Monitoring crop agrobiodiversity, challenges and opportunities: Kenya case

Presented during the International workshop on Crop ABD 23-25 March 2015 Agropolis-Montpellier Zachary Muthamia

Outline

- Institutional arrangements and roles
- Major activities
- Challenges
- Opportunities and way forward

Key players

- Ministries (Agriculture & Livestock, Natural Resources)
- Public Institutions (Genebank National museums, Kenya Forest Research Institute)
- International organizations
- Non governmental organizations

Role of Genetic Resources Research Institute of Kenya (GRRI)

- Coordination of plant genetic resources
- Lead in preparation of country gr conservation activities including:
- Preparation of past status and country reports on pgr
- Custodian of the *ex situ* collections
- Updating and monitoring of Global Plan of Action 2
- Engagement in discussion on revision of Indicators for monitoring GPA

How ABD has been monitored

- On-farm through descriptors including farmer knowledge (use of various tools in field by ARCAD, Bioversity Intl, among others)
- Specific research/ project driven initiatives
- Multi institutional projects (including activities on CWR)
- Genebank mandate to characterize collections from field (mainly morphological)

Challenges

- No agreed upon indicators in use
- Monitoring at 'on farm level' or genebank level?
- Costs for small national programmes and data reliability?
- Scope of monitoring?
- Capacity (human & financial)

Opportunities

- There are on-going initiatives including at FAO (CGRFA), Bioversity International, CIP etc)
- There is a 'thirst' for simple tools to monitor ABD

Suggestions

- Consider efficiency, cost implications, repeatability, sustainability, synergies
- Engage national and regional networks for early agreements / disagreements