



# Linking conservation to local use: Maize bread from LRs



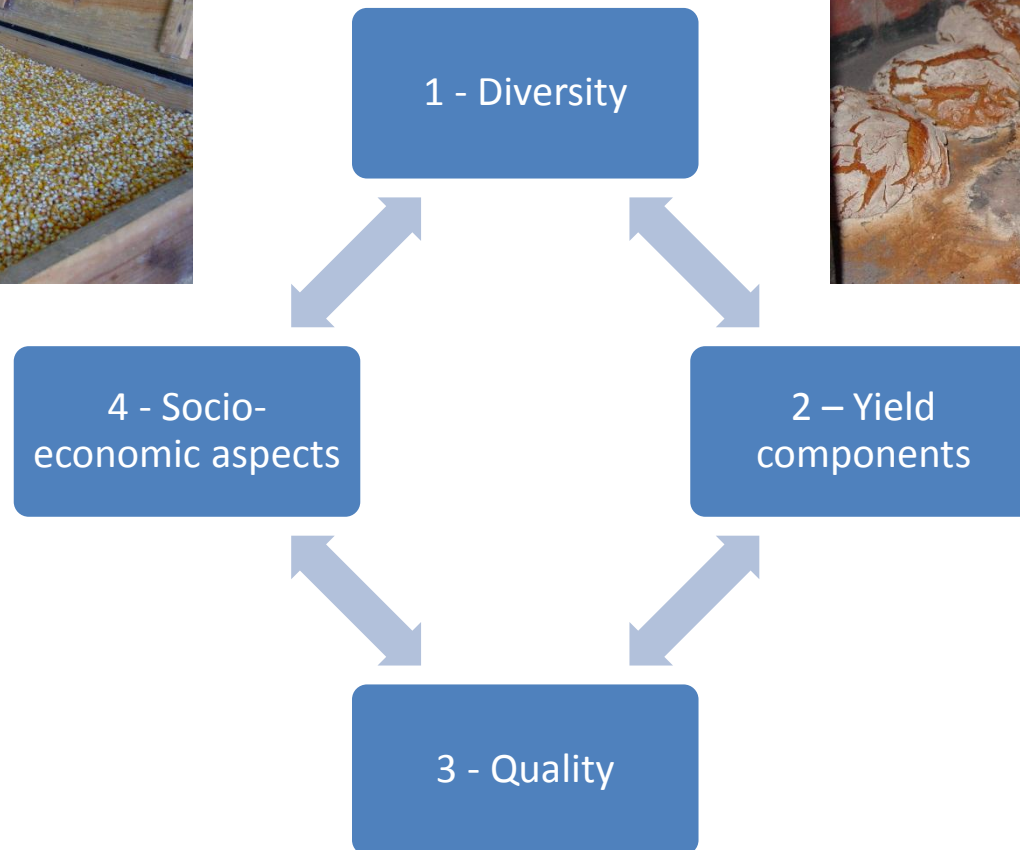
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**Conservation strategies for European crop wild relative and landrace diversity**  
7–9 September 2011 Hotel Palangos vetra, Palanga, Lithuania

# From the kernel to the bread





# 1 - Diversity

Hallauer (1994) proposed distinct four stages for maize breeding

1) domestication process

2) development of more than 250 or less distinct races of corn by native American civilization till 16th century

Shamel, 1905; East (1908) and Shull (1908); Shull (1909, 1910) and Jones (1918)

4) development of the concept of inbreds and hybrids (1909 till present).

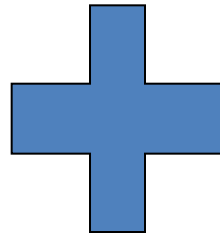
Columbus (1492)

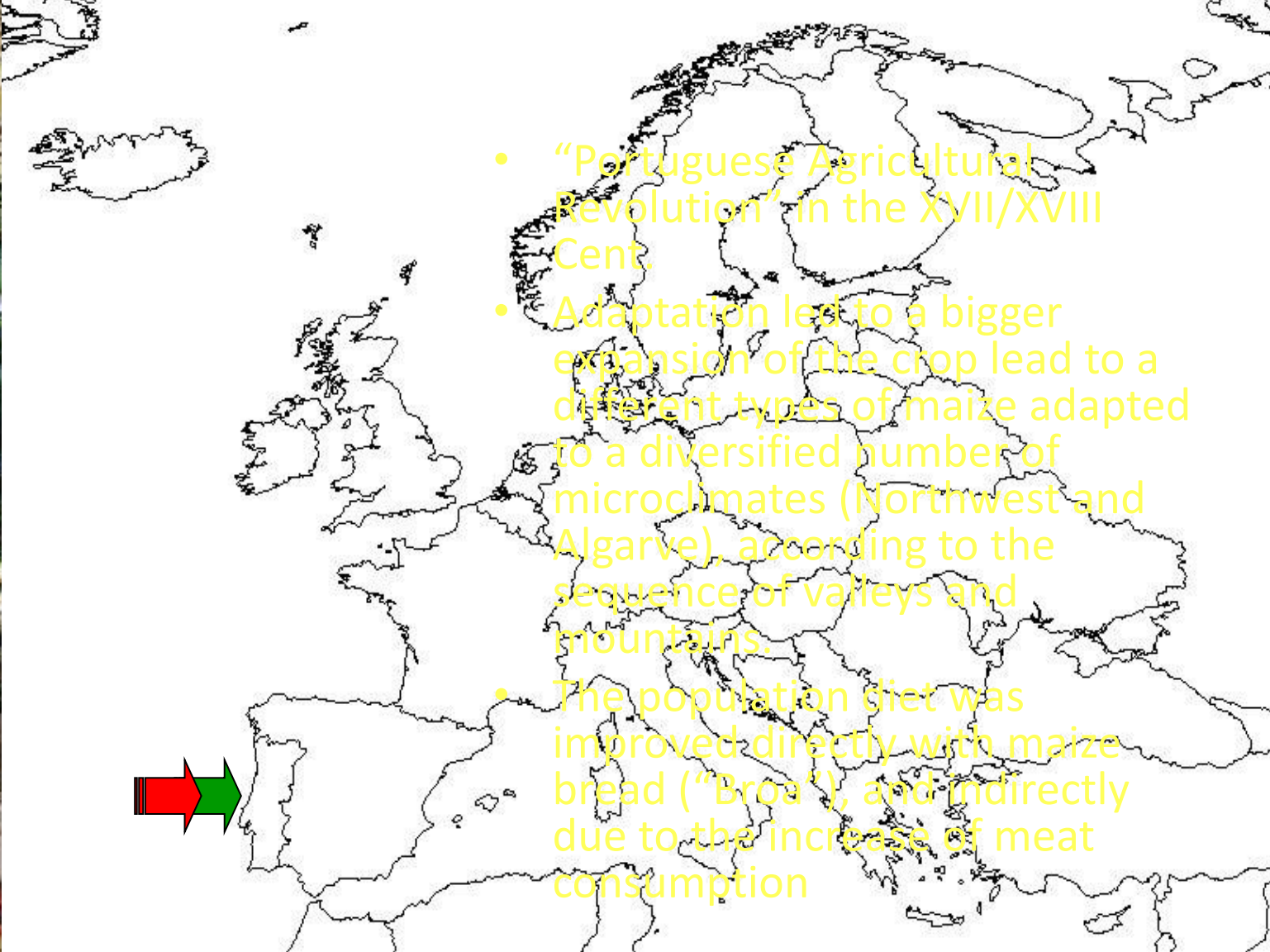
**3) development of distinct varieties from original races by American and European colonists (1500 to 1925)**

PPB



# Stage three (more than 500 years relationship)

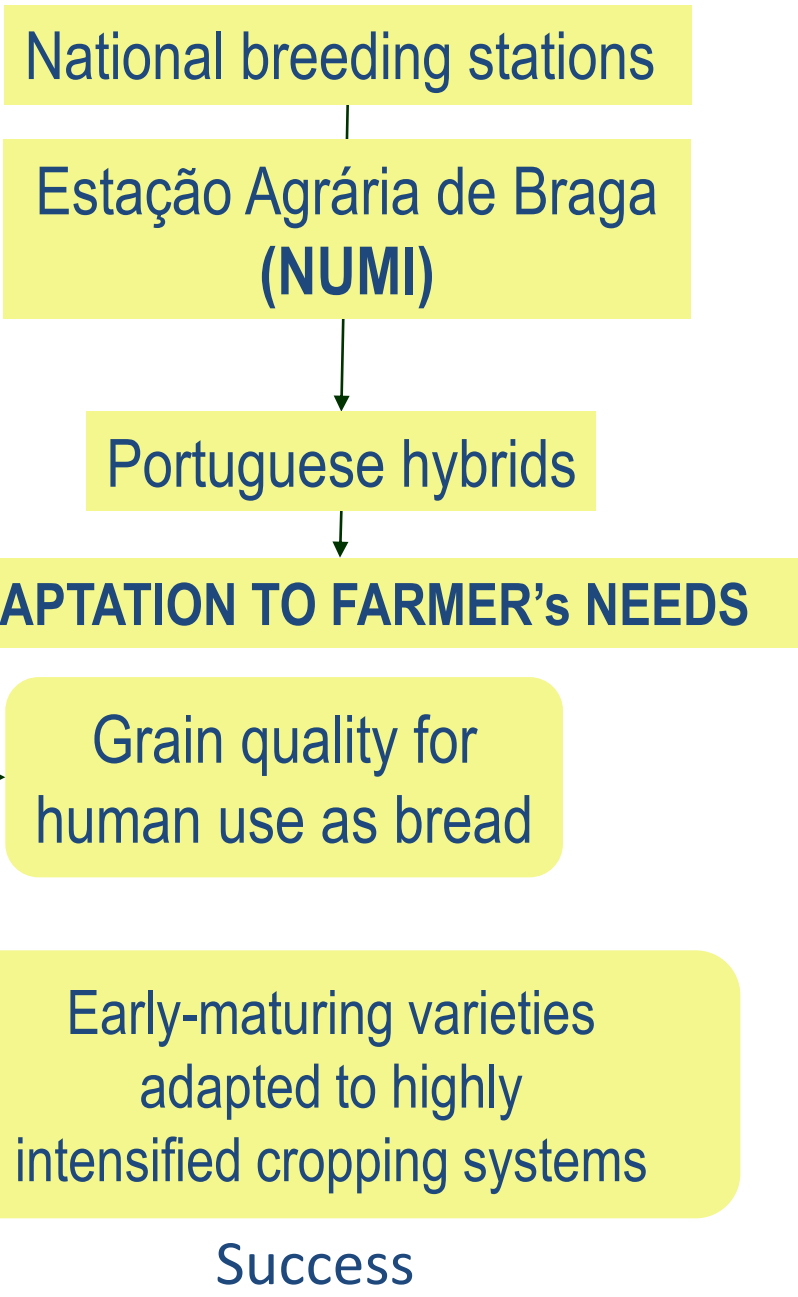
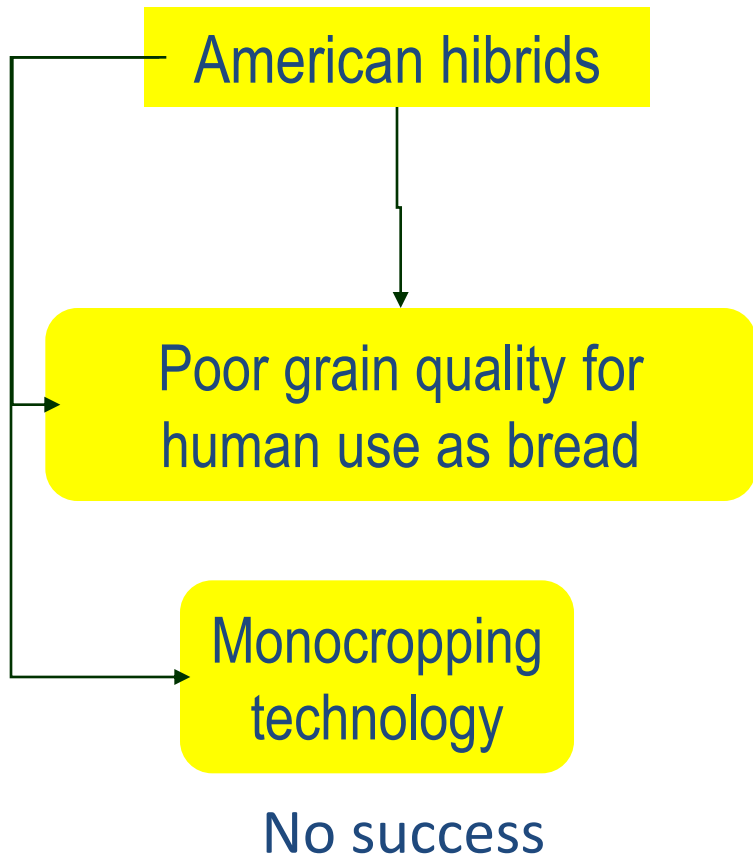




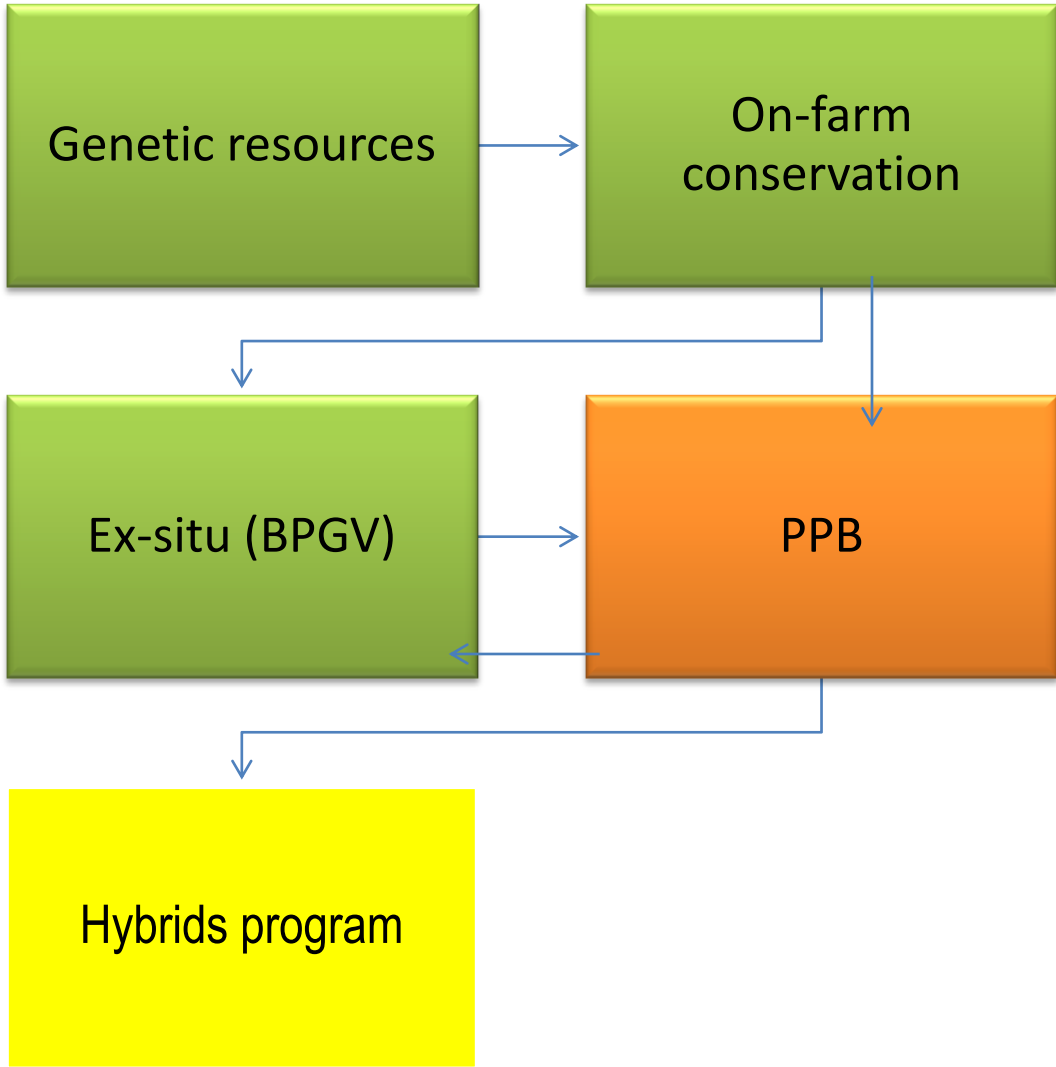
- “Portuguese Agricultural Revolution” in the XVII/XVIII Cent.
- Adaptation led to a bigger expansion of the crop lead to a different types of maize adapted to a diversified number of microclimates (Northwest and Algarve), according to the sequence of valleys and mountains.
- The population diet was improved directly with maize bread (“Broa”), and indirectly due to the increase of meat consumption



Adaptation do Portugal conditions  
*versus* adaptation to Portuguese  
farmers needs

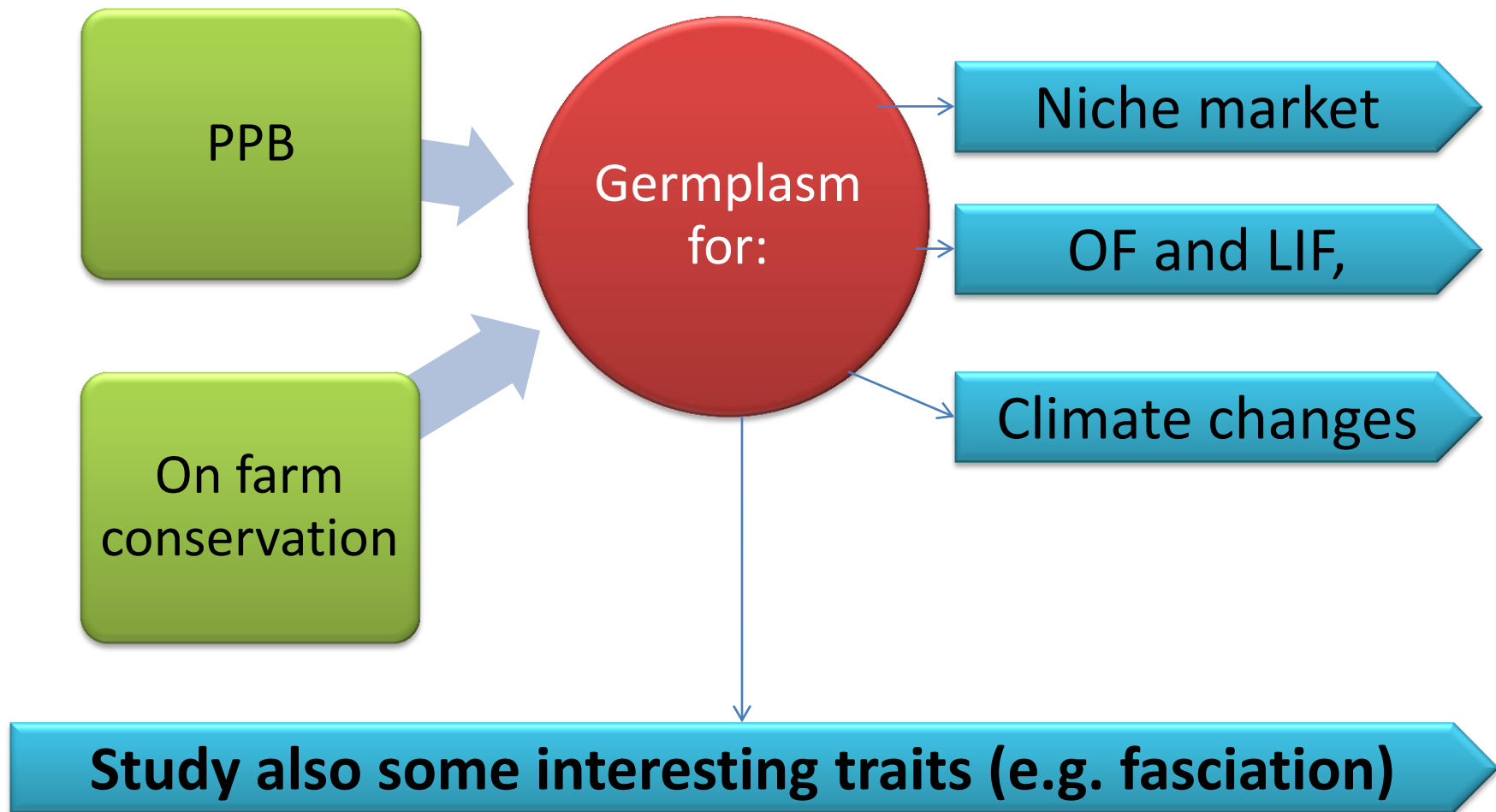






**Conservation needed for specificities of germplasm**

# New needs new challenges, (re)newal uses





# Participatory Maize Breeding (Breeding on-farm)



PPB – VASO started in 1986

2005 10 4



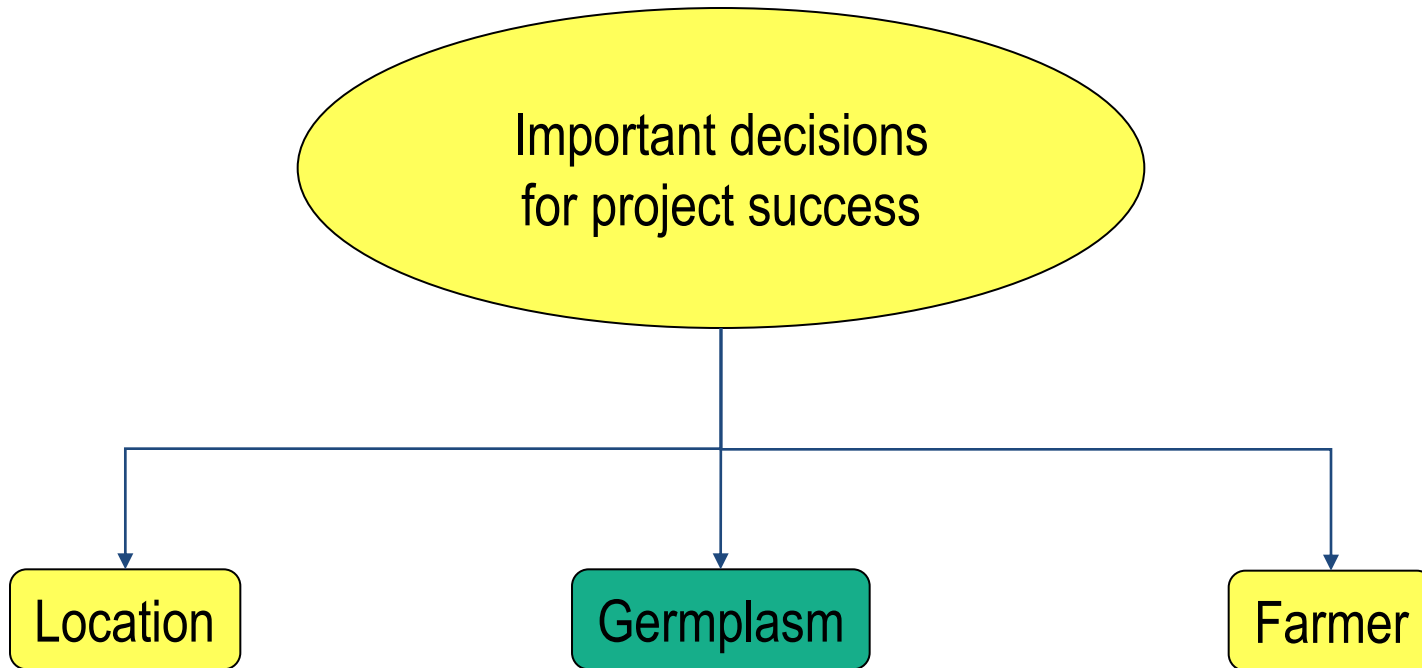
# The main question

- “How to solve the problem of the small Portuguese farmers where the land is scarce and the high demographic density exists”

*i.e.*

- where the American model do not fit and where the multinationals do not have market to operate?

# VASO Project



traditional maize area

Agro/sociologic/economics data availability

Support of a local elite farmers' association (CGAVS)

Test the efficiency of an alternative project supposed to improve the local germplasm in order to be competitive, at least in certain specific circumstances, side by side with the local hybrids production

1 -Local Germplasm  
(e.g. 'Pigarro', 'Amiúdo')

2 -Exotic germplasm  
'FANDANGO'

The right people to work with,  
Work side by side with  
the farmer, to whom  
the decision power will  
be allowed

Their initial acceptance  
and enthusiasm



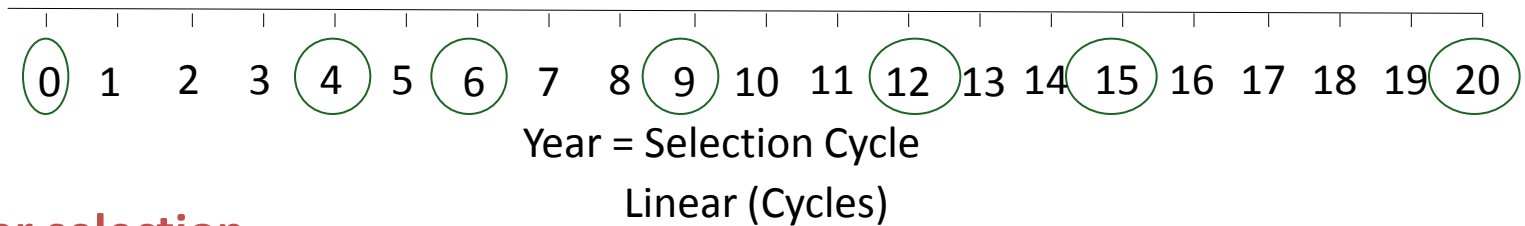


PIGARRO  
Co-07

2007 10 11

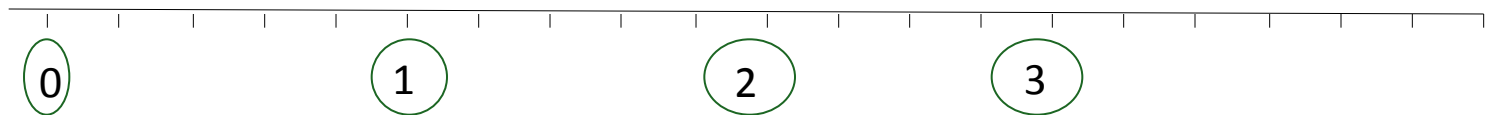
# VASO Project (breeding methodologies)

Pigarro Mass Selection 1984-2009...



**Farmer selection**  
(A-B-C selection process)

Pigarro Recurrent Selection (S2) 1984-1998



**Breeder selection**  
(S2 selection process)

Selection Cycle



Mr Meireles as winner of Sousa Valey Best Ear contest(14 years)



2005 10 4



# On farm conservation





Collecting missions in 2005

Helping to keep this long legacy...

Collecting the system with all their seed components



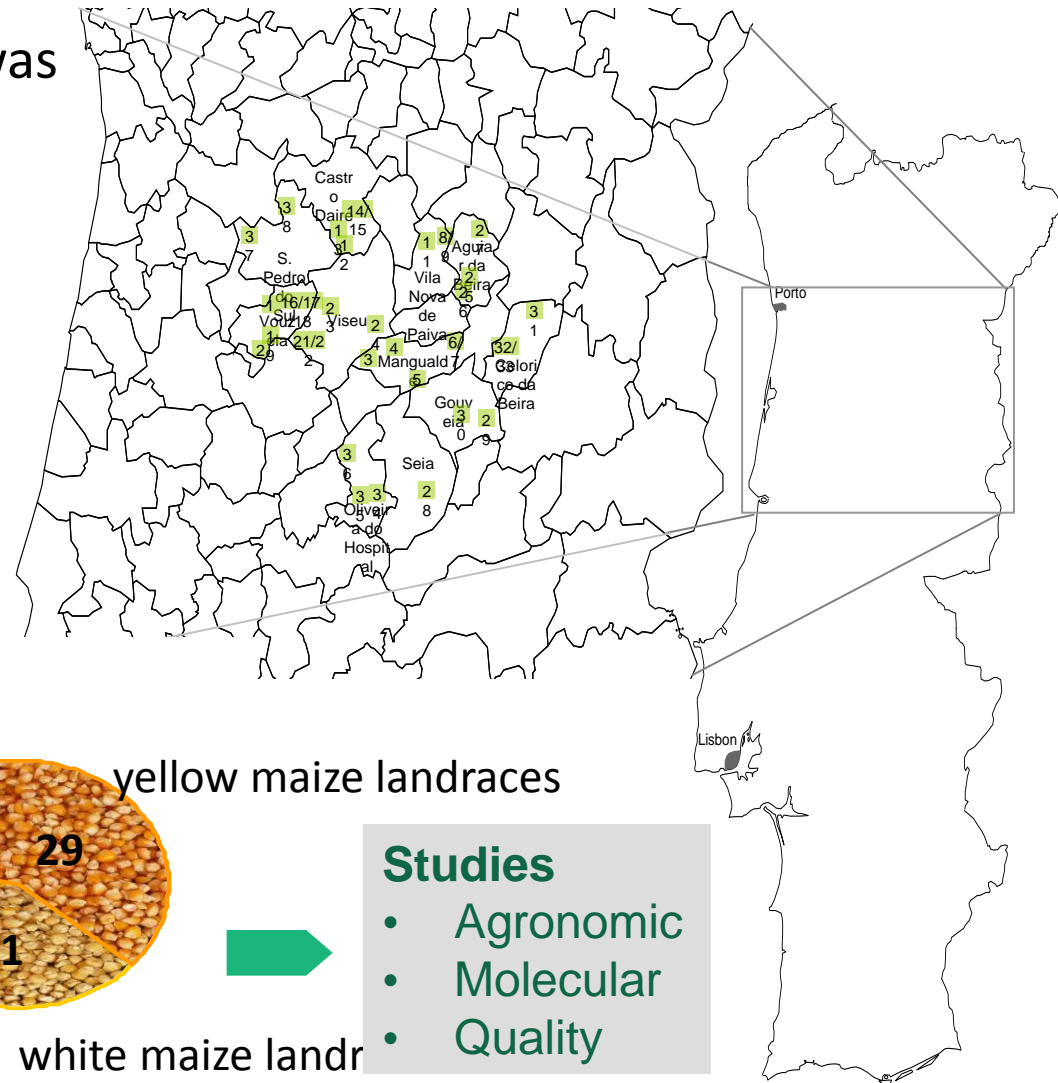
- Organization of collecting missions



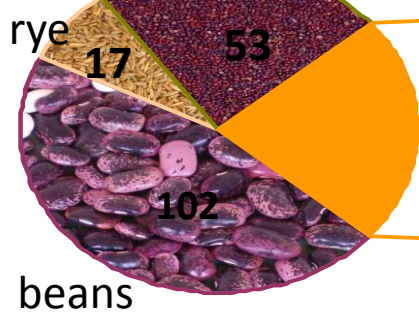


# Collecting missions in 2005

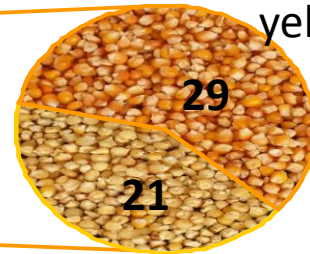
-Serra da Estrela, National Park was included



other crops (cabagges, pumpkings,...)



yellow maize landraces



white maize landr

- Studies**
- Agronomic
  - Molecular
  - Quality

Number of landraces seed samples collected on the field expeditions





Biodiversity conservation so as traditions and empirical knowledge, i.e., collective memory





## 2 – Yield components



# Evaluation trials



# Material and Methods



- Trials in 2007 and 2010
- 39 maize entries from PPB and on-farm, plus population hybrids
- 9 locations in Portugal
- 3 Replications
- Plots
  - **9.6 m<sup>2</sup>** (2 rows x 7.00 m length x 0.75 m between rows);

## Material and Methods Traits

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**Yield, mg ha-1**  
**Moisture %**  
Days-to-silk, n° †  
**Days-to-silk, n° † end**  
Days-to-anthesis, n° †  
Days-to-anthesis, n° † end  
O  
H  
U  
N  
T  
E  
**S**  
**R**

Plant height, m (x10) ‡  
Ear height, m (x10) ‡  
Ear Length, cm  
Ear Diameter 1, cm (x10) ‡  
Ear Diameter 3, cm (x10) ‡  
Ear Diameter 2, cm (x10) ‡  
Ear Diameter 4, cm (x10) ‡  
Kernel-row number 1, n°  
Kernel-row number 2, n°  
Fasciation  
D/I %de Ind  
Convulsion  
F/D  
Ear weight, g  
Kernel weight, g  
Cob weight, g (x10) ‡  
CW/EW

Ear%Moisture  
Kernel dept, cm (x10) ‡  
Kernel number, n°  
Thousand kernel weight, g  
Kernel per row, n°  
Cob diameter 1, cm (x10) ‡  
Cob diameter 3, cm (x10) ‡  
Cob diameter 2, cm (x10) ‡  
Cob diameter 4, cm (x10) ‡  
Medula 1, cm (x10) ‡  
Medula 2, cm (x10) ‡  
Raquis 1, cm (x10) ‡  
Raquis 2, cm (x10) ‡

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## Data treatment

- ANOVA and Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines (MARS)



## Results

- Yield range from 3.7 to 6.3 Mg/ha

Some population hibrid with - Pop Hib 1 – 7.1 Mg/ha

DATA treatment is on going



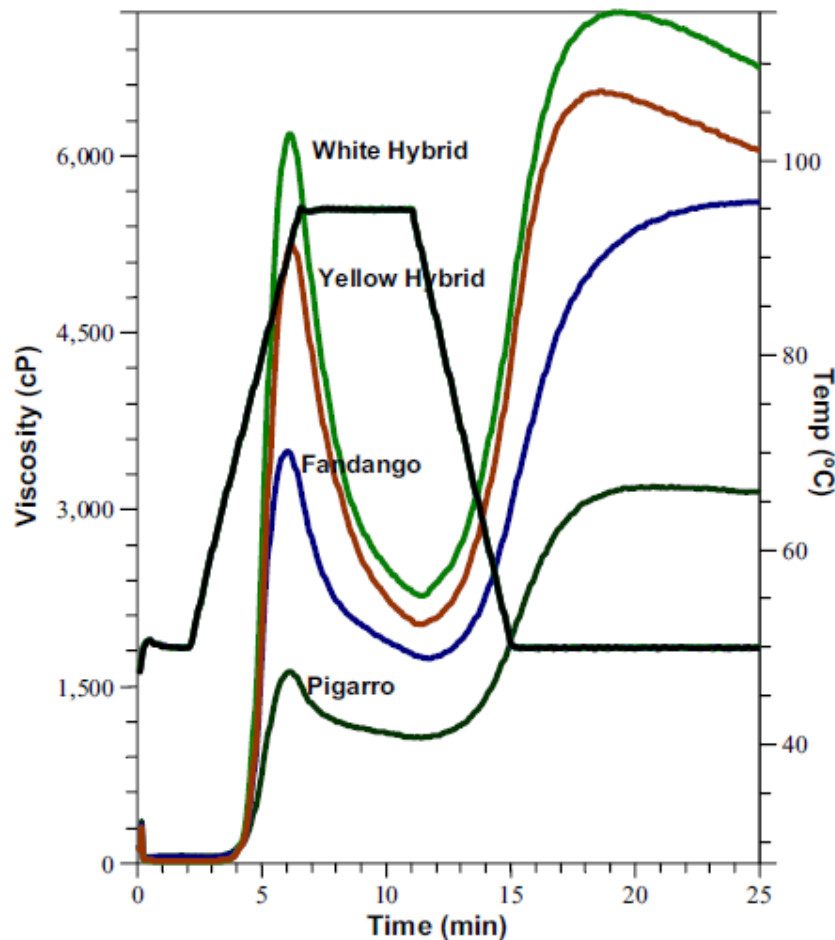
## 3 – Quality

## End-use quality

- Viscosity profiles
- Rheological properties
- Breadmaking ability



# Viscosity profiles: -Rapid Visco Analyzer (RVA)



- **Viscosity profiles** (maximum, minimum and final viscosity (cP units))
- Viscosities profiles express gelatinization and retrogradation phenomenon of starch that occur during heating/cooling and agitation of flour and water suspension
- (Brites *et al.* 2010)

Fig. 1 Viscosities prof of maize flours obtained from electric mill determined by RVA (Rapid Visco Analyser)

# Portuguese OPV

- Portuguese OPV exhibited significant higher protein, lower amylose contents and lower viscosity profiles than commercial hybrids varieties
  - Categorization on three distinct clusters:

A

- High oil and amylose content/low viscosity profiles

B

- High protein content, high viscosity profiles/low oil and amylose content

C

- Low protein content

Vaz Patto *et al.* (2009)

# ***Breadmaking ability***

Carla Brites

- Volume (cm<sup>3</sup>), Weight (g), Specific volume (polyethylene spheres displacement method)
- Crumb firmness, compression test (Texture analyser TA Hdi)

Greater dietary fiber and resistant starch, lower volume and denser loaf matrix in maize than in wheat bread (Brites et al., 2010)

- Sensory analysis





- ***Viscosity***  
( $V_{max} > 2000$  cP)
- Collor ( $b > 30$ )
- Protein  $> 12,5\%$







## 4 - Socio-economic aspects



# Farmers participation

## Using

- Agronomic field data
- VASO experience
- Engage more farmers
  - Some of them were contacted by us, based on the collection mission
  - Others contact us, because they were interested in maize for OF and also to use these landraces for maize bread

Meetings, at 16th April (in Social Farm Institution – APCC)







03974 94  
65  
11 Broa 31  
19 Broa  
164  
CO(C3) 08  
41  
34

Genotype	Planting Date	Harvest Date	Planting Date	Harvest Date
03974 94				
65				
11 Broa 31				
19 Broa				
164				
CO(C3) 08				
41				
34				

Genotype	Planting Date	Harvest Date	Planting Date	Harvest Date
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## Socio economic aspects

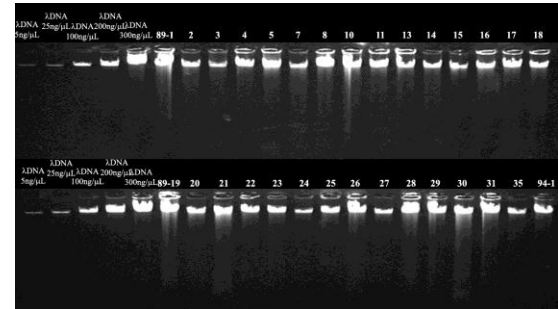
# Reasons for variety choice

Traits	Tomato	Cabbage	Broccoli	Beans	Faba beans	Maize	Total
<b>Organoleptic features</b>	23	7	5	10	5	3	53
<b>Cooking and processing qualities</b>	8	8	0	7	2	9	34
<b>Yield</b>	2	4	0	9	10	9	34
<b>Rusticity</b>	3	5	4	7	4	5	28
<b>Plant morphology and crop architecture</b>	0	1	5	11	1	5	23
<b>Speed and length of crop maturation</b>	4	2	5	2	5	0	18
<b>Caliber</b>	5	2	5	3	3	0	18
<b>Suitability as livestock feed</b>	0	4	0	0	0	5	9
<b>Resistance to diseases and pests</b>	3	2	1	1	0	0	7
<b>Appearance</b>	3	1	0	1	0	0	5
<b>Storability</b>	3	1	1	0	0	0	5
<b>Others</b>	4	2	1	3	2	1	13
<b>Total respondents</b>	25	21	18	23	18	18	28



Dinis et al, 2011



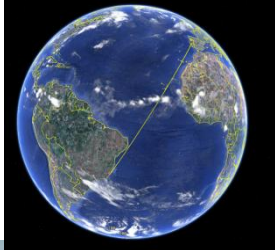


**Pre-breeding, breeding, PPB**  
 Pedro Mendes Moreira  
 ESAC



**Molecular**  
 Carlota Vaz Patto  
 ITQB

FCT (PTDC/AGR-ALI/099285/2008)  
 «Exploiting antioxidants, flavours and aromas diversity on 'broa' bread maize breeding »



**Winter nursery**  
 João Cândido Souza  
 UFLA



**Food quality**  
 Carla Brites  
 EAN



<http://www.solibam.eu>

*Solibam*

Home

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## *Strategies for Organic and Low-input Integrated Breeding and Management*

### **A new collaborative project on organic and low input breeding and management!!**

SOLIBAM will develop specific and novel breeding approaches integrated with management practices to improve the performance, quality, sustainability and stability of crops adapted to organic and low-input systems, in their diversity in Europe and taking into account small-scale farms in Africa.

SOLIBAM will:

1. Identify traits specific for adaptation to low-input/organic conditions over a wide range of agro-climatic conditions in Europe
2. Develop efficient phenotyping, genotyping and molecular tools to monitor heritable variation during selection. Molecular analysis of functional polymorphisms will increase accuracy in breeding methodologies and

### **Welcome to Solibam website**

*About Solibam*

#### **SOLIBAM**

#### **Project full title**

*Strategies for Organic and Low-input Integrated Breeding and Management Collaborative Project (large-scale integrating project)*

FP7 2010 - 2015



# Conclusions



See  
Valeria Negri,  
presentation

- **They are (Negri, 2011):**
  - widely used in breeding (e.g. pest and disease, **quality traits**)
  - used in developing typical and atypical (niche) products
  - useful in developing new farming systems (**e.g. environmentally friendly, organic, polycrop systems**)
  - promote landscape conservation
  - and maintaining local traditions

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# Acknowledgements

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