SEEDNet regional course on "*In situ* & on farm conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture"	
Place	Suceava Gene bank, Romania
Timetable	Arrival 2009 09 20 Course days 21 – 24 September 2009 Departure 2009 09 25
Course plan:	**Day 1**. Lectures: **Module 1.** General introduction and definition of key categories: • plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; • *ex situ* conservation; • *in situ* conservation: o on farm conservation; ▪ home garden conservation; • crop wild relatives; • land races; • traditional knowledge. **Day 2.** Lectures: **Module 2.** Guidelines for collecting seeds and herbarium vouchers: • planning a seed collecting expedition: o site selection o prioritising species o tools and equipment • collecting in the field: o sampling strategy for: ▪ crop wild relatives ▪ land races o data collection: ▪ data format for crop wild relative ▪ data format for land races : **Module 3**. Methodologies for on *in situ* & on farm conservation of crop wild relatives and land races Present state of knowledge of on farm conservation in Romania Case study - "Survey of the genetic diversity of Romanian traditional crop varieties and landraces conserved on-farm" After presentation of Romanian case study, the trainees will be invited to name and locate crops land races or fruit trees local cultivars in their own countries, and finally to develop maps including these information.

	Days 3 and 4. Field applications: **Module 4** is designed to develop practical aspects of the theoretical topics covered in detail in the previous modules, and it includes: • field trip in rural area in order to survey and collect seed crop land races and associated data; • practical application in a botanical reserve to collect selected species of crop wild relatives. Evaluation of the training course.
Goals	The major aim of the course is to introduce the key concepts related to in situ & on farm conservation, emphasizing the importance of the holistic approach in the preservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Considering that within plant genetic resources the most at risk of extinction are crop wild relatives and landraces, *in situ* and on farm conservation is largely recognized as a necessary complement for *ex situ* conservation.
Objectives	a. to up-grade knowledge of the participants with the concepts related to *in situ* conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; b. to provide guidance for conducting collecting missions of crop wild relatives and land races; c. to exchange and generate information with respect to present state and trends of *in situ* conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; d. to promote integration of *in situ* on farm conservation into national plant genetic resources programme.
Literature	**Collecting Plant Genetic Diversity – Technical Guidelines**, edited by L. Guarino, V. Ramanatha Rao, R. Reid, 1995 **A Training Guide for In situ Conservation On-farm**, by D. I. Jarvis at all., IPGRI, 2000 **Genes in the Field – On-Farm Conservation of Crop Diversity**, edited by B. Brush, 1999
Exercises	Modules 1, 2 and 3 will be followed by practical exercises.
Name of course responsible	Silvia Străjeru Director of Suceava Gene bank
Trainers	Silvia Străjeru, assisted by: Diana Batir Rusu Dan Sandru