

Focus Group 'Local plant genetic resources in view of climate change and biodiversity loss'

Chania, Greece
20-21 May 2025

A photograph of a vineyard at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. In the foreground, there are green grapevines with leaves and tendrils. A yellow rounded rectangle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

**Capacity building experiences
and needs for preserving and
utilising local perennial crops
at farm level**

Capacity buildings/practices

Based on the last session on practices, which capacity building are needed for each practice?



Innovative and appropriate management practices

Practice		Description	Easiness of implementation (1: very easy – 5: Very difficult)	Short-Mid-Long (S-M-L) term	Required investment	Resource	Example	CAPACITY BUILDING
Type	Name							
Agroecological	Polyculture	Cultivation of a multitude of perennial crops mimics natural ecosystems while helping reduce pest pressures, improve soil health & biodiversity. Can be applied in different pedo-climatic conditions.	3	L	Agronomic knowledge, financial, market aspects	Expert survey, Poster	São Miguel island Apple varieties – Conservation & Cultivation (Portugal)	
	Intercropping	Local perennial crops with annuals or other perennials optimize land use & provide multiple harvests & important agroecosystem services, like soil conservation & reducing synthetic inputs' use.	3	M	Agronomic knowledge, financial, market aspects	Expert survey		
	Agroforestry	systemic integration of trees with annual crops to increase crop biodiversity at farm level, soil structure, and enhance water retention. Local under-utilized perennial crops appropriate for the development of such an agroecological farming system, due to specific traits	3	L	Agronomic knowledge, spatial (farm level) financial, market aspects	Expert survey		
	Ecological infrastructure	Infrastructures supporting biodiversity enhancement & reducing erosion. Main examples of such landscape modification are field margins with wild fruit trees & flower strips, stone terraces etc	2	S	spatial (farm level) financial,	Expert survey		



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Agroecological	Other?							



Innovative and appropriate management practices

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Breeding & propagation-related	Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB)	Collaborative relationship between professional plant breeders or researchers, farmer-breeders and other stakeholders to share & leverage knowledge, decision making and resources in breeding efforts. Can relate to farmers community-supported collections & banks, as a main starting point for involving farmers	3	L	Temporal, financial	Expert survey, starting paper, poster	(LatHort) Heritage repository of local fruit and berry crops (Latvia)	
	Rootstock & grafting purposes	By possessing traits of resistance & tolerance with regards to important diseases, local underutilized perennial varieties hold a potential of use as rootstocks or for grafting.	2	S	Knowledge, financial	Poster	Local Action Group “Bura” (Croatia)	
	Regional/local governments role	Common municipal practice: Annual distribution of fruit trees to promote agricultural production at local scale. If used correctly could bring local under-utilised crops in the spotlight, as a tool to promote their use.	3	L	Financial	MP		
	Community germplasm banks	Creation of germplasm banks/collections at community level, applied by farmers and respective groups & networks	3	L	Knowledge, temporal, financial	Starting paper	“Biofru” organic farm (Greece)	

Innovative and appropriate management practices

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Breeding & propagation-related	Other?							



Other capacity buildings from MPs and from first meeting

Add Table, selection regarding capacity building experiences and needs that appear in starting paper, first part of the final report, MPs and in posters., ask if there are any other missing

Capacity buildings	From ...	How to solve the issue?
Need for better identification & characterization of local under-utilized perennial crops	MP1	Specific example
Establishment of local germplasm phytosanitary standards	MP1	
Local germplasm with i) ex-situ collections & ii) farmers participation	MP1	
Transfer of knowledge through innovative ICT & AI tools	MP3	Idea to fix the issue
Tracking of Traditional Agricultural Knowledge (TAK) related to local and under-utilized perennial crops (Databases & information tools for sharing knowledge)	MP3	
Lack of practical skill development and peer-to-peer mentoring	MP3	
Development of learning material (instructional videos & real-life success stories)	MP3	
Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) approach not well developed	MP4	
Need for enhancing knowledge on valorisation process	MP5	
Other?		

EU CAP Network Focus Group

‘Local plant genetic resources in view of climate change and biodiversity loss’

2nd meeting | 20-21 May 2025 | **Chania, Greece**

All information on the Focus Group is available on the webpage:

<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/focus-group-local-perennial-plant-genetic-resources-view-climate-change-and-biodiversity-loss>

