

Yesterday was released in Rome by FAO , to coincide with Nagoya Biodiversity Summit

## Spanish Report about the situation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is full of irregularities, denounces "Red de Semillas"

**Madrid, 2 November 2010.- Red de Semillas "Resembrando e Intercambiando" has already been communicated these irregularities in the rough draft that made circulate the National Center for Plant Genetic Resources (CRF) in August 2009.**

These irregularities were notified to Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs and the CRF. An official document with incomplete contents, half-truths, biased data or even contradictory statements with reality. Plant genetic resources are essential for food sovereignty present and future and necessary for multilateral commitments contracted by Spain through the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

"Red de Semillas" also criticizes that the Report has not been released in Spain before his remission to FAO, reason why the definitive document that was spreaded yesterday world-wide by the specialised agency of the United Nations for Food and Agriculture contains serious inaccuracies in the section of "in-situ", on farm conservation.

The lack of rigor in the report is due that Spanish Government has opted for a make-up operation rather than acknowledge the problems and seek solutions. Unfortunately the actual state of the plant genetics resources for agriculture in our country is the following one:

- 1) The state of the diversity: in the report, it is answered affirmatively the question about If Spain evaluates the state of its diversity in plant genetic resources. This affirmation is completely opposite to reality: No study has been made, nor had plans to make studies on the state of the plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, and there are NO plans order in to know measures to control and to quantify genetic erosion, at all. This statement is recognized later implicitly when affirming that there are no established procedures to quantify the genetic erosion in Spain. In order to avoid to recognize this unfortunate situation the Spanish report confuses the National Inventory (seeds stored in the public banks) with the existing genetic Resources (those that are still managed by farmers). This confusion of concepts by the government is already in itself a reason for preoccupation.
- 2) The state of the management of the conserved Plant Genetic Resources "in situ": The report states that wild relatives of cultivated plants in Spain are conserved in natural protected areas and at the end of same text we can read that is not specifically contemplated any natural protected areas for the conservation of wild relatives of cultivated plants. It also is said that is not known any national initiative on conservation of biodiversity associated to crops.
- 3) The state of the management of the conserved resources" ex- situ": on March 6, 2008 INIA received from "Red de Semillas" a document titled "On the availability of plant genetic resources in seed banks in Spain" with the following conclusions: absence of procedures manual, clear and public, for the citizenship and Seed Banks, difficulties in the access to conserved materials; deficiencies on how to contact banks, and about the existence and availability of material; the flow of information does not work of effective form as show the discrepancies of data about the same species provided by the Banks and the CRF. Banks do not fulfill the commitments acquired to obtain public funds of the Program of Conservation and Use of Plant Genetic Resources; banks do not respond to requests of citizens in a high number of cases, which implies a carelessness of an inescapable responsibility towards citizenship; the documentary control of the plant material is not uniform, and in many cases it seems no exist any type of control or registry at all.

Red de Semillas  
"Resembrando e  
Intercambiando"

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## Press release

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- 4) The state of the use: in relation to the question about the improvement of collections information, nothing is said of the total absence of data about farmer knowledge in the Spanish public collections. In relation to the legislation to support farmers to access improved seeds and the support to agricultural diversity commercialization, including local varieties, it is said that the new 2006 Law of seeds mentions the the farmers rights and specifically their right to commercialize local varieties in their farms. This affirmation is totally opposite to the reality: Why this erroneous information has been given to FAO? Also is said in this same paragraph that there are numerous initiatives of participative plant breeding. Does the Spanish Government have data to support this assertion?

We insist the Spanish Government must recognize the denounced deficiencies and begin to work in a Spanish Strategy for the Conservation and Use of Agricultural Biodiversity, as was announced by the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs in the Declaration of Cordova during the International Seminar on the role of Agriculture Biodiversity in addressing hunger and climate change (Cordoba, 16 September 2010).

More information:

[Spain report \(in Spanish\)](#)

["Red de Semillas" report \(in Spanish\)](#)

[Summarize World-wide report \(in Spanish\)](#)

[World-wide report \(only in English\)](#)

The Cordoba Declaration, 2010 The role of agricultural biodiversity in addressing hunger, food security and climate change (in Spanish)

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