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Mapping Colloquial Terms Describing Underutilised & Neglected Food Crops

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# Mapping Colloquial Terms Describing Underutilised & Neglected Food Crops

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# **Mapping Colloquial Terms Describing Underutilised & Neglected Food Crops**

Genetic diversity in commercial food crops is decreasing, exposing the food systems to food & nutrition insecurity, such as new crop diseases, producibility issues, climate change, soil depletion and decreased quality of nutritional and organoleptic properties of food. Reintroduction of neglected and underutilised (NUS) crops to the supply chain, has the potential to minimise and perhaps, reverse some of the damage that has already occurred. Better understanding of the concepts behind crop terminology, especially terms like *heritage*, *heirloom*, *ancient*, *traditional*, *orphan* and *landrace* could enhance our understanding of the complexity of the food systems, and

increase agrobiodiversity.

#### Why is (agro)biodiversity Important?

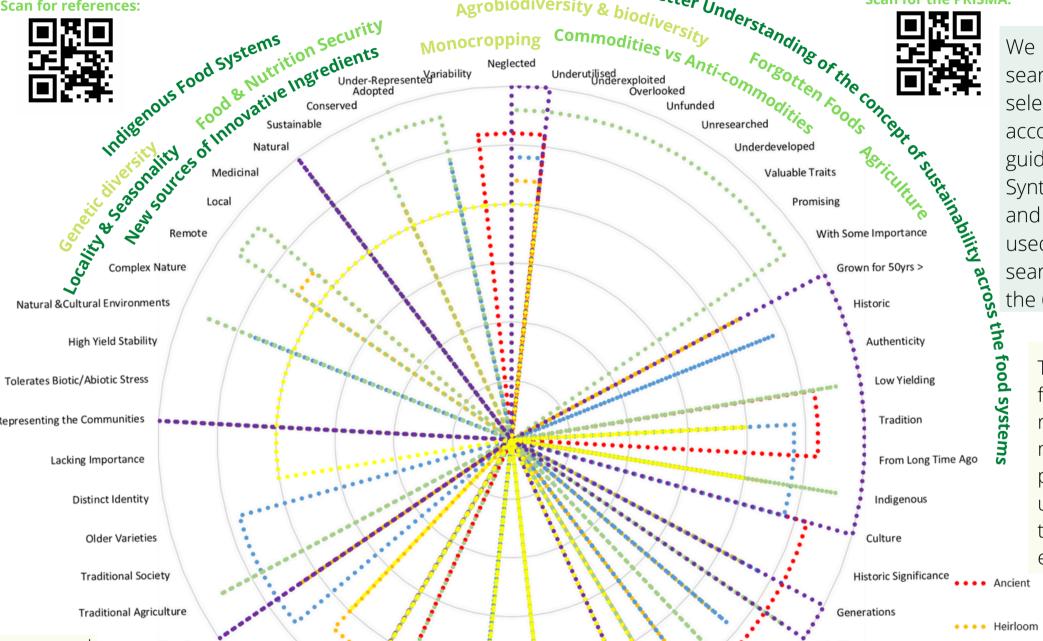
According to the 'State of the World's Plants and Fungi' report produced by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, up to 39.4% of plants are threatened with extinction worldwide, and Europe only has about half of its original biodiversity intact, depending on the region and the food sector is one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss.

### How to conserve biodiversity?

The vicious cycle of biodiversity loss can be broken, if not reversed, by implantation of sustainable practices throughout the food-system, including the agricultural sector. One method would be to diversify the food supply chain through reintroduction of NUS varieties of crops.

#### Why NUS?

NUS crops are often synonymised with forgotten and minor, however, their level of impact is on the contrary, as many possess positive attributes when utilised efficiently. For example, increased level of some micronutrients, better flavour, texture, visual attributes, cultural significance and tend to good for increasing agribiodiversity.



Small Landholders

Anti-Commodity

## Methodology

We have conducted a scoping literature review in search for definitions/descriptions of the 6 selected terms. The review was conducted in accordance with the Joann Brings Institute's guidance for Systematic Reviews for Effective Data Synthesis. We have identified 517 eligible records and included 33 for data extraction. We have also used the British National Corpus as an additional search mechanism for mapping the meanings of the 6 terms.

## **Our Findings**

This poster displays the main findings retrieved through a literature scoping review on the 6 terminologies and their meanings, collocates and synonyms. Since the potential sources of NUS are very diverse and unquantifiable, the application of the correct terms should make future database searches easier and more efficient.

#### Where to look for NUS?

- -Local Farm Shops & Sunday Markets
- -Seed Exchange forums
- -Small hold farmers
- -Allotment Holders and Gardeners
- -Seed and Gene Banks
- -Chefs' forums

