

Name of Issue: How to bring old varieties into use, if they still are of interest?

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Highlights from the discussion:

Initially all participants told us where they come from and why they have joined the group. We heard examples of how to bring old varieties into use from Hungary, Macedonia, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland. We specified different aspects of 'bringing into use': among collectors at museums for professional growing to sell to private gardens and also for ecological growing.

In some countries there are economical problems to bring old varieties in to use, while in Switzerland it has been possible to have a NGO to finance its activity partly by bringing old varieties into local production.

We also discussed the relations between the formal organisations, NGOs and commercial interests. There cannot be one model. In every specific situation you have to organise some sort of co-operation.

Additional comments:

1. to use them in genetic improvement
2. to specify some of their characteristics, in connection to their resistance for abiotic and biotic stresses
3. as a general rule we need the evaluation process before using old cvs.
4. it is also very important to give objective information about + and - traits or characters of these old cvs.