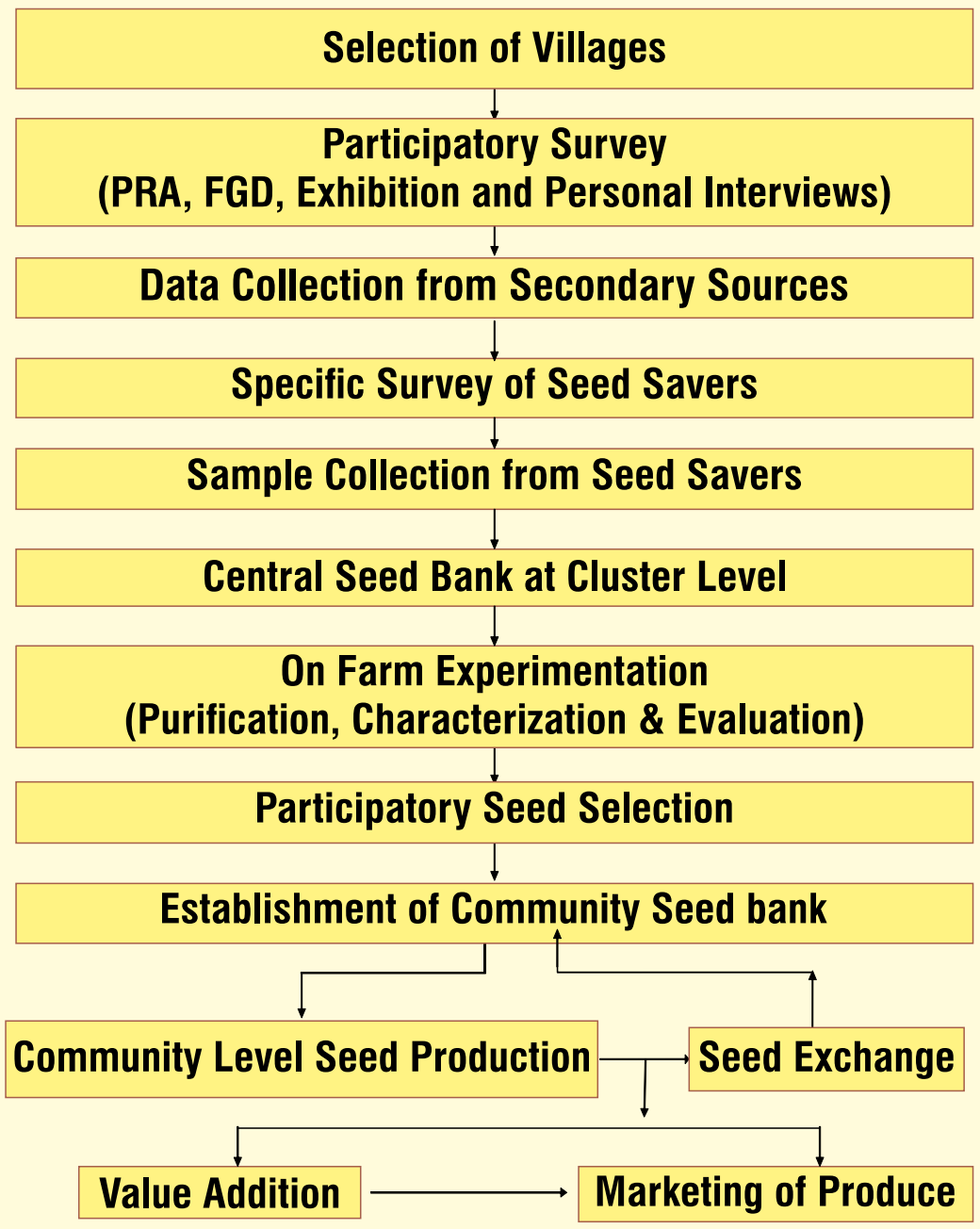
Bio Diversity Conservation through Community Action in India

Introduction: Biodiversity is the origin of all species of crops, forest species, local livestock and the variety within them. It is also the foundation of ecosystem services essential to sustain agriculture and human well-being. Biodiversity and agriculture are strongly interrelated because while biodiversity is critical for agriculture, agriculture can also contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Maintenance local crop land races, forest species and livestock breeds of the biodiversity is essential for food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

Conservation Approach



Plant Genetic Resources

- Conserved 587 local crop seeds.
- Registration of community varieties : 31 with PPVFRA, New Delhi.
- Deposition of local seeds of crop cultivars to NBPGR, New Delhi : 150.
- Area and farmers covered : 1300 ha and 5500 farmers.
- Marketing through "Farming Monk" brand.

Participatory varietal selection

Community Seed bank

Forest Diversity :

- Identified Candidate ofNTFP species : 114
- Planted NTFP trees : 0.4 millon
- Conservation of forest habitat : 56 ha

Madhuca indica - Candidate tree

Terminalia bellerica - Candidate tree

Conserving Animal Genetic Resources

- Selecting elite local breed with the scientific approach
- Breeding services through Artificial insemination in the region specific breed conservation
- Conservation and promotion of local goat breeds eg. Sangamneri and Berari
- Characterization and conservation of local poultry breeds

Local goat and cattle breed conservation

Acronyms : Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPVFRA) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) and National Bank for Agriculture and RuralDevelopment (NABARD)

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