



FORM PER PROGETTI BANDO DOTTORATO XXXIV CICLO

1. Project title

Ethnobotanical survey of landraces in Trento Province for their conservation (N-Italy)

2. Proposer

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3. Research Unit

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4. Key words

(Max. 5 – at least 2)

agro-biodiversity, seed bank conservation, Crop Landraces, Genetic erosion,

5. Abstract

(Max. 1.500 characters with spaces)

Crop landraces contain valuable breeding material useful to increase the narrow genepool of modern cultivars, helping agriculture to face future challenges such as climate change. Landraces also have an intrinsic heritage and cultural value. In the US and in Europe, the great majority of the traditional landraces have been lost in last decades replaced by high yielding modern cultivars characterised by a uniform and narrow genetic base. Only patchy data exists on landraces used in Northern Italy and in Trentino in particular. Trentino like most of northern Italy was rich in landrace diversity particularly in cereals. This project plans to carry out a comprehensive and rigorous survey to identify the surviving landraces in cultivation. Such an analysis is timely and highly needed to inform the conservation activities and to develop a database of currently existing material that will be valuable for the local administration in the context of the new national laws on agrobiodiversity conservation (L194/2015). This project aims to identify and characterize local landraces and develop an action plan for their conservation in Trentino. The results will be published in peer-reviewed journals and the landrace characterization will be instrumental for the registration of the identified local landraces in the national Registry "Anagrafe Nazionale della biodiversità di interesse agricolo e alimentare" (L194/2015).