

# Engaging with Academia and Research Institutions (ARIs) to support Family Farmers and Food System Transformation During and Post COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia



*With technical assistance from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific*



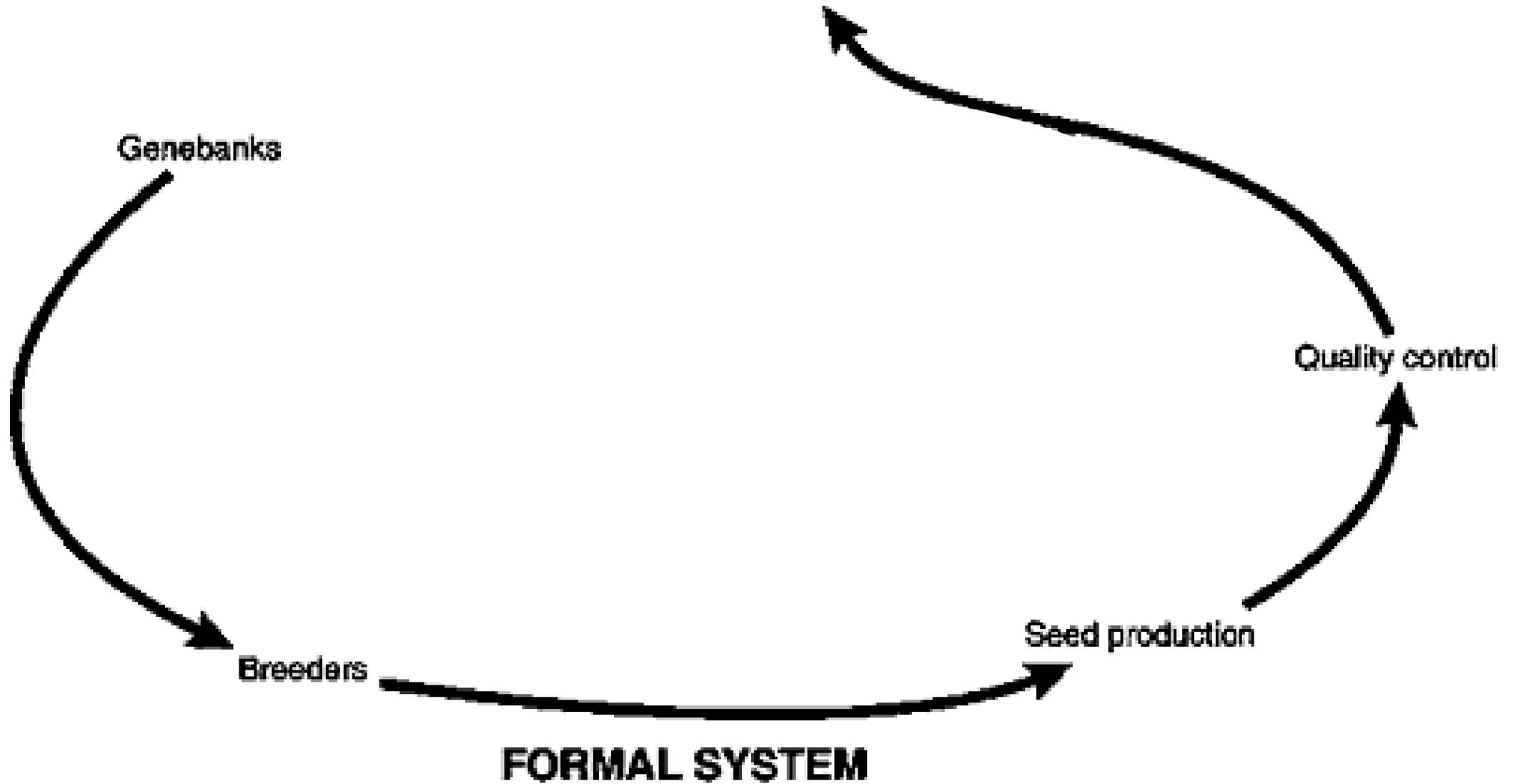
# Bridging the Gap Between Formal and Informal Seed Systems through Community Seed Banks in Asia

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# Seed Systems



Source: Almekinders and Louwaars, 1999

# A Network of Community Seed Banks in Asia



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# Community Seed Banks: Formal or Informal?



FEATURE	FORMAL SEED SYSTEM	INFORMAL SEED SYSTEM
Certification	Certified	Not certified
Seed production	Separate from crop production	Integral part of crop production
Variety release	Formal	Informal/not applicable
Exchange through	Officially recognized seed outlets, agro-dealers	Local markets, petty traders, social networks, own production
Main crop types	Hybrids, high-value horticultural crops	Self-pollinating crops and other crops reproduced by farmers' themselves

Source: Sperling et al. (2008), Louwaars and De Boef (2012).

# Regional Community Seed Bank Managers Forum



**SEED BANK MANAGERS FORUM**  
October 7-9, 2019  
ECHO Asia Small Farm Resource Center & Seed Bank  
San Sai, Chiang Mai, Thailand

This forum aims to gather those actively managing **community level seed banks** in the Asia region.

This event will help participants share practical experiences, discuss seed bank operations challenges and opportunities, and discuss strategies for consolidating seed banking initiatives in the region. If you or someone in your network would benefit from joining this event, please contact us!

This 3-day event will take place at the beautiful ECHO Asia Seed Bank and Farm!

For more information contact [echoasia@echonet.org](mailto:echoasia@echonet.org) or go to [www.echocommunity.org/events](http://www.echocommunity.org/events)



# Community Seed Banks Assessment

- ❑ Sent to Managers of 12 Community Seed Banks in 8 countries
- ❑ Questionnaire with sections related to Organizational Management, Seed Diversity, and Storage Infrastructure/Practices

# Community Seed Banks Assessment

**Table 1.** Organizational overview of nine Community Seed Banks.

Seed Bank	Location	Years in Operation	Outside Funding	Primary Funding Source
Baan Na Thung Kula	Thailand	10	No	Sale of Seed
Bos Knor	Cambodia	10	Yes	Government Grants
Doku	Malaysia	5	No	Self-Support
ECHO Asia	Thailand	10	Yes	Donor Funde
Kahelu Center	Myanmar	1	Yes	Donor Funde
Ntuk Nti	Cambodia	5	Yes	Donor Funde
Phattalung	Thailand	4	No	Sale of seed
Sanam Chai Khet	Thailand	7	No	Sale of Seed
SEED Project	Philippines	4	Yes	Donor Funde

**Table 2.** Number, variety, and propagation method of nine Community Seed Banks with the ECHO Asia Network of Community Seed Banks.

Seed Bank	Varieties Stored	Varieties Distributed	Source of Seed	Storage Method(s)	Seeds of Highest Demand
Baan Na Thung Kula	100	65	†GOBM	Plastic Bottles in the Refrigerator	Roselle; Okra; Pumpkin; Yard Long Bean; Bush Bean
Bos Knor	323	26	††ROS	Airtight plastic bottles, Vacuum Sealed Bags	Sunnhemp; Sorghum; Stylosanthes; Centrocema; Millet
Doku	50	30	ROS; <sup>α</sup> Trd; <sup>β</sup> Dntd	Airtight Containers in the Freezer	-
ECHO Asia	850	175	ROS; Trd; Dntd	Vacuum Sealed Bags in Insulated Cold Storage Room	Cover Crops; Eggplant; Tomato; Legumes
Kahelu Center	50	10	ROS; Dntd	Vacuum Sealed with Bicycle Pump in Glass Jars	Eggplant; Tomato; Chili
Ntuk Nti	<50	10	ROS; Trd; Dntd	Glass jars inside of an earthbag room	Cucumber; Eggplant; Winged Bean; Papaya Chili; Eggplant; Lablab Bean; Kale; Yard Long Bean
Phattalung	55	55	GOBM	Plastic Bottles in the Refrigerator	Okra; Winged bean; Yard Long bean
Sanam Chai Khet	100	50	ROS; Trd; Dntd	Plastic Bags in the Refrigerator	Okra; Winged bean; Yard Long bean
SEED Project	80	45	ROS; Trd; Dntd	Plastic Bas Inside of an Insulated Storage Room	Corn: rice; herbs

†GOBM – Grown Out By Members; ††ROS – Reproduc On-Site; <sup>α</sup>Trd - Traded; <sup>β</sup>Dntd - Donated

# Needs Assessment with CSB Managers

## STRENGTHS

Local Wisdom of Staff

Local Storage Technology/Ideas

Support from NGO's & Organizations

Offer Agricultural Training to Customers

## WEAKNESSES

Lack of Government Seed Policy

No Storage/Inventory Tracking System

Funding

## SWOT

## OPPORTUNITIES

Enter Organic Value Chain

Farmer Crop Improvement/Selection

Advocacy

Social Media Promotion

Income/Profit

## THREATS

Multinational Companies

Seed Biodiversity Loss

Hybrid Seeds

Seed Laws and Regulations

Natural Disasters



# How Does This Relate to Agroecology?

- ❑ Preservation (and Improvement) of Crop Biodiversity
- ❑ Planting/Planning Options for Crop Rotation
- ❑ Local Access → Resiliency during times of crisis
- ❑ Community Empowerment

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Visit us at the  
ECHO Asia  
Small Farm Resource Center &  
Seed Bank

**Thank You!**

Visit our website and online  
repository of technical resources at  
[www.echocommunity.org](http://www.echocommunity.org)

