

Name of Issue: 1) How can we combine conservation of plant varieties with the care of historical (cultural) sites in our counties?
2) Relationship of in situ-conservation and nature protection.

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Highlights from the discussion:

- Characterise material, if not in protected areas measures are necessary.
- Old varieties in museums are very important in many countries and are part of the cultural heritage. The public first got interested in the old housing places, in Sweden now there is interest in the gardens around the traditional houses and their plants, and maybe in future also in the fields and the plant material used there.
- There are definitions of *in-situ*-conservation, on-farm-conservation and on-farm-management, the purpose and aim of the measures may though be quite different, thereby the question arise, which material should be conserved and how it should be done.
- Criteria in Norway to preserve old varieties: spread in Norway, cultural and historical significance, nature and value as a genetic recourse. As an example regarding fruit trees; out of about 600 collected varieties Norway will choose 100-200 mandate-species.
- *In-situ*-conservation should be used wherever possible. Israel is developing the concept of “dynamic conservation” in the AMIAD – project working with wild wheat. The

site has meanwhile become a nature park. The responsibility for the conservation should be in one hand.

- The uncontrolled taking away plants from nature is a big threat to valuable plant material, for instance in Macedonia and surrounding countries. An overall strategy was requested. In Israel good experience was made with a long-term education program in school. To protect some plants a national legislation was necessary.
- In the museum, the visitors should see, enjoy and if possible have the opportunity to buy genetic resources of interest.

Future/Next step:

- Museums are important for the conservation of old varieties and should be integrated into National Programs.
- *In-situ*-conservation and nature protection are closely related and common views and concepts for the conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture should be developed.
- Raising of public awareness is very important for both issues.
- The material to be conserved should be characterised, the necessary tools should be developed.