



GARDENS *of* BIODIVERSITY

*Conservation of
genetic resources and their use in
traditional food production systems
by small farmers of
the Southern Caucasus*





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Photographs by Marzio Marzot



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The Southern Caucasus is an important centre of origin and diversity of many species and varieties that are the basis for global food production. This great biodiversity is maintained by farmers, and their gardens are a healthy source of food production, experimental places to develop sustainable technologies and laboratories to maintain seeds and biodiversity.

This book contains 500 photos and documented information on selected species that hold potential to adapt to the production systems of the twenty-first century. It also contains studies and notes on the food habits and associated traditions of the people of the Southern Caucasus, who contribute to maintaining sustainable agricultural systems through their daily work and diligence.

The time has come to awaken and engage in identifying, maintaining and using these genetic resources and agricultural practices. This will enable the present and future generations to improve their food security and livelihood in the Southern Caucasus while ensuring that other countries will also have access to this treasure trove of biodiversity.

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