



## Movie Sheet: Banking Diversity

### Introduction

🕒 8 min

Set in Ethiopia, this short film explores the critical role that seed saving and seed diversity play in ensuring a sustainable global food supply.

### Themes

1. Sustainable agriculture
2. Biodiversity
3. Seed banks
4. Seeds of Survival – conservation, innovation

*“Each one of these seeds holds infinite potential; deep wells of genetic variety and adaptation nurtured over time. They are the seeds of our survival.”*

### Quick Facts

- **75%** of the world’s crop genetic diversity is lost
- Over **4,000** seed samples are preserved inside the Doomsday vault in Norway

### Questions & Discussions

1. The Doomsday Vault in Norway collects over 4,000 seeds samples, which are stored and preserved in case of a future global catastrophe. Despite its goals as an emergency food aid facility, why is it not the ultimate solution for protecting biodiversity and food supply? What does USC Canada encourage as the best way to keep diversity alive and evolving?
2. When the barley crops of North America failed due to a virus, seeds from Ethiopia were used to help solve the plague. What was the major problem with farmlands in North America, and what is it about the seeds in Ethiopia that make them more resilient.
3. In Ethiopia, local farmers come together to share knowledge, train others, as well as work with scientists to conduct farm-related experiments in order to secure food sustainability and biodiversity. Think about some of the challenges of integrating traditional methods in a largely developed country like Canada. Is it possible for us to achieve the same level of commitment?

### Take Action

1. **Reduce the foodmiles your food goes through:**
  - Shop at farmers’ markets and/or sign up with a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm:

<http://usc-canada.org/storyoffood/what-you-can-do/>

- Buy fair trade products when you can.
- Ask your grocer to give preference to local products.

### 2. Reduce the packaging/processing your food goes through:

- Read your food labels.
- Cook from scratch and use more whole foods.
- Support small-scale farmers - Donate to USC.

### 3. Inspire others to take action:

- Share this activity with others.
- Organize a film night - Check out our *Guide to Holding a Movie Night*: <http://usc-canada.org/resources/creative-campaigning/>

### Dig Deeper

- **Feeding the Future** - A 4-part video that digs deeper into Ethiopia and the Seed of Survival program (part 1) : [<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgfr88rgRfE&feature=related>]
- **Who Will Feed Us?** – report on the crisis of food and climate change: [[http://www.etcgroup.org/upload/publication/pdf\\_file/ETC\\_Who\\_Will\\_Feed\\_Us.pdf](http://www.etcgroup.org/upload/publication/pdf_file/ETC_Who_Will_Feed_Us.pdf)]
- **The Svalbard Global Seed Vault: Securing the Future of Agriculture** - [<http://www.croptrust.org/documents/Svalbard%20opening/New%20EMBAR-GOED-Global%20Crop%20Diversity%20Trust%20Svalbard%20Paper.pdf>]

For more information, visit : <http://usc-canada.org/resources/creative-campaigning/>