

2.1.2.5 Agro-biodiversity and Germplasm

In Nepal, more than 500 species are edible, and 200 species are estimated cultivated. A number of wild species of rice, buckwheat, spinach, garlic, and sugarcane have been reported (MFSC, 2000). Similarly, several species of citrus fruit, apple, banana, pineapple, mango and grapes are grown in different agro-bioclimate zones.

Nepal is also home to several indigenous livestock breeds. Twenty-four breeds of cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig and poultry are recognized (MFSC, 2000).

The samples of indigenous crop plants are maintained at Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Khumaltar. There are about 10,600 samples of various crops (Table 2.6). Whilst other species are maintained at other crop centres, at room temperature or in the defreeze conditions. However, livestock germplasms are maintained in their domestic habitat.

Crop Categories	No. of Samples
Cereals	6,069
Grain Legumes	3,375
Oilseeds	534
Vegetables	461
Industrial Crops	15
Spices	35
Others	111
Total	10,600

Source: Shahi, 2001