

<b>Country</b>	Brazil						
<b>Population</b>	2,315,360						
<b>Title of practice</b>	Public bank for Native and Agroecological Seeds						
<b>Subtitle</b>	Preserving Our Seeds, Strengthening Our Farmers						
<b>MUFPP Recommended Action</b>	25. Promote and strengthen urban and peri-urban food production and processing based on sustainable approaches and integrate urban and peri-urban agriculture into city resilience plans. – FOOD PRODUCTION						
<b>Starting year</b>	2022	<b>Ending year (if any)</b>				<input type="checkbox"/> already submitted in the past	
<b>Actors and stakeholders' involvement</b>	<b>Municipal departments</b>	<b>Other public institutions</b>	<b>NGOs CSOs</b>	<b>Research centres</b>	<b>Private sectors</b>	<b>International organizations</b>	<b>Other</b>
	3	3	1				
<b>Budget</b>	The budget is R\$200,000.00 (€ 31,338.63) for the physical structure, financed by a parliamentary amendment. Operation is financed by the municipal budget, which provides personnel to conduct the workshops and other indirect costs, such as inputs and logistics.						
<b>Brief description</b>	<p>This initiative, developed by the Food and Nutritional Security Secretariat (SMSAN) in partnership with the Foundation of Municipal and Zoo botanical Parks (FPMZB), aims to cultivate, conserve, and multiply traditional seeds to ensure food sovereignty and preserve agrobiodiversity. It responds to the loss of native varieties caused by standardized agriculture and dependence on patented seeds, which threaten food security and local cultures.</p> <p>The project values the knowledge of family and urban farmers, who produce around 70% of the food consumed in Brazil. It trains “seed guardians” to preserve and propagate native seeds, which are stored in the Botanical Garden with proper documentation and viability testing.</p> <p>Training includes planting, processing, and seed exchange techniques, strengthening agroecology and community resilience. Partnerships with universities, EMBRAPA, and civil society organizations support the expansion of seed collections and technical knowledge.</p> <p>The initiative promotes native seed dissemination, farmer autonomy, and strong local food systems. It benefits urban and agroecological farmers, as well as consumers who gain access to more diverse and nutritious food.</p> <p>Key outcomes include the creation of a local seed collection, the empowerment of trained seed guardians as knowledge multipliers, and the integration of ex situ and on-farm conservation methods—contributing to long-term sustainability.</p>						
<b>Innovation</b>	<p>The Public Bank for Native and Agroecological Seeds stands out as an innovative initiative in urban areas because it focuses on the promotion of agrobiodiversity, bringing strategies not only for ex situ (in the seed bank) and on farm (on agricultural properties) storages, with active community participation, but also for the breeding of species, and adapting them to local conditions. This approach is opposed to the genetic erosion caused by industrial agriculture, which prioritizes standardized and patented seeds, threatening agricultural diversity and food culture and sovereignty. One of the main strengths of the project is the empowerment of seed guardians, through the recognition of traditional knowledge and the training of urban farmers as knowledge multipliers, preserving traditional varieties and agroecological techniques. These guardians become local agents of change, strengthening networks of exchange and resistance against dependence on commercial seeds.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project innovates by linking public food security policies to agroecology: its emphasis on participatory education (workshops, collective efforts) and the appreciation of local food culture reinforces that innovation can be inclusive, sustainable and rooted in the community.</p>						

<b>Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social Impact:</b> the Public Bank for Native and Agroecological Seeds promotes the productive inclusion of urban farmers, family farmers and traditional communities. By guaranteeing access to locally adapted seeds, it strengthens the food security of the farmers themselves and local communities, fostering food culture, diversifying crops and reducing vulnerabilities. The training of seed guardians creates cooperation networks that value cultural identities, revive traditional consumption habits and restore community self-esteem.</li> <li>• <b>Environmental Impact:</b> the initiative combats the loss of biodiversity by replacing transgenic seeds with traditional varieties, reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides and protecting local ecosystems. The agroecological practices encouraged - such as agricultural consortia and green manure - recover degraded soils in urban and peri-urban areas, in addition to optimizing water use.</li> <li>• <b>Economic Impact:</b> The sale of typical, diverse and nutritious foods generates additional income, with added value due to agroecological quality. The project also encourages short marketing circuits.</li> </ul>
<b>Inclusion</b>	<p>The initiative integrates various dimensions of sustainable development. In the productive sphere, it promotes urban agroecological systems with vegetable varieties adapted to local climate conditions, increasing resilience and reducing the need for external inputs. It also conserves agrobiodiversity by combining ex situ methods, such as seed banks, with on-farm practices, preserving traditional varieties at risk of disappearing.</p> <p>One of its pillars is education, with ongoing training for guardian farmers, technicians, and communities, addressing management techniques and the sociocultural and nutritional importance of Creole seeds. This strengthens regional food security by expanding access to diverse and nutritious foods.</p> <p>The project's strength lies in its collaborative network, involving municipal departments (notably Food Security and Environment), institutions such as EMBRAPA, EPAMIG, universities, and civil society, especially the Horizontes Agroecológicos Association. Urban farmers are the main protagonists, with special recognition of the role of women seed guardians.</p> <p>With a collaborative structure and economic feasibility, the project is replicable in other regions, especially in urban and peri-urban contexts. Its key difference is the innovative articulation of public policies, traditional knowledge, and scientific research, creating a management model adaptable to different territorial realities.</p>