

# Conducting a Seed Swap



**ECHO Asia Impact Center**

# WHAT IS A SEED SWAP?

- A gathering of people, usually NGO workers, gardeners and farmers, etc., who have come together to share seeds.
- The seeds can include:
  - Locally saved seeds
  - Excess bought seeds
  - Seeds brought back from another region or country
- Its highest goal is networking



# Basic Materials for a Seed Swap

- **Seed**
- **Re-sealable bags / envelopes/ newspaper/cloth sheets etc.**
- **Permanent markers and labels**
- **Data collection sheet**
- **Local language translators**
- **Seed information record keeper**



# ECHO Asia's Seed Source information

(Before we place seeds in the seed bank and access them we need the following information. Please take some time to complete the form and provide as much detailed information as possible.)

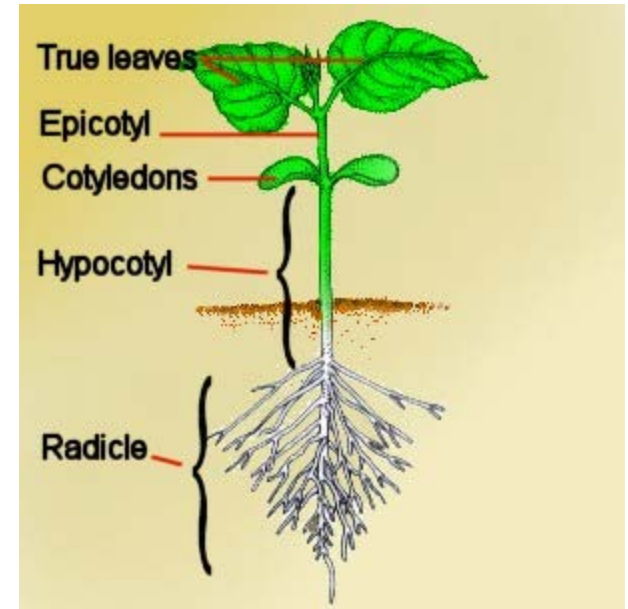
Seed Source Information	Plant Characteristics
<b>ECHO staff in involved in transfer and Date of Transfer</b> วันที่ย้ายส่งเมล็ด	<b>Family Name:</b> ตระกูล
<b>Source Name</b> ชื่อของบุคคลที่ให้เมล็ด:	<b>Scientific Name of plant:</b> ชื่อวิทยาศาสตร์
Source Address: ที่อยู่ของบุคคลที่ให้เมล็ด	<b>Common name</b> ชื่อสามัญ
Source Telephone/Email: เบอร์โทร/คำทบุคคลที่ให้เมล็ด	<b>Variety</b> พันธุ์พืช
<b>The seeds were (circle one):</b> Free / Purchased _____ (price) ฟรี / ซื้อ เท่าไร _____ บาท	<b>Description of plant: ลักษณะของพืช</b> Seed color สีของเมล็ด
<b>Place where seeds originated</b> (village หมู่บ้าน/ district อำเภอ country จังหวัด):	<b>Features of main parts harvested (pod/fruit/shoots?)</b> ลักษณะเมล็ดที่เก็บเกี่ยว(ถั่ว, ผล, ลูก)
<b>Additional Information on Seed Source:</b> ข้อมูลเพิ่มเติม	<b>Edible? เป็นอาหารทานได้</b>  <b>Marketing/Can you sell it? การตลาด/ขายอย่างไร?</b>  <b>Where are seeds usually planted? In garden? Forest?</b> ปลูกในสวนครัว? ปลูกในป่า?  <b>What sets this variety apart of other? <u>ลักษณะพิเศษของพืช?</u></b>  <b>How does it look/test/cook/store differently from other?</b> สังเกตโดยวิธีไหน/รสชาติทำอาหาร/การจัดเก็บแตกต่างจากอย่างอื่นอย่างไร?

# Implementing a Seed Swap



# Prepping for a Seed Swap

- **Before the event:**
  - Communicate with and encourage attendees to bring seeds to the event
  - A good minimum is about 500g/ seed type



# Prepping for a Seed Swap

- **Before the event:**
  - Determine whether education or capacity-building is required:
    - Local crop knowledge
    - Crop diversity
    - Agriculture techniques and technologies

Determine the **method for implementing** seed swap during the meeting by assigning a person to manage and prepare.

## Day 1

**Register seeds brought by delegates: delegate name and contact info, seed name, seed source (village – location), produced by, propagated by, and other information.**



# Propagation, Usage, and Special Characteristics of the Seed

- How to propagate? Any special techniques?
- Plant in what time of year?
- Harvest time? Technique?
- Yield?
- What part is edible?



# Day 2 Prepare Seed Exchange Material

- If in bulk, split and divide equally to delegates
- Big seeds like beans may be separated by seed #
- Tiny seeds like Amaranth may be separated by volume or weight
- Common, scientific, and/or variety name?



# **Day 3: Implement the Actual Seed Exchange** **(45 – 60 minutes total duration)**

**– Provide each delegate (organization/individual) 5 minutes to introduce their seeds:**

- Name**
- How to grow**
- Beneficial/unique traits**
- How to consume**



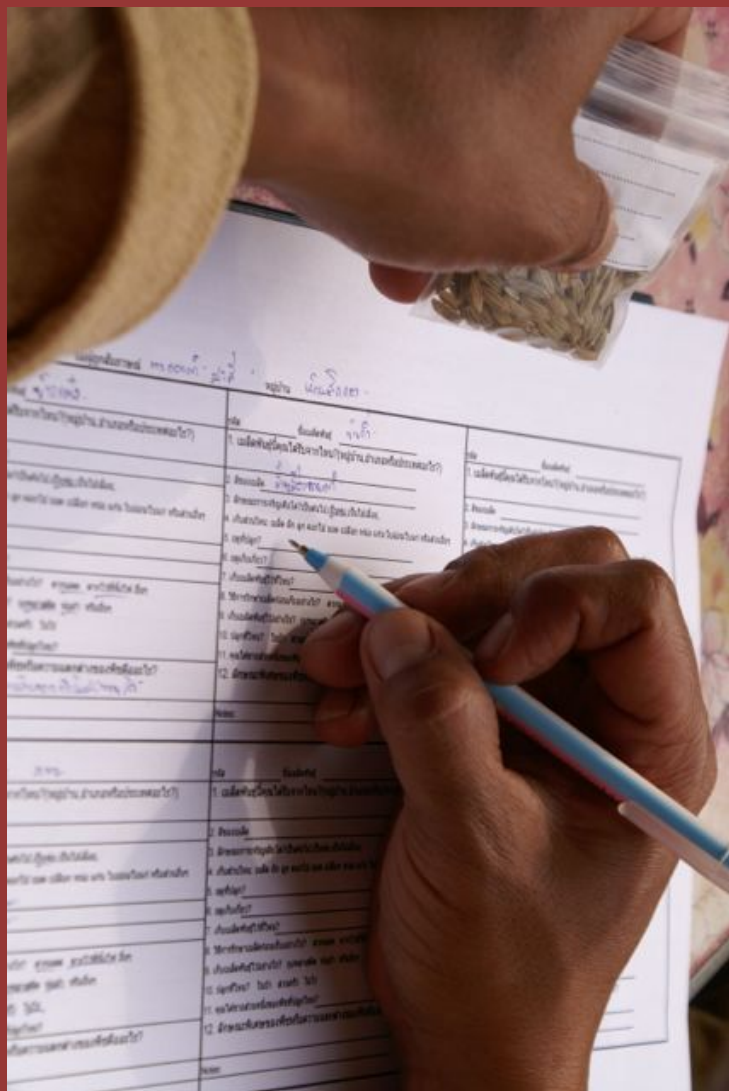
**– About 40 people could do a seed swap around a table. For 100 or more, manage by dividing into groups**

- Seed sharing is arranged by the designated manager and completed after all people/groups give information
- Facilitator can call each individual/group to receive a seed share or by round.





# Conducting a 1-day Seed Exchange



- **Process (and estimated times):**
  - If possible, distribute small bags to participants at least 1 day in advance
  - Registration of participants upon arrival and/or hand out bags and recording sheets (60-120 minutes)



# Conducting a 1-day Seed Exchange

- Process:
  - Record seed information as participants arrive
  - Training activity?



# Conducting a 1-day Seed Exchange



- Process
  - Allow participants time to introduce and explain seeds
  - Actual seed exchange





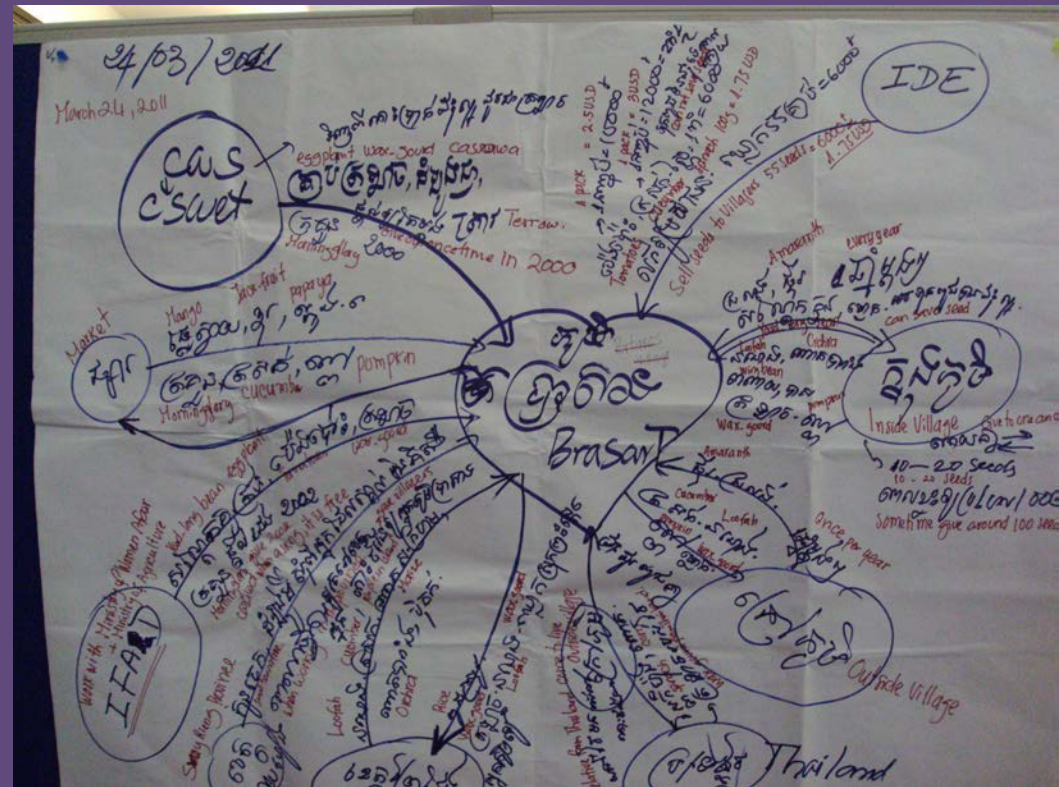
# Conducting a 1-day Seed Exchange

- **Process:**
  - Lunch/Snack/Dinner
  - Debrief (SWOT?)  
with implementing  
team



## Other Useful Information and Considerations

- Geographically distinct locations?
- Village cluster concept
- Only seeds or also cuttings/propagules?
- Take seeds for host organization/seed bank?



# THANK YOU

