



Analysing strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of CSBs (SWOT)

Results from a preparatory workshop in Rome, 21. September 2017

Regine Andersen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute

Embedding crop diversity and
networking for local high quality
food systems



This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 Programme under grant agreement no. 633571

www.diversifood.eu

Background

- Comprehensive survey by Arche Noah on the state of CSBs in Europe showed a wide diversity in approaches and a movement with great potentials
- Important to analyse systematically the possibilities for further development, as basis for future strategies
- The SWOT-process conducted yesterday provides important input to such an analysis

Starting point: CSB-objectives

The survey showed that CSBs have different and multiple objectives:

- Conservation
- Access and availability
- Sensibilisation
- Training and capacity building
- Sustainable use – experimentation, PPB, products
- Advocacy and legal advice



SWOT process

Objective

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

**Opportunity-
Strength-Strategies:**
*Use strengths to take
advantage of
opportunities*

**Opportunity-
Weakness-Strategies**
*Overcoming weaknesses
by taking advantage of
opportunities*

Threats

**Threat-Strengths-
Strategies**
*Use strengths to avoid
threats*

**Threat-Weakness-
Strategies**
*Minimize weaknesses
and avoid threats*



Conservation

- **Objective:**
 - Conserving genetic resources and knowledge for future generations in an integrative, dynamic, and evolutionary way.
- **A strength:**
 - CSBs are able to conserve a wider diversity than with individual or household seed collections.
- **A weakness:**
 - Lack of technical means and support

Conservation

- **Objective:**
 - Conserving genetic resources and knowledge for generations to come in an integrative, dynamic, and evolutionary way.
- **An opportunity:**
 - Rising demand for sustainable (and local) food may help generate attention to the work of CSBs
- **A threat:**
 - Loss of human resources and knowledge in CSBs due to heavy work load for volunteers and/or age

Conservation

- **Objective:**

- Conserving genetic resources and knowledge for generations to come in an integrative, dynamic, and evolutionary way.

- **Selected strategies:**

- Include new stakeholders from the food chain to support the work of CSBs with different capacities and to act as multipliers of the idea
- Share knowledge and recognize those who do the work
- Implement Farmers' Rights
- Raise awareness about the importance of supporting the CSBs initiatives financially at a long term basis

Access and availability

- **Objective:**

- Making genetic resources accessible and available is a core activity of CSBs.

- **A strength:**

- Collective action to make genetic resources accessible and available is the main strength of CSBs

- **A weakness:**

- There are no remunerations, and the work relies on voluntary engagement

Access and availability

- **Objective:**

- Making genetic resources accessible and available is a core activity of CSBs.

- **An opportunity:**

- International networking provide opportunities for making more diversity accessible and available

- **A threat:**

- Demotivation of farmers due to heavy work load and lacking support

Access and availability

- **Objective:**

- Making genetic resources accessible and available is a core activity of CSBs.

- **Selected strategies:**

- Develop new cooperation forms and strengthen ties with formal gene banks
- Engage in participatory research to strengthen the work of CSBs
- Work through existing networks and organizations to disseminate information and attract funding

Sensibilisation

- **Objective:**

- Promote a change of thinking and practices among farmers, consumers, civil society and policy makers that reflects the importance of crop genetic resources for food sovereignty and cultural identity.

- **A strength:**

- CSBs are able to establish the links between genetic resources, cultural identity and food production

- **A weakness:**

- There is little documentation of the knowledge related to crop varieties and communication skills are lacking

Sensibilisation

- **Objective:**

- Promote a change of thinking and practices among farmers, consumers, civil society and policy makers that reflects the importance of crop genetic resources for food sovereignty and cultural identity.

- **An opportunity:**

- Massmedia provide 'massive' opportunities of communication and mobilization

- **A threat:**

- The action needed requires resources that are difficult to mobilise due to lacking support from politicians/authorities

Sensibilisation

- **Objective:**

- Promote a change of thinking and practices among farmers, consumers, civil society and policy makers that reflects the importance of crop genetic resources for food sovereignty and cultural identity.

- **Selected strategies:**

- Use good narratives to reach out to mass media, civil society and other groups to achieve credibility
- Create linkages between rural and urban groups and invite broadly, to attract support and work capacity
- Create a common platform for sharing knowledge

Training and capacity building

- **Objective:**

- Facilitate training to important stakeholders (farmers, gardeners, researchers) to enhance the multiple functions of CSBs and capacities of their members.

- **A strength:**

- CSB actors hold very practical, hands-on relevant knowledge on the material they conserve

- **A weakness:**

- There is a shortage of funds and human resources to conduct training and capacity building

Training and capacity building

- **Objective:**

- Facilitate training to important stakeholders (farmers, gardeners, researchers) to enhance the multiple functions of CSBs and capacities of their members.

- **An opportunity:**

- CSBs provide possibilities for the development/testing of new ways of learning/training and to act as bridges between formal and informal knowledge

- **A threat:**

- The weak institutionalization of CSBs may lead to uneven and not constant funding

Training and capacity building

- **Objective:**

- Facilitate training to important stakeholders (farmers, gardeners, researchers) to enhance the multiple functions of CSBs and capacities of their members.

- **Selected strategies:**

- Conduct multi-actor meetings to define learning goals
- Map existing training materials and resources to save funds by not duplicating efforts
- Map experts and farmers willing to become trainers
- Develop on-line training moduls for wide outreach
- Use creative self-financing strategies

Sustainable use

- **Objective:**

- Support farmers, gardeners and small scale breeders to utilize genetic resources in a sustainable manner

- **A strength:**

- There is a diversity of models showing multiple ways of sustaining crop diversity

- **A weakness:**

- Participatory plant breeding is not sufficiently institutionalized to contribute according to its potentials

Sustainable use

- **Objective:**
 - Support farmers, gardeners and small scale breeders to utilize genetic resources in a sustainable manner
- **An opportunity:**
 - Climate change is changing the agricultural context, increasing the possibilities to communicate the importance of sustainable use of crop diversity
- **A threat:**
 - Loss of farmers and agricultural land, combined with the lack of policy support and financial resources

Sustainable use

- **Objective:**

- Support farmers, gardeners and small scale breeders to utilize genetic resources in a sustainable manner

- **Selected strategies:**

- Use the demand for food quality and local products as a leverage to increase public attention to the importance of sustainable use of crop diversity
- Create platforms for and with farmers aimed at adding value to their production and reducing the risk of loosing crop diversity as well as farmers



Advocacy and legal advice

- **Objective:**

- An objective for CSB's is to advocate for legal space to save, use, develop, exchange and sell their seeds.

- **A strength:**

- CSBs provide good examples of the need for legal space related to the use of seeds.

- **A weakness:**

- CSBs lack economic resources and human capacity to engage in advocacy work

Advocacy and legal advice

- **Objective:**

- An objective for CSB's is to advocate for legal space to save, use, develop, exchange and sell their seeds.

- **An opportunity:**

- There is potentially massive support from the public

- **A threat:**

- Opponents of legal space for CSBs related to their seeds are strong and numerous

Advocacy and legal advice

- **Objective:**

- An objective for CSB's is to advocate for legal space to save, use, develop, exchange and sell their seeds.

- **Selected strategies:**

- Use public support for just demands of CSBs to put pressure on national authorities to comply with their commitments related to the Plant Treaty
- Demand representation of CSBs in relevant decision making bodies
- Pool human resources to provide advice to CSBs on regional and national policy processes

Some conclusions

- There are many opportunities to strengthen and scale up the work of CSBs
- This will contribute greatly to the implementation of the Plant Treaty
- Joint strategies and collaboration are needed to promote action among CSBs
- Political support and financial resources are crucial to speed up action



Thank you for your attention!