



European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity

ECNC started a new project in January 2009 in cooperation with DIVERSITAS
agroBIODIVERSITY International Project Office (AB-IPO) in order to create the
'European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity'.



The realization that agriculture has to become more sustainable is incorporated in policy instruments from national to global level. Knowledge is being increasingly accumulated on how biodiversity can be mobilized to make agriculture sustainable. Throughout Europe, farmers, researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders are implementing various forms of agrobiodiversity. At present, this practical experience is extremely fragmented and barely accessible. The new project '**European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity**' aims to change this.




Some highlighted activities

Europe-wide register of agrobiodiversity projects, contacts database and collection of practical examples will be established together with an up-to-date website which can be used by stakeholders and the secretariat of the Learning Network (hosted by ECNC) to communicate. The knowledge will be set down in a brochure that will help the stakeholders to strengthen the role of functional agrobiodiversity in their operations. A European seminar will be organized in September 2009 that will bring together representatives of the various target groups from several countries to exchange experience.

Outputs

The operational secretariat and steering group will be responsible for the execution and maintenance of the European Learning Network on Functional Agrobiodiversity; which will:

- 1. Elaborate multi-annual work programme for the ELN-FAB which makes sure the network functions properly;
- 2. Develop and maintain an up-to-date website about the ELN-FAB which can be used by stakeholders and the secretariat to communicate;
- 3. Elaborate ELN-FAB communication plan (and associated communication products);
- 4. Develop and maintain an up-to-date register of projects throughout Europe covering the subject of functional agrobiodiversity;
- 5. Ensure that European knowledge is made accessible in various forms for various target groups. Europe-wide database of agrobiodiversity projects, contacts database and collection of practical examples will be established;

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- Provide a Helpdesk function for questions concerning best practices and advice on agrobiodiversity;
 - Support the organization of 2nd European seminar on ELN-FAB that will bring together representatives of the various target groups from several countries, and collect and exchange experience;
 - Prepare a brochure, comprising best practice examples for maintaining functional agrobiodiversity, and distribute it in digital format to all partners and via project website;
 - Ensure that the knowledge will be set down in a brochure that will help the various stakeholders to strengthen the role of functional agrobiodiversity in their operations;
 - Identify realistic potential for funding for the secretariat to keep functioning beyond 2009.

Future of the Learning Network

The project is funded by the Ministry of VROM (Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment) and will run until the end of 2009. The further support of European policymakers and funders will also be sought during the project in order to expand the Learning Network in the long term.

More information:

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European Learning Network on Functional AgroBiodiversity

Mission

The Learning Network is set to provide a platform and facility for exchange of knowledge and practical experiences with other EU member states, across country and language borders, between farmers, policy makers, scientists, businesses and NGOs, to enable fast and effective implementation of best practices in order to help to optimize agrobiodiversity benefits and promote sustainable agriculture.

