

Gene Rich but Poor Farmers: a revision of links between farmer driven and R&D oriented on-farm conservation strategies of crop genetic resources. (Oral Presentation)

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Introduction

On-farm conservation can either be farmer or externally driven. The first relates to rural household's demand and management of diversity, while the later are potential interventions, either for research or development purposes, which aim to understand or reinforce *in-situ* conservation. The objectives of these types of conservation do not necessarily coincide and while the conceptual scientific and development basis for on-farm conservation is evolving, a gap between gene rich but poor farmer's needs and external interests persists.

Objectives

To explore farmer driven and R&D oriented on-farm conservation strategies and the links between them

Methods

Findings and experiences from in-situ conservation projects and multifaceted research with potato in the Peruvian Andes are used. These have drawn from a range of methods: market chain approaches, surveys, life history interviews, nutrition studies, ethnobotany, morphological and molecular characterization, seed system research, GIS, and others.

Results

Multiple potential links between farmer driven and externally proposed on-farm conservation strategies exists. The uses of research results, the strengths and weaknesses of interventions, and farmer's perceptions are context specific and therefore options should be kept open and their potential impact pathways explored.

Conclusions

There is a challenge to strengthen bridges between scientific research, development interventions and farmer's needs to sustain on-farm conservation. Complementarities and their use for pro-poor impact have yet to be fully realized.

Keywords: *in-situ* conservation, Andean region

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