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Farmer's Pride

Networking, partnerships and tools to enhance in situ conservation of European plant genetic resources

In situ plant genetic resources in Europe: landraces

Citation

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https://more.bham.ac.uk/farmerspride/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/06/D1.2_in_situ_PGR_in_Europe_landraces.pdf

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Executive Summary

One of the aims of the Farmer's Pride project is to increase knowledge of plant genetic resources *in situ* in Europe. To this end, extensive data have been collected on landrace populations maintained *in situ* using a standard data collection format, involving collaborators in the Farmer's Pride project and members of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources.

A total of 19,335 records of landraces¹ conserved *in situ* were collected from 17 institutions, including forage, cereal, pulse and garden crops and fruit trees. The data presented constitute the largest ever produced database of *in situ* maintained landraces and the first example of an inventory for an entire region of the world that can serve the European Commission to better plan conservation activities and policies.

In addition, to learn why and how landraces are currently conserved and managed *in situ* and which tools can be used to promote their cultivation, we collected more than 100 detailed case studies from 14 European countries. Analysis of the case studies shows that the varieties are mainly grown for their resistance to and good productivity under harsh climatic conditions, for traditional reasons, or for organoleptic peculiarities which make them highly valued on the local and city markets. Management of landraces varies significantly, but they are generally grown using modern agricultural equipment and tools, often under low input or organic conditions. Farmers, alone or grouped in consortia, are the main actors carrying out seed multiplication with seed companies only playing a marginal role. This landrace case study collection is being used to create a best practice online free database and to prepare guidelines for landrace *in situ* management and access which can help new farmers in starting landrace cultivation and farmers maintaining landraces to promote their products.

¹ 'Landraces' are considered here in a broad sense and include true landraces, conservation and amateur varieties, populations and old cultivars.

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1.0 Introduction

Crop diversity maintained in the fields is a vital resource for food, nutrition and economic security, which maintains its evolutionary potential and continuously sustains the local livelihood and the local culture. One of the objectives of the Farmer's Pride project is to develop regional conservation and promote strategies for landraces (*i.e.* heterogeneous crop populations).

Some information on *in situ* (on-farm/in-garden) maintained landraces was available at the beginning of the Farmer's Pride project (Veteläinen et al. 2009; 2012) that was gathered through activities carried out during the previous EC funded projects (see AEGRO, <u>http://aegro.julius-kuehn.de/aegro/</u> and PGR SECURE, http://vnr.unipg.it/PGRSecure/) and by the "On-Farm Working Group" of the European Cooperative Program on Genetic Resources (ECPGR).

Since no conservation strategy can be developed without knowing where landraces are, which species they belong to, why and how they are still maintained, the project activities initially focused on gaining a detailed view of landraces still maintained *in situ* (on-farm/in-garden) in Europe and creating a

European inventory of *in situ* landraces. Then detailed information was collected on landrace case studies across Europe.

2.0 Knowledge of landrace resources maintained *in situ*

2.1 Building the first European inventory of *in situ* maintained landraces

2.1.1 Data collection

As an initial step an online survey was carried out to gain an understanding of the range of stakeholders involved, or with an interest in, *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources (PGR) and to help ensure full stakeholder representation in the proposed European network for PGR *in situ* conservation and sustainable use ². The survey, available in ten different languages, yielded a total of 1,022 responses from stakeholders working in 35 different countries³.

To gather information on *in situ* (on-farm/in garden) maintained landraces, a second online survey was planned. However, complications due to the inception of new data protection regulations arose. Therefore, such data were collated using an *ad hoc* template prepared for collecting anonymous data on *in situ* maintained landraces using a subset of descriptors from those described in Negri *et al.* (2012) (Table 1). The use of a subset of the descriptors was intended to maximize the number of responses (*i.e.* the number of recorded on-farm landraces) by reducing the time needed by the respondents to complete the template.

To be very inclusive regarding populations that could potentially be included in the proposed European network, thus increasing its value, information was asked on:

- true landraces
- conservation and amateur varieties as defined in the Commission Directives 2008/62/EC and 2009/145/EC (EC, 2008, 2009)
- populations as defined in the Commission Implementing Decision of 18 March 2014 (EC, 2014)
- obsolete cultivars

In fact, all these materials can be referred to as landraces (in a broad sense) following the definition of ECPGR (2017)⁴.

² <u>https://more.bham.ac.uk/farmerspride/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/03/Farmers-Pride-Network-Concept.pdf</u>

³ <u>https://more.bham.ac.uk/farmerspride/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2019/10/D1.1 Identify in situ stakeholders.pdf</u>

⁴ https://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/fileadmin/bioversity/publications/pdfs/ECPGR Concept for on farm final 05 05 2017 bis.pdf

In May 2019 the template was sent to Farmer's Pride Consortium Members, Farmer's Pride Ambassadors (experts collaborating with the project partners) and ECPGR National Coordinators asking for data on known sites of cultivations (records) of landraces in their respective countries. Among others, collected information included: landraces name, genus, species, location of cultivation (including geographic coordinates where available) and country. To avoid the possibility of uniquely associating a certain landrace to the maintainer who cultivates it, geographic coordinates of the location where landraces are cultivated were purposely requested with a relatively low level of accuracy. This approach guarantees farmer anonymity in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)⁵.

Finally, some existing information on on-farm/in-garden conserved landraces (Veteläinen *et al.* 2009; 2012) was included in the database.

⁵ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2016.119.01.0001.01.ENG

Table 1. List of fields used for on-farm landraces data recording (adapted from Negri et al. 2012).

FIELD	ACRONYM
0. Progressive Number*	PN
1. INVENTORY IDENTIFICATION	
1.1. National Inventory code (NICODE) * Country code identifying the National in situ landrace (LR) Inventory; the code of the country preparing the National Inventory. For country codes use the three-letter ISO 3166-1 (see: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49alpha.htm).	NICODE
2. TAXON IDENTIFICATION	
2.1. Genus (GENUS) * Genus name for taxon, in Latin. Initial uppercase letter required.	GENUS
2.2. Species (SPECIES) * Specific epithet portion of the scientific name, in Latin, in lower case letters.	SPECIES
2.4. Subtaxa (SUBTAXA) This field can be used to store any additional taxonomic identifier (in Latin, in lower case letters) preceded by the rank (for example: subspecies, convariety, variety, form, cultivar group). The following abbreviations are foreseen for the rank: 'subsp.' (for subspecies); 'convar.' (for convariety); 'var.' (for variety); 'f.' (for form), 'Group' (for cultivar group).	SUBTAXA
2.7. Common crop name (CROPNAME) Name of the crop in colloquial language, preferably English if any.	CROPNAME
3. LANDRACE/POPULATION IDENTIFICATION	
3.3. Landrace local name/s (LRNAME) * Local name/s of the LR in the colloquial language of the farm. Free text.	LRNAME
4. SITE/LOCATION IDENTIFICATION	
4.1. Farm location: primary administrative subdivision of the country where farm is located (FARMFIRSTADMIN) Name of the primary administrative subdivision of the country where the farm is located for the most part of its extension. Free text.	FARMFIRST ADMIN
4.2. Farm location: secondary administrative subdivision (FARMSECONDADMIN) Name of the secondary administrative subdivision (within the primary administrative subdivision) of the country where the farm is located.	FARMSECOND ADMIN
4.7.1. Latitude of LR site (LRSLATDMS) Degrees (2 digits) minutes (2 digits), and seconds (2 digits) followed by N (North) or S (South).	LRSLATDMS
4.7.1.BIS Latitude of LR site (LRSLATDD) * Latitude expressed in decimal degrees.	LRSLATDD
4.7.2. Longitude of LR site (LRSLONGDMS) Degrees (3 digits), minutes (2 digits), and seconds (2 digits) followed by E (East) or W (West)	LRSLONG DMS
4.7.2. BIS Longitude of LR site (LRSLONGITUDEDD) * Longitude expressed in decimal degrees.	LRSLONGITUD EDD
4.8. Elevation of LR site (LRSELEVATION) * Elevation of LR site expressed in meters above sea level. Negative values are allowed.	LRSELEVATION

LRTOTAREA
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REMARKS

* Mandatory fields.

2.1.2 Results and discussion

A total of 19,335 on-farm/in-garden conserved landraces were recorded by respondents from 17 institutions (Table 2) in November 2019. It is worth noting that 19.8% of the total records (3,831 out of 19,335) are located in Natura 2000 protected areas.

Table 2. List of Institutions that provided information on in situ maintained landraces.	
Table 2. List of Institutions that provided information on in situ maintained landraces.	

Institution Name	Institution	Role*	Countr	Provided
	acronym		у	records
Arche Noah	ARCN	FP Partner	AUS	4489
Banco Portugues de Germoplasma Vegetal	BPGV	FP Partner	PRT	3050
Banca de Resurse Vegetal "Mihai Cristea"	SV genebank	ECPGR Member	ROU	128
Suceava				
Centro Ricerche Produzioni Vegetali	CRPV	FP Ambassador	ITA	36
Crop Research Institute	CRI	FP Ambassador	CZE	196
Danish Seed Savers	DSS	FP Partner	DNK	103
Estonian Crop Research Institute	-	FP Ambassador	EST	17
Federal Office for Agriculture and Food	BLE	ECPGR member	DEU	214
Hellenic Agricultural Organisation	DIMITRA	FP Partner	GRC	4688
The Scottish Crofting Federation	SCF	FP Ambassador	GBR	10
Natural Resources Institute	LUKE	FP Partner	FIN	213
Swedish Board of Agriculture	-	FP Ambassador	SWE	137
Università degli Studi di Perugia	UNIPG	FP Partner	ITA	5399
University of Birmingham	UOB	FP Coordinator	GBR	254
University of Zagreb	-	FP Ambassador	HRV	24
Universitat Politècnica de València	UPV	FP Partner	ESP	61
Universidad Rey Juan Carlos	URJC	FP Partner	ESP	316
* Role of the person who provided the data				1

* Role of the person who provided the data.

The number of records obtained across the 14 countries for which data were provided or available was highly variable: Austria (4,489), Croatia (24), Czech Republic (196), Denmark (103), Estonia (17), Finland (213), Germany (214), Greece (4,688), Italy (5,435), Portugal (3,050), Romania (128), Spain (377), Sweden (137) and United Kingdom (264) (Figure 1). Italy is the country where the highest number of cultivation records was collected, followed by Greece, Austria and Portugal.

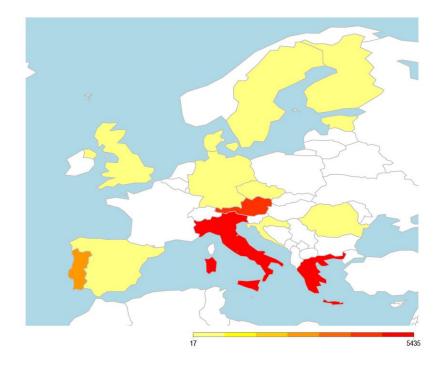


Figure 1. Heatmap of number of records by country. In the figure colours range from yellow (very low number) to dark red (very high number) in relation to the maximum number of records.

The 19,335 records of *in situ* landraces belong to 121 genera (Table 3). *Triticum* (2,498 records), *Phaseolus* (1,870), *Solanum* (1,175), *Malus* (1,072), *Prunus* (958), *Cucurbita* (942), *Secale* (780), *Fagopyrum* (775), *Pyrus* (748) and *Cucumis* (723) are the ten genera encompassing the largest numbers of records (about 60% of the total).

Genus	n.	Genus	n.	Genus	n.	Genus	n.
Abelmoschus	88	Cuminum	3	Luffa	7	Rheum	21
Allium	613	Cydonia	16	Lupinus	28	Ribes	2
Amaranthus	14	Cynara	73	Lycopersicon	17	Rorippa	2
Anethum	48	Daucus	37	Maclura	1	Rosa	3
Apium	79	Diospyros	40	Malus	1072	Rubia	5
Arachis	10	Dipsacus	1	Matricaria	1	Rumex	1
Arbutus	3	Elettaria	5	Medicago	47	Salsola	1
Asparagus	5	Eriobotrya	25	Melissa	1	Salvia	2
Atriplex	6	Eruca	13	Mentha	4	Satureja	2
Avena	246	Fagopyrum	775	Mespilus	5	Scolymus	1
Beta	72	Ficus	111	Morus	43	Secale	780
Borago	1	Foeniculum	14	Nicotiana	4	Sesamum	26
Brassica	679	Fragraria	5	Ocimum	69	Setaria	9
Calendula	2	Glycyrrhiza	1	Olea	228	Sinapis	12
Camelina	110	Gossypium	1	Onobrychis	44	Solanum	1175
Capsicum	491	Hedysarum	5	Opuntia	9	Sorbus	24

Table 3. List of genera to which recorded landraces belong with the relative number of records by genus.

Carthamus	1	Helianthus	35	Origanum	22	Sorghum	51
Castanea	80	Helichrysum	1	Oryza	5	Spinacia	41
Ceratonia	6	Hordeum	150	Panicum	20	Tanacetum	1
Chaenomeles	1	Humulus	18	Papaver	560	Thymus	2
Cicer	149	Hypericum	1	Pastinaca	8	Trifolium	132
Cichorium	60	Jasminum	2	Petroselinum	112	Trigonella	11
Citrullus	177	Juglans	27	Phaseolus	1870	Triticum	2498
Citrus	29	Lablab	13	Phleum	4	Vicia	267
Coriandrum	89	Lactuca	213	Pimpinella	9	Vigna	270
Cornus	4	Lagenaria	71	Pistacia	5	Vitis	445
Corylus	41	Lathyrus	114	Pisum	216	Zea	623
Crataegus	11	Lavandula	1	Prunus	958	Ziziphus	6
Crocus	1	Lens	151	Punica	33	-	-
Cucumis	723	Levisticum	1	Pyrus	748	-	-
Cucurbita	942	Linum	23	Raphanus	45	-	-

The results show that at least 190 crop species are still cultivated as landraces (Table 4). *Triticum spelta* (1,820 records), *Phaseolus vulgaris* (1,785), *Malus domestica* (1,061), *Solanum lycopersicum* (838), *Fagopyrum esculentum* (775), *Pyrus communis* (748), *Secale cereale* (669), *Zea mays* (623), *Cucumis melo* (574), *Papaver somniferum* (560), *Prunus avium* (525), *Brassica oleracea* (461), *Cucurbita pepo* (457), *Capsicum annuum* (446) and *Vitis vinifera* (445) are the 15 species accounting for the highest number of records (about 60% of the total).

Species	n.	Species	n.	Species	n.	Species	n.
Abelmoschus esculentus	88	Corylus avellana	41	Lupinus albus	27	Ribes nigrum	1
Allium ampeloprasum	4	Crataegus azarolus	10	Lycopersicon esculentum	17	Ribes plicatus	1
Allium ascalonicum	3	Crataegus laevigata	1	Maclura pomifera	1	Rorippa nasturtium- aquaticum	2
Allium cepa	284	Crocus sativus	1	Malus baccata	1	Rosa gallica	3
Allium porrum	46	Cucumis melo	574	Malus domestica	106 1	Rubia tinctorum	5
Allium sativum	274	Cucumis sativus	149	Malus pumila	7	Rumex rugosus	1
Allium schoenoprasum	2	Cucurbita ficifolia	23	Malus sylvestris	3	Salsola soda	1
Amaranthus cruentus	1	Cucurbita maxima	231	Matricaria recutita	1	Salvia officinalis	1
Amaranthus retroflexus	13	Cucurbita moschata	231	Medicago sativa	47	Salvia x auriculata	1

Table 4. List of crop species still cultivated as landraces with the relative number of records.

Anethum graveolens	48	Cucurbita pepo	457	Melissa officinalis	1	Satureja hortensis	2
Apium graveolens	79	Cuminum cyminum	3	Mentha pulegium	2	Scolymus hispanicus	1
Arachis hypogaea	10	Cydonia oblonga	16	Mentha spicata	2	Secale cereale	669
Arbutus unedo	3	Cynara cardunculus	17	Mespilus germanica	5	Secale multicaule	111
Asparagus acutifolius	1	Cynara scolymus	56	Morus alba	21	Sesamum indicum	26
Asparagus officinalis	4	Daucus carota	37	Morus nigra	22	Setaria italica	9
Atriplex hortensis	6	Diospyros kaki	40	Nicotiana tabacum	4	Sinapis alba	2
Avena nuda	82	Dipsacus fullonum	1	Ocimum basilicum	69	Sinapis arvensis	5
Avena orientalis	4	Elettaria cardamomum	5	Olea europaea	228	Sinapis nigra	5
Avena sativa	117	Eriobotrya japonica	25	Onobrychis viciifolia	44	Solanum lycopersicum	838
Avena strigosa	43	Eruca sativa	7	Opuntia ficus-indica	9	Solanum melongena	137
Beta vulgaris	72	Eruca vesicaria	6	Origanum majorana	5	Solanum tuberosum	200
Borago officinalis	1	Fagopyrum esculentum	775	Origanum vulgare	17	Sorbus domestica	24
Brassica juncea	1	Ficus carica	111	Oryza sativa	5	Sorghum bicolor	51
Brassica napobrassica	4	Foeniculum vulgare	14	Panicum miliaceum	20	Spinacia oleracea	41
Brassica napus	41	Fragraria vesca	5	Papaver somniferum	560	Tanacetum cinerariifolium	1
Brassica nigra	7	Glycyrrhiza glabra	1	Pastinaca sativa	8	Thymus vulgaris	2
Brassica oleracea	461	Gossypium hirsutum	1	Petroselinum crispum	112	Trifolium alexandrinum	1
Brassica rapa	165	Hedysarum coronarium	5	Phaseolus coccineus	84	Trifolium hydridum	1
Calendula officinalis	2	Helianthus annuus	35	Phaseolus Iunatus	1	Trifolium pratense	121
Camelina sativa	110	Helichrysum italicum	1	Phaseolus vulgaris	178 5	Trifolium repens	8
Capsicum annuum	446	Hordeum vulgare	150	Phleum pratense	4	Trifolium squarrosum	1
Capsicum chinense	5	Humulus lupulus	18	Pimpinella anisum	9	Trigonella caerulea	5
Capsicum frutescens	40	Hypericum perforatum	1	Pistacia vera	5	Trigonella foenum-graecum	6
Carthamus tinctorius	1	Jasminum officinale	2	Pisum sativum	216	Triticum aestivum	256

Castanea sativa	80	Juglans regia	27	Prunus armeniaca	54	Triticum dicoccum	95
Ceratonia siliqua	6	Lablab purpureus	13	Prunus avium	525	Triticum monococcum	233
Chaenomeles japonica	1	Lactuca sativa	213	Prunus cerasifera	2	Triticum spelta	1820
Cicer arietinum	149	Lagenaria siceraria	71	Prunus cerasus	28	Triticum turgidum	83
Cichorium endivia	8	Lathyrus cicera	2	Prunus domestica	152	Vicia ervilia	16
Cichorium intybus	52	Lathyrus clymenum	13	Prunus dulcis	68	Vicia faba	243
Citrullus lanatus	177	Lathyrus ochrus	31	Prunus fruticosa	7	Vicia narbonensis	1
Citrus limon	7	Lathyrus sativus	68	Prunus persica	121	Vicia sativa	7
Citrus lumia	1	Lavandula officinalis	1	Prunus x eminens	1	Vigna unguiculata	270
Citrus medica	1	Lens culinaris	151	Punica granatum	33	Vitis vinifera	445
Citrus reticulata	2	Levisticum officinale	1	Pyrus communis	748	Zea mays	623
Citrus sinensis	18	Linum usitatissimum	23	Raphanus raphanistru m	5	Ziziphus jujuba	6
Coriandrum sativum	89	Luffa acutangula	4	Raphanus sativus	40	-	-
Cornus mas	4	Luffa cylindrica	3	Rheum rhabarbarum	21	-	-

As from the collected data a quite different number of crop species are still cultivated as landraces in different European countries: Austria (23), Croatia (7), Czech Republic (11), Denmark (21), Estonia (10), Finland (20), Germany (11), Greece (93), Italy (107), Portugal (45), Romania (21), Spain (45), Sweden (13) and United Kingdom (26). Of the 190 identified crop species 109 are unique of a certain country (*i.e.* we got records of cultivation as landrace in one country only): Italy (40), Greece (31), Spain (8), Austria, Croatia and Finland (5), Portugal (4), Czech Republic, United Kingdom and Sweden (2), and Germany, Denmark and Romania (1). Estonia was the only country for which unique species records were not recorded. The full list of "records" belonging to each identified species still cultivated as landraces and sorted by country is reported in Appendix A.

As expected, since the Mediterranean area is a hotspot of diversity (Myers *et al.* 2000; Pacicco *et al.* 2016; Vincent *et al.* 2013), Italy is the country where the highest number of crop species is still cultivated as landraces followed by Greece and Portugal. This is true even though some important species, *i.e. Olea europea* and *Vitis vinifera*, are not recorded as being cultivated as landraces in some of these countries while they certainly are and in a great number.

The reported differences in both number of landrace records and number of crop species by country could be representative of the number of on-farm/in-garden materials, but is likely also to be influenced by the available knowledge of respondents. Furthermore, landrace records that lacked detailed or recent data were not included in the analysis. It is therefore likely that the reported numbers are an under-estimation. However, and in spite of the reported differences in the numbers of crop species and landrace records among countries, the research reveals strong evidence that landraces of a large number of species are still maintained throughout Europe, and in all climatic regions.

Although it was not possible to collect data from all European countries, the data presented here constitutes the largest ever produced database regarding *in situ* maintained landraces (in a broad sense) and the first attempt to create a European landrace inventory. In the context of the Farmer's Pride project, these data will also be used to identify hotspots of diversity. The authors believe that this inventory, although still partial, constitutes the first example of an on-farm/in-garden landrace inventory for an entire region of the world. Importantly, it can serve the European Commission in improved planning of PGR conservation activities and policies.

2.2 Landraces: reasons for continuing cultivation, adding value and management

2.2.1 Data collection

In order to have insights that can be used in conservation planning, Farmer's Pride also aims to understand i) why and how landraces are currently conserved and managed on-farm/in-garden in Europe, and ii) how their cultivation can be promoted. To this end, a number of landrace case studies were collated by asking the Farmer's Pride Consortium Partners and Ambassadors. The case studies include (besides general information on the crop) a description of the landrace, information on how it is cultivated, multiplied and marketed, what kind of added value characterises it, who are the actors in promotion activities, and if and how the propagation material can be obtained. A format sheet to collect the needed information was initially discussed in the Project Consortium, prepared and circulated in May 2019 with the request of filling in information as soon as possible (Table 5).

Table 5. Structure of the landrace case study data sheet

CROP

- 1. Type
 - Garden crop
 - Open field crop
 - Tree crop
- 2. Name
 - common name
 - scientific name
- 3. Breeding system
 - Predominantly autogamous
 - Predominantly allogamous
- 4. Description
- 5. References

LANDRACE

- 1. Name
- 2. Country
- 3. Description
- 4. Geographical distribution (area, latitude and longitude, altitude)
- 5. Farmer(s) description
- 6. Reproduction
 - Sexual
 - Asexual
- 7. Multiplication procedures and consequences on landrace diversity
- 8. Management plan existence
- 9. Added/adding value
 - market: existing and novel
 - others (brands and special traits)
- 10. External support given to the landrace and implication for on-farm conservation
- 11. Access
- 12. Pictures
- 13. Acknowledgements
- 14. References
- 15. Added/adding value keywords

2.2.2 Results and discussion

One hundred and four case studies of broad sense landraces maintained *in situ* were collected from 14 European countries in December 2019 (Table 6); an additional case study from Mexico was worked out from available bibliography (Bellon and Brush 1994). The collected case studies belong to 49 different crops (including garden, open field and industrial crops) characterised by different reproduction systems (*i.e.* autogamous, allogamous) propagated by seed or vegetatively propagated. A full description of some of these case studies is available in <u>Issue 5 of Landraces</u>⁶.

Species n.		Country	Species	n.	Country				
Allium ampeloprasum	1	ITA	Papaver somniferum	1	HUN				
Allium cepa	4	AUS, GRC, PRT, SWE	Phaseolus coccineus	2	ESP, HUN				
Allium sativum	1	HUN	Phaseolus lunatus	1	HUN				
Apium graveolens	1	ITA	Phaseolus vulgaris	8	ITA (3), ESP (2), HUN, PRT, SWE				
Armoracia rusticana	1	FIN	Phleum pratense	1	GBR				
Asparagus officinalis	1	DNK	Pisum sativum	4	CHE, DNK, ITA, SWE				
Avena strigosa	1	GBR	Prunus domestica	1	ITA				
Beta vulgaris	1	DNK	Prunus persica	1	ITA				
Brassica napus	2	SWE (2)	Pyrus communis	2	ITA (2)				
Brassica oleracea	4	ITA (2), PRT, UK	Secale cereale	6	FIN (3), PRT (2), GBR				
Brassica rapa	3	CHE, ESP, ITA	Solanum lycopersicum	12	HUN (6), ESP (3), AUS, GRC, ITA				
Capsicum annuum	2	GRC, HUN	Solanum melongena	1	ESP				
Cichorium intybus	1	CZE	Solanum tuberosum	3	CHE, FIN, GBR				
Citrullus lanatus	2	ESP, HUN	Trifolium pratense	1	FIN				
Cucurbita pepo	1	ESP	Trifolium repens	1	GBR				
Cynaria cardunculus	1	CHE	Triticum monococcum	2	GRC, HUN				
Daucus carota	3	CHE (2), ROU	Triticum dicoccum	2	ITA				
Helianthus tuberosus	1	CHE	Triticum spelta	1	GBR				
Hordeum vulgare	2	ITA, GBR	Triticum durum	1	GRC				
Ipomoea batatas	1	ESP	Triticum aestivum	3	AUS, GBR, ITA				
Lactuca sativa	3	ESP (2), HUN	Vicia faba	1	ITA				
Lathyrus clymenum	1	GRC	Vigna unguiculata	1	ITA				
Lathyrus sativus	1	GRC	Vitis vinifera	2	SRB, PRT				
Lens culinaris	2	AUS, GRC	Zea mays	4	ITA (2), CHE, MEX				
Malus domestica	3	ITA (3)	-	-	-				

Table 6. List of species covered by the landrace case studies and the countries in which they are cultivated.

⁶ https://more.bham.ac.uk/farmerspride/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2020/02/Landraces-issue-5_final.pdf.

Analysis of the case studies reveals some relevant aspects about on-farm/in-garden conservation and management of landraces. Firstly, as already mentioned, interest in cultivating landraces still exists across Europe, and especially for cultivation in marginal areas (mainly under low-input or organic conditions) and for the restricted (local or national) market of high quality products. The reasons for continuing landrace cultivation are diverse: quality of the product, market request for typical food of an area, resistance/tolerance to the particular pedo-climatic or biotic conditions of an area, preferences of certain families or groups of people for a specific food, use in sustainable (mostly organic) agriculture of heterogeneous materials, specific uses, particular rites of a certain area, simple willingness to increase the biodiversity of an area or love for a heritage, and existence of specific country funds to increase the diversity of a crop in an area. The prevalent motivations for continuing the cultivation of a particular landrace vary for different materials, and more than one motivation for continuing cultivation is often recorded.

In many of the analysed cases, on-farm conservation of landraces was favoured by numerous activities that were put in place by national (in some cases also international) or local public or private entities. Public support often took advantage of the agricultural policies set by the European Union. These entities gave, or are still giving, scientific and/or financial support for landrace characterisation (*i.e.* the description of the landrace) and valorization. Among the means of valorization of the landrace product, the acquisition of quality marks awarded by the European Union – such as the Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) or the Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) – and/or of other brands were recorded. These quality marks help in increasing the commercial value of the landrace products by adding value, which, in turn, makes landrace cultivation attractive – also for new generations of farmers. These aspects are of great importance to guarantee long-term conservation of landraces through their continued use. In other cases, promotion mainly relied/relies on local fairs, festivals and traditional events, showing the profound link between landraces and local culture.

Although product processing was not included in the case study collection, we gathered clear evidences that it plays a key role in enhancing the landrace market extent, product marketability and added value of some landraces. For example, see the case studies "Arakas for Fava Santorinis" (*Lathyrus clymenum*), "Aglione della Val di Chiana" (*Allium ampeloprasum* var. holmense) and "Slezská cicory" (*Cichorium intybus*) in <u>Issue 5 of *Landraces*</u>. Regarding cultivation, landraces are mostly grown using modern agricultural techniques, which include the use of mechanical tools for soil preparation and, sometimes, the use of chemicals. However, quite a large number of them are managed using low input (often organic) agricultural techniques.

Regarding the on-farm/in-garden management practices that are carried out to propagate plant materials for cultivation, most of the collected evidence demonstrates that farmers (alone or grouped

in consortia) are the main actors in carrying out these activities, while seed companies have only a marginal role. The few seed companies involved are of small-scale and are concerned only for those landraces that are registered within the European seed legislation frame (*i.e.* "conservation varieties" and "amateur varieties"). See for example what was reported in a document prepared for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of UK⁷. The limited involvement of seed companies in landrace seed multiplication and commercialisation is fairly well justified by their limited market, while a major involvement of them in propagation activities could bring important technical advantages in seed quality. In this context, the registration of landraces in the European catalogue of varieties could be an important tool to scale up their conservation, use and market in a certain area (Spataro and Negri 2013).

Gathered evidences also show that landraces of the same crop are managed using slightly different multiplication strategies and selection methods, a fact that can affect their main genetic features. However, key management elements within the diverse identified crop categories were identified. Therefore, common management guidelines for landraces can be drawn up that can help new farmers to start their cultivation on-farm. Unfortunately, only little information on the genetic outcomes of the reported multiplication procedures was collected, while such information could provide evidence on how to maximise the level of on-farm/in-garden conserved genetic diversity to favour its maintenance and evolution. This opens space for future studies aimed at specifically addressing such effects of multiplication procedures. The landrace case studies collection will be published in a searchable online database hosted by the ECPGR Secretariat.

⁷ http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Document.aspx?Document=IF0164_8209_FRA.pdf

3.0 Conclusions

Considering that most of European agriculture is based on the use of modern, high yielding genetically uniform varieties, we were impressed by the fact that it was possible to retrieve a high number of information on broad sense landraces and to take a snapshot of the current situation of their *in situ* conservation. Even if not all European countries were covered by our investigation, what is presented here is the largest ever produced set of information on *in situ* landraces and the first attempt to create a European inventory so far. Although still partial, collected data can serve the European Commission, which funded the Farmer's Pride project, to better plan conservation activities and policies. Policies and motivations exist across Europe, and especially in the European Union, on which to rely for promoting the landrace maintenance in cultivation.

Overall this first report on occurrence of landraces in Europe shows that the coordinated actions of single stakeholders and national and sovranational institutions can result in the effective conservation of such important PGR in the future.

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Appendix: Number of crop landrace records grouped by country.

												<u> </u>		
Species	AUT	CZE	DEU	DNK	ESP	EST	FIN	GBR	GRC	HRV	ΙТА	РКТ	ROU	SWE
Abelmoschus esculentus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	0	0	0	0	0
Allium ampeloprasum	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Allium ascalonicum	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Allium cepa	31	1	0	0	33	1	38	5	71	0	48	51	0	6
Allium porrum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	29	0	1	12	0	0
Allium sativum	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	61	0	55	15 6	0	0
Allium schoenoprasum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Amaranthus cruentus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Amaranthus retroflexus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Anethum graveolens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	0	0	0	0
Apium graveolens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	53	0	25	0	0	0
Arachis hypogaea	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
Arbutus unedo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Asparagus acutifolius	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Asparagus officinalis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Atriplex hortensis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Avena nuda	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avena orientalis	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avena sativa	0	0	35	6	3	0	1	0	50	0	1	20	1	0
Avena strigosa	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beta vulgaris	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	7	52	0	4	5	0	0
Borago officinalis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brassica juncea	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brassica napobrassica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brassica napus	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	22	0	14
Brassica nigra	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0
Brassica oleracea	0	0	0	1	17	0	0	34	11 2	0	11 7	18 0	0	0
Brassica rapa	4	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	2	0	66	82	0	3
Calendula officinalis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Camelina sativa	110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capsicum annuum	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	19 7	0	12 9	74	22	0
Capsicum chinense	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Capsicum frutescens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0
Carthamus tinctorius	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castanea sativa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80	0	0	0
Ceratonia siliqua	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Chaenomeles japonica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cicer arietinum	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	55	0	40	48	0	0
Cichorium endivia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0
Cichorium intybus	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	49	0	0	0
Citrullus lanatus	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	13 5	0	11	26	1	0
Citrus limon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Citrus lumia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Citrus medica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Citrus reticulata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Citrus sinensis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	17	0	0	0

Coriandrum sativum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	86	0	0
Cornus mas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Corylus avellana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0
Crataegus azarolus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
Crataegus laevigata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Crocus sativus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cucumis melo	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	40	0	88	71	1	0
	Ŭ	Ŭ	U	U	15	U	0	Ŭ	1	U	00	1	-	Ŭ
Cucumis sativus	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	11 8	0	5	17	2	0
Cucurbita ficifolia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0
Cucurbita maxima	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	66	0	18	14	2	0
												2		
Cucurbita moschata	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	95	0	16	11	0	0
Cucurbita pepo	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	6	19	0	29	8 21	2	0
<i>Cucurbitu μεμο</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	25	4	2	0
Cuminum cyminum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Cydonia oblonga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0
Cynara cardunculus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	9	0	0	0
Cynara scolymus	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	55	0	0	0
Daucus carota	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	3	10	0	13	2	0	1
Diospyros kaki	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0
Dipsacus fullonum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Elettaria cardamomum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Eriobotrya japonica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0
Eruca sativa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Eruca vesicaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Fagopyrum esculentum	774	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ficus carica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
	Ũ	Ŭ	Ũ	Ũ	Ũ	Ũ	Ũ	Ũ	Ũ	Ũ	1	Ũ	Ũ	Ũ
Foeniculum vulgare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	2	0	0	0
Fragraria vesca	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Glycyrrhiza glabra	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gossypium hirsutum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hedysarum coronarium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Helianthus annuus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	3	2	0
Helichrysum italicum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hordeum vulgare	12	0	27	6	0	0	2	14	75	0	9	5	0	0
Humulus lupulus	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hypericum perforatum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jasminum officinale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Juglans regia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0
Lablab purpureus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
Lactuca sativa	0	0	0	1	19	0	0	6	10 6	0	1	78	2	0
Lagenaria siceraria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	7	20	0	0
Lathyrus cicera	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Lathyrus clymenum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2	0	0	0	0
Lathyrus ochrus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0	0	0
Lathyrus sativus	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	26	0	27	13	0	0
Lavandula officinalis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	- 74	0	72	5	0	0
Lens culinaris		1												
Lens culinaris Levisticum officinale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lens culinaris Levisticum officinale Linum usitatissimum	0 14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 8	1	0

Luffa cylindrica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lupinus albus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	20	0	0
' Lycopersicon esculentum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maclura pomifera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Malus baccata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Malus domestica	0	12 5	0	0	39	2	83	0	0	0	81 2	0	0	0
Malus pumila	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Malus sylvestris	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Matricaria recutita	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Medicago sativa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	45	0	0	0
Melissa officinalis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mentha pulegium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Mentha spicata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Mespilus germanica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Morus alba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0
Morus nigra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	0
Nicotiana tabacum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Ocimum basilicum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	0	12	0	0	0
Olea europaea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22 8	0	0	0
Onobrychis viciifolia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	0
Opuntia ficus-indica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
Origanum majorana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Origanum vulgare	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0
Oryza sativa	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Panicum miliaceum	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Papaver somniferum	552	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0
Pastinaca sativa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Petroselinum crispum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	71	0	1	37	1	0
Phaseolus coccineus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	30	0	16	26	4	0
Phaseolus lunatus	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phaseolus vulgaris	2	0	0	8	29	2	0	4	57 9	0	32 9	76 7	40	25
Phleum pratense	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pimpinella anisum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	0
Pistacia vera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Pisum sativum	0	0	0	50	9	1	0	7	41	0	22	26	1	59
Prunus armeniaca	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	0	0
Prunus avium	0	12	0	0	15	0	0	0	1	0	49 7	0	0	0
Prunus cerasifera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Prunus cerasus	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	25	0	0	0
Prunus domestica	0	1	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	14 4	0	0	0
Prunus dulcis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	67	0	0	0
Prunus fruticosa	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prunus persica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12 1	0	0	0
Prunus x eminens	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Punica granatum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	0
Pyrus communis	0	45	0	0	0	3	9	0	0	0	69 1	0	0	0
Raphanus raphanistrum	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Raphanus sativus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	21	0	1	14	0	0
Rheum rhabarbarum	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ribes nigrum	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ribes plicatus	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rorippa nasturtium-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
aquaticum	Ũ	Ũ	Ŭ	Ŭ	Ŭ	Ŭ	Ŭ	Ŭ	U	Ŭ	Ũ	2	Ŭ	Ŭ
Rosa gallica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Rubia tinctorum	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rumex rugosus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Salsola soda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Salvia officinalis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Salvia x auriculata	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Satureja hortensis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Scolymus hispanicus	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Secale cereale	419	0	45	2	0	1	11	11	68	0	5	10	1	1
Secale multicaule	111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 0	0	0
Sesamum indicum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0
Setaria italica	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
Sinapis alba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sinapis arvensis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Sinapis nigra	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
Solanum lycopersicum	0	0	0	2	63	0	0	0	43	0	17	14	27	0
		-	-	-		-	-	-	3	-	2	1		
Solanum melongena	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	11 6	0	9	0	1	0
Solanum tuberosum	34	0	42	1	1	4	4	73	11	2	28	0	0	0
Sorbus domestica	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0
Sorghum bicolor	10	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	35	0	1	0	2	1
Spinacia oleracea	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	39	0	1	0	0	0
Tanacetum cinerariifolium	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Thymus vulgaris	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Trifolium alexandrinum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Trifolium hydridum	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trifolium pratense	119	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Trifolium repens	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trifolium squarrosum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Trigonella caerulea	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trigonella foenum-graecum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Triticum aestivum	51	0	39	7	0	0	1	5	10	0	27	23	1	0
Triticum dicoccum	32	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	53	0	0	0
Triticum monococcum	224	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0
Triticum spelta	1,804	1	8	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Triticum spena Triticum turgidum	1,804	0	8 0	4	0	0	0	0	3 71	0	8	1	0	0
Vicia ervilia	0	0	0	3 0	0	0	0	0	9	0	8 7	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	6		0	0 15		0	20	0 71	0	17
Vicia faba			U			1	U		11 1					
Vicia narbonensis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vicia sativa	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Vigna unguiculata	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	12 9	0	53	86	0	0
Vitis vinifera	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	9	43 1	0	0	0
Zea mays	53	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	29 9	0	52	19 6	13	2
Ziziphus jujuba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0