

Submitted Abstract

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First Author First Name Last Name	Guillermo (1,2) Benítez
Submitting Author First Name Last Name	Guillermo Benítez
Correspondence	gbcruz@ugr.es
Co-Authors >> E-Mails will be not listed	Romero-Molina, José Miguel (2); González-Tejero, M. Reyes (2); Joaquín, Molero-Mesa (2); Ángela, Mesa-Pedrazas (1); Álvaro, Ibáñez-Jiménez (1); Yolanda, Jiménez-Olivencia (1,3)
Organisations	1: Institute for Regional Development, Universidad de Granada, 18071 Granada, Spain. 2: Department of Botany, Campus Universitario de Cartuja, University of Granada, 18071 Granada, Spain. 3: Department of Physical Geography, Universidad de Granada, 18071 Granada, Spain.
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>> SYNTHESIZE MOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE <<

Abstract

Mountains hold an extensive biocultural heritage related to the construction, throughout history, of complex and resilient socio-ecological systems. These socio-ecological systems are strongly linked to agrobiodiversity, livestock farming and forestry activities, and are home to an important component of biological diversity. In parallel, local knowledge and culture constitute a substantial part of the heritage associated with traditional land uses, and environment management. The need to conserve and restore agrobiodiversity, in addition to contributing to biodiversity and the planet's food security, is also seen as a great opportunity in the search for solutions to overcome the low rates of economic development in rural mountain areas.

This accumulated heritage is now seriously threatened, according to FAO data on the decline of plant species on farms. Moreover, in these areas, depopulation and the abandonment of land and agricultural uses and practices is the main vector for the transformation and simplification of agrosystems.

As part of the Life Watch Eric Sierra Nevada project, we are working on the topic "Agrobiodiversity and social and technological innovation as drivers of development for local mountain communities". The study area, the Alpujarra valley in Sierra Nevada, Granada, Spain, is one of the most biodiverse regions in Europe, with a long and important agricultural tradition and a complex socio-cultural reality. One of the most important tasks for the project is the creation of a comprehensive catalogue of traditional crop varieties, linked to a free and public seed bank that aims to promote the knowledge, cultivation and consumption of these varieties, as well as their conservation both in situ and ex situ (germplasm bank). In addition, inventories of agricultural biodiversity are being developed, taking into account the different cultivation techniques found in the study area. In this communication we present the results on the agrobiodiversity with regard to the traditional varieties of vegetables and fruit and nut crop species, as well as the studied lines in order to promote their knowledge and use in both family orchards, and commercial cultures.