diversity

Preserving bio-diversity of
cultivated plants – in our gardens,
on our farms

May 18th –20th, 2007, Halle, Germany



Protests against charges for re-cultivation at the BDP in Bonn



FAIR PLAY
ON FARM- SAVED SEED

Consumers' rights



economic / climate change crisis and agrobiodiversity

- Food security and sovereignty
- Community independence
- Self sufficiency
- Locality versus globalization

Organic agriculture movement and biodiversity

- Local adapted varieties
- Low input practices
- Local, quality, famous products
- Certified organic agriculture accused causing genetic erosion
- Co-existence with GMO's



Low input - ecological agriculture



Quality local food



..and products



... primarily locally consumed



The lost taste...

