

Name(·): SIYKA ANGELOVA**Title(*): Assoc. prof. PhD****Country/Countries(*): BULGARIA****Institute name: Institute of Plant Genetic Resources “ K. Malkov” , Sadovo****Department/section: Programme of Plant Genetic Resources****E-Mail:siika_angelova@abv.bg****Web address:****I AM LOOKING FOR :** ☐ **A PARTNER (FOR MY PROJECT)** ☒ **A PROJECT TO JOIN****BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PARTNER SEARCH (*)** (2-3 lines to be published on the website – the complete form will be available to download)

We are looking for joining a project - Preservation of agro biodiversity in home gardens and small farms and developing a system for sustainable use

Please complete the information below depending if you are looking for a partner (to join your project), or a project (you would like to join) – Max 1 page.

DESCRIPTION OF YOUR EXPERTISE /SKILLS

The Programme PGR in IPGR- Sadovo has the primary task:

“ Collection, evaluation, conservation (*ex situ*, *in situ*), documentation and utilization of plant genetic resources

DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT / THE PROJECT YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN

We wish to be a partner in projects that aim at preservation of local at varieties, population and forms in home gardens and small farms

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERTISE/SKILLS YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IN YOUR PROJECT

Network of partners and volunteer

Creation of information data base for owner who maintain old and local varieties and forms of different crops

Establishing the conditions for seed storage of local and old PGR in each region

Please send this form back to : biodiversa@fondationbiodiversite.fr

PRESERVATION OF AGROBIODIVERSITY IN HOME GARDENS AND SMALL FARMS.

Protection of old varieties, forms and populations of crop plants created by long national and team's selection is an important task as a part of the cultural heritage of each nation. Native plant resources have preferred taste, disease resistance, greater flexibility and better adaptability to the conditions where they are traditionally grown or still grown. A significant portion of these resources are stored in the gene bank of IRGR- Sadovo as a preventive measure for their protection. These are mainly crop groups of grain cereals, leguminous, forage and vegetable. The greatest number of samples are presented cultures –durum wheat, corn, fbeans, peppers, pumpkins. Local materials from *ex situ* seed collection date back to 1954 and continue through expeditionary operations to the present. The main places where *in vivo* may still be found from local species diversity are home gardens.

Bulgarian home garden can be defined as a micro system that has a high degree of plant species diversity of vegetables, grain legumes, fruit species, some medicinal, aromatic, vineyards, alfalfa, flowers, spices and other placed in different combinations in different parts of the country. Maintenance and preservation in time of old varieties and shapes is very closely linked with their traditional use, habits, dialect, sentiment, family celebrations, religious habits.

The revival of the old traditional plants support sustainable development, inevitably linked with the implementation of various environment-friendly forms of agriculture and it is particularly necessary especially in areas with rich biodiversity. Growing of old and local varieties adapted to specific soil and climatic conditions allows to increase the efficiency of production, with less investment can be produced quality and ecological production to which there is a growing interest and demand.

For the protection of local plant resources it is necessary to build a network of partners and a team with targeted programs for documenting all the information about the diversity in domestic gardens regions in a form that is accessible to all users. A very important condition for maintaining the level of plant diversity of species and varieties is the raising of public awareness of the farmer or the owners of the importance of home garden for the overall biodiversity in the agricultural ecosystems.

Farmers need to reach the conviction that their way of life depends on the lifestyle of those around them and that maintenance of agro-biodiversity is important for the future and it needs a lot of followers, as it is part of the cultural heritage of a nation.

The modern social context appears to be the problem facing the home garden conservation of landraces. The most effective tool to promote much wider home garden (and conservation in general) is increased public awareness about the importance of home gardens and the services that biodiversity agro-ecosystems offer.