

# *Seeds of Resilience*

October 22-26, 2018

Oaxaca, Mexico



Global Alliance for the Future of Food organised the Global Strategic Convening on Resilient Seed Systems that took place in Oaxaca, Mexico. It was a great opportunity for DDS to be one among 100 selected invitees from around the globe, from civil society and farmer organizations to policymakers and scientists who contributed to the Shared Action Framework for resilient seed systems that identify principles, a common narrative, needs and opportunities for supporting resilient (farmer managed) seeds systems.

It has been strongly realized by the conference that agricultural biodiversity and farmer managed seeds are essential for accelerating the transition to agroecological systems as a core solution to the future of food. In the current context of climate change and global food insecurity, there is an urgent need for seed systems that protect seed diversity and enhance nutrition and food security. As a representative of DDS which is working with small farmers, Tejaswi Dantuluri, had a number of opportunities to participate in discussions that revolved around farmers rights, policies, seed legislation, climate change and relations between producers and consumers.

**It has been proposed that it is important to amplify great work of many small farming-women communities such as DDS and many more from other continents who have found local solutions.** And it is critical for the Global Affairs to. make recommendations to the international forums rather trying to find solutions for local problems. **And this is possible by initiating an open source communication platform to share stories of resilience through participatory video** and community media can be a great tool to document the rich knowledge and traditional practices and at the same to influence policies. Another proposal made was that there should be more emphasis by donor organisations towards **research on such local knowledge systems in order to change the narrative of dominant paradigm** through strong evidence of farmer managed seed systems as solutions for all that has been as identified as pressing issues of today. "While we realize it is important to amplify great work from small farming communities it is equally important to constantly warn ourselves to be sold to the popular information of governments promoting agroecology. For example, ZBNF has been attracting a great attention at the global level. We need to question if ZBNF upholds the principles that Global Affairs stands for or represent peasants communities and diverse knowledge systems. There is a great danger to farmer managed seed systems (a strong recommendation of the forum) if such individual-centric corporate-driven interests are woven in policy and should be contested wherever possible by people representing the interests of peasants." urged Tejaswi at the end of the conference.