

Member-Driven Seed Bank

The ECHO Asia Seed Bank hosts over 700 active accessions of regionally significant plants of merit, with 120 varieties available for distribution to change agents working in Asia. The ECHO Asia Seed Bank actively seeks to:

- Through community seed swaps, identify seeds of merit from across Asia that are open pollinated and hold potential for improved food security and livelihoods;
- Evaluate their merit and potential throughout Asia;
- Produce these seeds and multiply them using organic integrated agricultural methods;
- Store seeds using our low-cost, high impact Seed Bank; and
- Disseminate free trial packets of seeds through the ECHO Asia Network of community change agents and farmers.



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ECHO is dedicated to fighting world hunger through innovative options, agricultural training, and networking with individuals and organizations working with the poor in developing countries. ECHO seeks to find sustainable options for families and farmers growing food under difficult conditions.

ECHO is a non-profit Christian organization with headquarters in North Fort Myers, Florida. The demonstration farm on the campus is one of the resources that allows ECHO to provide tailored options for community and agricultural workers in 180 countries.

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 **ECHO**
Asia Seed Bank

Reducing Hunger,
Improving Lives, Worldwide



Developed and Proven Technologies

The ECHO Asia Seed Bank utilizes locally-appropriate, low-cost, effective technology in order to manage its seed-saving activities. Seed Bank staff seek out and demonstrate technologies that can be easily replicated by local community and regional partners. ECHO serves as a demonstration site for two seed bank models:

- NGO-level Seed Bank that utilizes a modified cabinet seed dryer, a vacuum sealer, an insulated cold room using a single air conditioning unit, and a modified germination chamber.
Cost: \$5,000 - \$10,000 USD
- Community-level Seed Bank that utilizes a simple bicycle pump vacuum sealer and earthbag house.
Cost: \$500 - \$1,000 USD



Results-Oriented Research

The ECHO Asia Seed Bank facilitates important and relevant research that is geared towards community seed banking systems. In recent years, staff have been involved with the following projects:

- Strengthening Indigenous Informal Seeds Systems; Northern Thailand and Cambodia
USAID, 2010-2012
- Vacuum Sealing for Seed Storage in the Tropics;
Journal of Experimental Agriculture, 2012
- Neglected and Underutilized Species Seed Systems and Seed Storage;
Cambodia
Presbyterian Hunger Program, 2015
- Bruchid Control in Stored Seeds Using Vacuum Sealing;
Upcoming

High-Impact Training

As a part of the broader mission and work of ECHO, the ECHO Asia Seed Bank regularly hosts a diverse range of training opportunities to community change agents and farmers in Asia. These include:

- Implementation of seed swaps where farmers share local seeds of merit both with each other and the ECHO Asia Seed Bank, reinforcing biodiversity and local genebanks (in Thailand, Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Indonesia, Philippines);
- Facilitation of Seed Banking Workshops where participants learn about seed systems, appropriate technologies, and visit various seed banking models over the course of three days;
- Host service-learning groups for hands-on training and experience with seed systems;
- Offer six month - two year volunteer positions to Asian nationals working where they can train with and work alongside ECHO Asia Seed Bank staff; and,
- Organize a myriad of trainings at regular ECHO Asia Agriculture and Community Development Workshops and Conferences (India, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines).

