Cultivating Partnerships between CSOs and CGIAR Centres: The Case of a LI-BIRD-Biodiversity International Partnership for *in situ* Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation On-Farm in Nepal

### Background and objective

The CSO-NARS-CGIAR partnership linked LI-BIRD (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development) and Bioversity International in a global project with the aim of conserving agricultural biodiversity on-farm and improving the livelihoods of farming communities. The objective of the partnership was to combine Bioversity International’s global expertise and knowledge with LI-BIRD’s local knowledge and experience.

### Roles of the partners

LI-BIRD facilitates collaboration between the local farming communities and other project partners thus ensuring that local perspectives and knowledge are incorporated in conservation and development policies and programmes. It facilitates understanding of traditional practices and social dynamics in local farming communities. Bioversity International provides global expertise and facilitates cross-country sharing of project experiences. It contributes to enhancing the capacities of national partners and assists in synthesizing research findings to produce knowledge products and make them available for wider use.

### Outputs/impacts

The partnership has produced a number of nationally and internationally recognised good practices and knowledge products such as community-based biodiversity management approaches, four-cell analysis, the community biodiversity register, community seedbanks and participatory plant breeding methodologies. An aromatic rice landrace of the Pokhara valley - “Jethobudo” - was enhanced though this partnership and has now been formally registered by the national variety release authority.

### Innovative features of the partnership

The partnership combines the comparative advantages of the two institutions to create a strong synergy in “thinking globally and acting locally”, i.e. integrating global science with local knowledge and action. Sharing of responsibilities, using flexibility in mobilising and managing resources, creating space for applying innovative ideas and approached for on-farm biodiversity conservation, and building local capacity for mutual benefit have been other innovative features of the partnership.

### Strengthening the partnership

The partnership can be strengthened by promoting and scaling up good practices, supporting new research and development initiatives, building the technical capacity of LI-BIRD and promoting a culture of mutual support for the review and planning of programmes and strategies.

### Acknowledgement

The poster is the outcome of the *in situ* project jointly implemented by NARC, LI-BIRD and Bioversity International in Nepal. Financial support of DGIS, the Netherlands, IDRC Canada and SDC, Switzerland is gratefully acknowledged.

---

1. Local Initiatives for Biodiversity Research and Development (LI-BIRD), P.O. Box 324, Pokhara, Nepal
2. Bioversity International, Via dei Tre Denari, 472/a, Maccarese, Rome, Italy
Cultivating Partnerships between CSOs and CGIAR Centres: The Case of a LI-BIRD-Bioversity International Partnership for In-Situ Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation On-Farm

Background and objective
The CSO-NARS-CGIAR partnership linked LI-BIRD (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development) and Bioversity International in a global project with the aim of conserving agricultural biodiversity on-farm and improving the livelihoods of farming communities. The objective of the partnership was to combine Bioversity International’s global expertise and knowledge with LI-BIRD’s local knowledge and experience.

Roles of the partners
LI-BIRD facilitates collaboration between the local farming communities and other project partners, thus ensuring that local perspectives and knowledge are incorporated in conservation and development policies and programmes. It facilitates understanding of traditional practices and social dynamics in local farming communities. Bioversity International provides global expertise and facilitates cross-country sharing of project experiences. It contributes to enhancing the capacities of national partners and assists in synthesising research findings to produce knowledge products and make them available for wider use.

Innovative features of the partnership
The partnership combines the comparative advantages of the two institutions to create a strong synergy in “thinking globally and acting locally”, i.e. integrating global science with local knowledge and action. Sharing of responsibilities, using flexibility in mobilising and managing resources, creating space for applying innovative ideas and approaches for on-farm biodiversity conservation, and building local capacity for mutual benefit have been other innovative features of the partnership between LI-BIRD and Bioversity International.

Outputs/impacts
The partnership has produced a number of nationally and internationally recognised good practices and knowledge products such as community-based biodiversity management approaches, four-cell analysis, the community biodiversity register, community seedbanks and participatory plant breeding methodologies. An aromatic rice landrace of the Pokhara valley—“Jethobudho”—was enhanced through this partnership and has now been formally registered by the national variety release authority.

Strengthening the partnership
The partnership can be strengthened by promoting and scaling up good practices, supporting new research and development initiatives, building the technical capacity of LI-BIRD and promoting a culture of mutual support for the review and planning of programmes and strategies.

Acknowledgement
The poster is the outcome of the in situ project jointly implemented by NARC, LI-BIRD and Bioversity International in Nepal. Financial support of DGIS, the Netherlands, IDRC Canada and SDC, Switzerland is gratefully acknowledged.

Pratap Shrestha and Bhuvan Shrestha
1 Local Initiatives for Biodiversity Research and Development (LI-BIRD), P.O. Box 324, Pokhara, Nepal
2 Bioversity International, Via dei Tre Denari, 472/a, Maccarese, Rome, Italy
Cultivating Partnerships between CSOs and CGIAR Centres: The Case of a LI-BIRD-Bioversity International Partnership for In situ Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation On-Farm in Nepal

Background and objective
The CSO-NARC-CSIAR partnership linked LI-BIRD (Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development) and Bioversity International in a global project with the aim of conserving agricultural biodiversity on-farm and improving the livelihoods of farming communities. The objective of the partnership was to combine Bioversity International’s global expertise and knowledge with LI-BIRD’s local knowledge and experience.

Roles of the partners
LI-BIRD facilitates collaboration between the local farming communities and other project partners thus ensuring that local perspectives and knowledge are incorporated in conservation and development policies and programmes. It facilitates understanding of traditional practices and social dynamics in local farming communities. Bioversity International provides global expertise and facilitates cross-country sharing of project experiences. It contributes to enhancing the capacities of national partners and assists in synthesizing research findings to produce knowledge products and make them available for wider use.

Outputs/impacts
The partnership has produced a number of nationally and internationally recognised good practices and knowledge products such as community-based biodiversity management approaches, four-cell analysis, the community biodiversity register, community seedbanks and participatory plant breeding methodologies. An aromatic rice landrace of the Pokhara valley “Jethobudo” - was enhanced though this partnership and has now been formally registered by the national variety release authority.

Innovative features of the partnership
The partnership combines the comparative advantages of the two institutions to create a strong synergy in “thinking globally and acting locally”, i.e. integrating global science with local knowledge and action. Sharing of responsibilities, using flexibility in mobilising and managing resources, creating space for applying innovative ideas and approached for on-farm biodiversity conservation, and building local capacity for mutual benefit have been other innovative features of the partnership.

Strengthening the partnership
The partnership can be strengthened by promoting and scaling up good practices, supporting new research and development initiatives, building the technical capacity of LI-BIRD and promoting a culture of mutual support for the review and planning of programmes and strategies.

Acknowledgement
The poster is the outcome of the in situ project jointly implemented by NARC, LI-BIRD and Bioversity International in Nepal. Financial support of DGIS, the Netherlands, IDRC Canada and SDC, Switzerland is gratefully acknowledged.