1. Record Nr. UNINA9910777850003321

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Titolo	Farmers' bounty [[electronic resource]] : locating crop diversity in the contemporary world / / Stephen B. Brush
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2004
ISBN	1-281-72209-X 9786611722098 0-300-13014-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (348 p.)
Collana	Yale agrarian studies series
Disciplina	631.5/23
Soggetti	Crops - Germplasm resources Germplasm resources, Plant
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 287-318) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- List of Tables and Figures -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Encountering Crop Diversity -- 2. A Naturalist's View of Crop Diversity -- 3. The Measure of Crop Diversity -- 4. Crop and Society in Centers of Diversity -- 5. The Ethnoecology of Crop Diversity in Andean Potato Agriculture -- 6. The Farmer's Place in Crop Evolution: Selection and Management -- 7. Genetic Erosion of Crop Populations in Centers of Diversity: A Revision -- 8. The Ecology of Crop Diversity -- 9. Maintaining Crop Diversity On-Farm and Off -- 10. Rights over Genetic Resources and the Demise of the Biological Commons -- 11. Locating Crop Diversity in the Contemporary World -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Biological diversity is as crucial in agriculture as it is in nature, and it is equally important to the economic health of both industrial and nonindustrial societies. This book offers a sweeping assessment of crop diversity and the potential for its preservation. Stephen B. Brush develops a framework for investigating biological diversity in agriculture that focuses on the knowledge and practice of farmers, and he shows how this human ecology perspective can be applied to three global issues that affect crop resources. Brush defines the dimensions of crop diversity and outlines the essential questions surrounding it. He

describes the techniques used to maintain diversity in major crops of three cradles of agriculture in which he has worked: potatoes in the Peruvian Andes, maize in Mexico, and wheat in Turkey. Finally, he explores the policy issues surrounding genetic erosion of crop varieties, conservation of crop diversity, and ownership of genetic resources.