



Developing Cost Effective Community Seed Bank For Effective Conservation Of Crop Genetic Resources

Project Description & Milestones Achieved



COMMUNITY
SEED NETWORK



Project Summary

The Development of a Community Seed/Gene Bank for Effective Biodiversity Conservation in (Sheda, Kwali Area Council) FCT, Abuja Nigeria is a Global Environmental facility (GEF) Small grants Project, Nigeria (SGP) Implemented by the Biodiversity Education and Resource Centre (BERC), Abuja.

This initiative seeks to regain, maintain and increase the control of the community over seeds, strengthen and establish dynamic forms of cooperation among farmers and between farmers involved in the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.

It also will support multiple activities including building a physical structure for a community seed bank, develop farmer and community agricultural biodiversity committees, seed saver clubs, seed exchange clubs as well as seed production network.

Beyond this project's core function of biodiversity conservation, the community bank will have a broad range of additional purposes which will include technical training aspects of seed collection, storage techniques, domestication as well as sustainable/scaling up mechanisms for the seed bank growth which are all aimed at preserving local wild grains and other indigenous crop varieties to enhance food security and community livelihoods.



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Project Statistics:

Project Number: NGA/SGP/OP6/Y2/CORE/BD/17/03



Award Amount (USD):

\$48,000

Thematic Area:

**Biodiversity
Conservation**




Start Date:

FEBRUARY, 2018

APRIL, 2020

End Date



500
Household Served



2500
persons reached



**Number of Women
and Youth
Participation:**

1,305



Farmers:

1,290



Teachers:

30



Civil servants:

15



Traders:

106



Students:

340



House Wives:

302



Politicians:

33

Children under 18



384

SDG Goals Achieved

1 **NO**
POVERTY



2 **ZERO**
HUNGER



5 **GENDER**
EQUALITY



10 **REDUCED**
INEQUALITIES



12 **RESPONSIBLE**
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



13 **CLIMATE**
ACTION



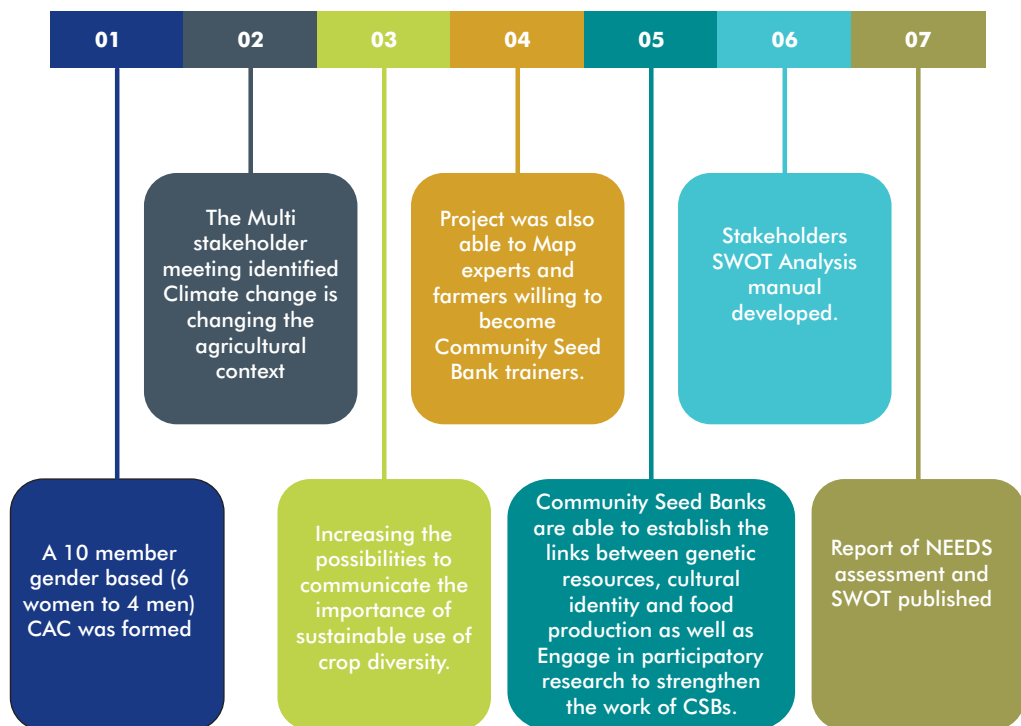
15 **LIFE**
ON LAND



Activities completed and Success Stories:



Success Stories







Selection of suitable site which is convenient, approachable and safe for storage of seeds as well as the Development of infrastructure such as building and equipping of the seed bank for its smooth running.

Success Story

1

Land for seed bank made accessible and donated by the village. Seed Preservation House constructed and equipped.



3

Formation and training of specialized women Local seed networks (LSNs) :“Train the Trainer” Sheda Women Local Seed Networks (LSNs) developed

40 Women
Train the
Trainer trainees

**Success
Stories**

200 Women
trained by Trainee
participants and
LSNs Expanded with
200 Local
Women.

LSNs
“Train the Trainer”
Manual
developed.



4

Collection of local and indigenous crop seeds for storage

Success Stories

- Seeds of Maize varieties, Cowpea, Sorghum, Millet, Local varieties Tomatoes, Sesame identified.
- Seeds collected for Storage in the Seed bank





5

Formation of a Technical capacity Auditing System and Committee

Success Story

10 Man (5 men and 5 Women)
Technical Capacity for Auditing
System Up and Running



6

**Organize Community Seed bank Awareness/
Open Day programmes.**

1

5 Open Day programmes and one seed bank Commissioning Programme carried out

2

Over 500 persons from communities around Gwagwalada, Sheda, Bako, Yangoji visit the Seed bank

3

Seed bank awareness successfully created.



Knowledge Management



Project has also expanded her knowledge management capacities by active usage of the Social media. @bercnigeria Twitter handle is constantly engaging in conversations around CommunitySeed banks of with the @GEF_SGP and @sgpnigeria are active participants.

Experience, Lessons Learnt



LESSONS

- The Initiative discovered the wealth of local knowledge from indigenous people and a need to continuously hence and develop them
- Need to Develop on-line training modules for wider Nigerian outreach
- Community Seed Banks (CSBs) provide possibilities for the development/testing of new ways of learning/training and to act as bridges between formal and informal knowledge
- Rising demand for sustainable (and local) food will help generate attention to the work of CSBs
- CSBs are able to conserve a wider diversity than with individual or household seed collections.
- Women have a very important role in biodiversity Conservation.

Awards and Recognition



The Ashoka/Vittel Act of Biodiversity Challenge 2020



EQUATOR  INITIATIVE



UNDP Equator Initiative "Nature based Solutions"

<https://www.equatorinitiative.org/2020/04/24/solution11341/>

Technical Stakeholder Collaborators



FMARD
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



- National Seed Council, Sheda Abuja
- Nigerian Stored Products Research Ilorin
- Federal Ministry of Environment
- Federal Ministry of Agriculture
- National Cereal Research Badeggi, University of Abuja
- IBB University Lapai, Niger State.



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Building a sound Biodiversity Knowledge for Nigeria



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