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# Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits arising from their Utilization

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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Living in harmony with nature





# Access and Benefit-sharing: Background

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## One of the three objectives of the CBD:

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of its components
- **Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources**



# Access and benefit sharing: Context

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**Genetic resources** provide a **wide range of products and services** essential to human well-being, notably in the following sectors:

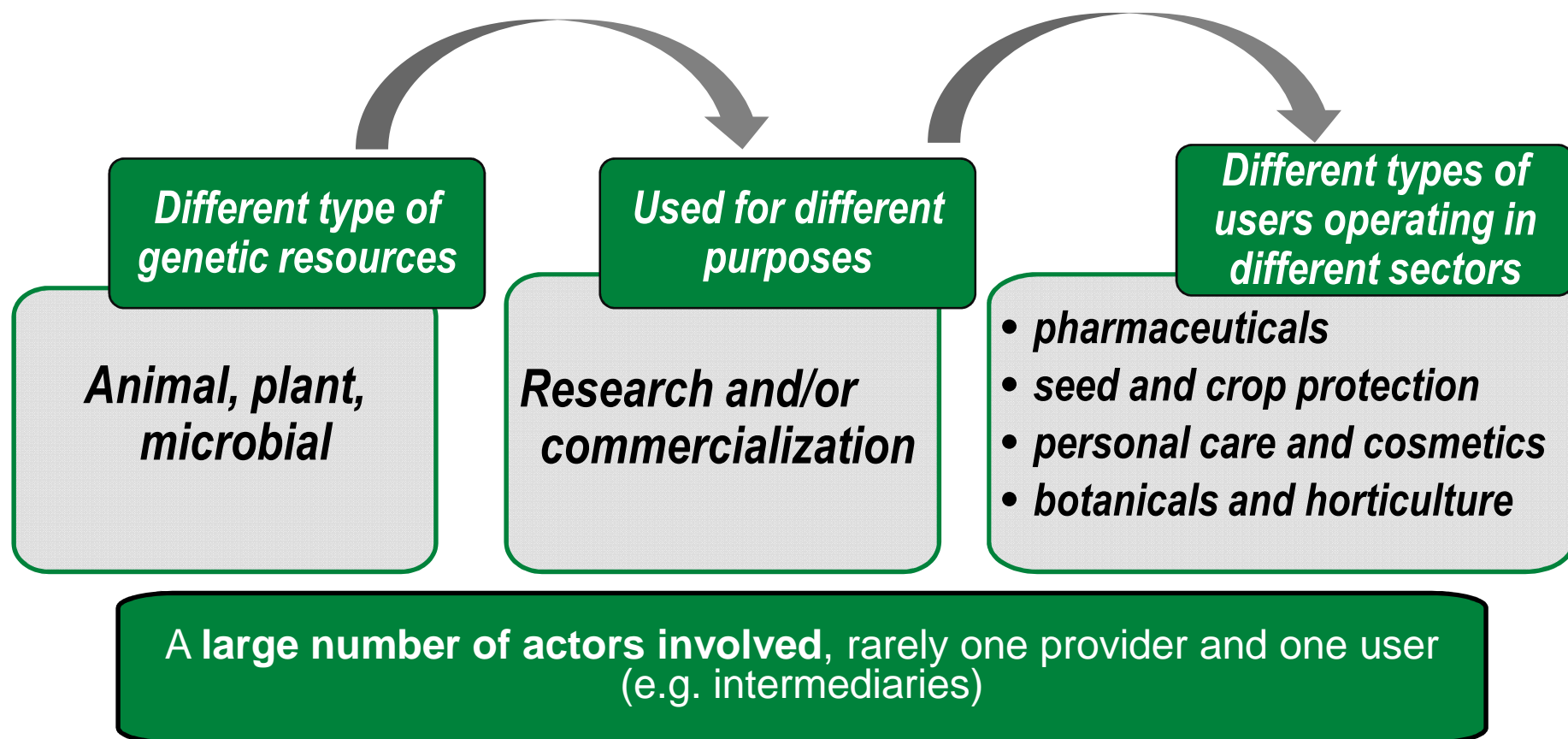
- Pharmaceuticals
- Personal care and cosmetics
- Seed and crop protection
- Botanicals and horticulture

Therefore, **countries have a shared interest** in the advancement of research on genetic resources as it leads to **new discoveries**.



# Access and benefit sharing: Context

## Uses of genetic resources





# Access and benefit sharing: Context

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## Genetic resources can be put to **commercial use**:

- They can be used in crop protection, drug development, chemicals, detergents, and textiles among others
- **Examples:**
  - The development of drugs from the use of plant components, such as compounds found in resin and latex, to treat diseases
  - The commercialization of a gene sequence from wild plants to increase the resistance of food crops to agricultural pests



# Access and benefit sharing: Context

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Genetic resources can be put to **non-commercial use:**

- Academic and public research institutions use genetic resources to increase our understanding of nature
- Genetic resources are a key source of information for taxonomy and ecosystem analysis





# Fundamental Principles of ABS

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- **Sovereign rights** of States over their natural resources
- **Access** to genetic resources is subject to the **prior informed consent** (PIC) of the provider country
- Users and providers must reach an **agreement** (mutually agreed terms) on the **sharing of benefits** that may result from their use



# Why a Protocol?

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- CBD provisions not fully implemented
- Cases of misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge
- Need for legal certainty and transparency
  - Concern to ensure benefit-sharing once genetic resources have left the provider country
  - Need for clear procedures when accessing genetic resources





# Why a Protocol?

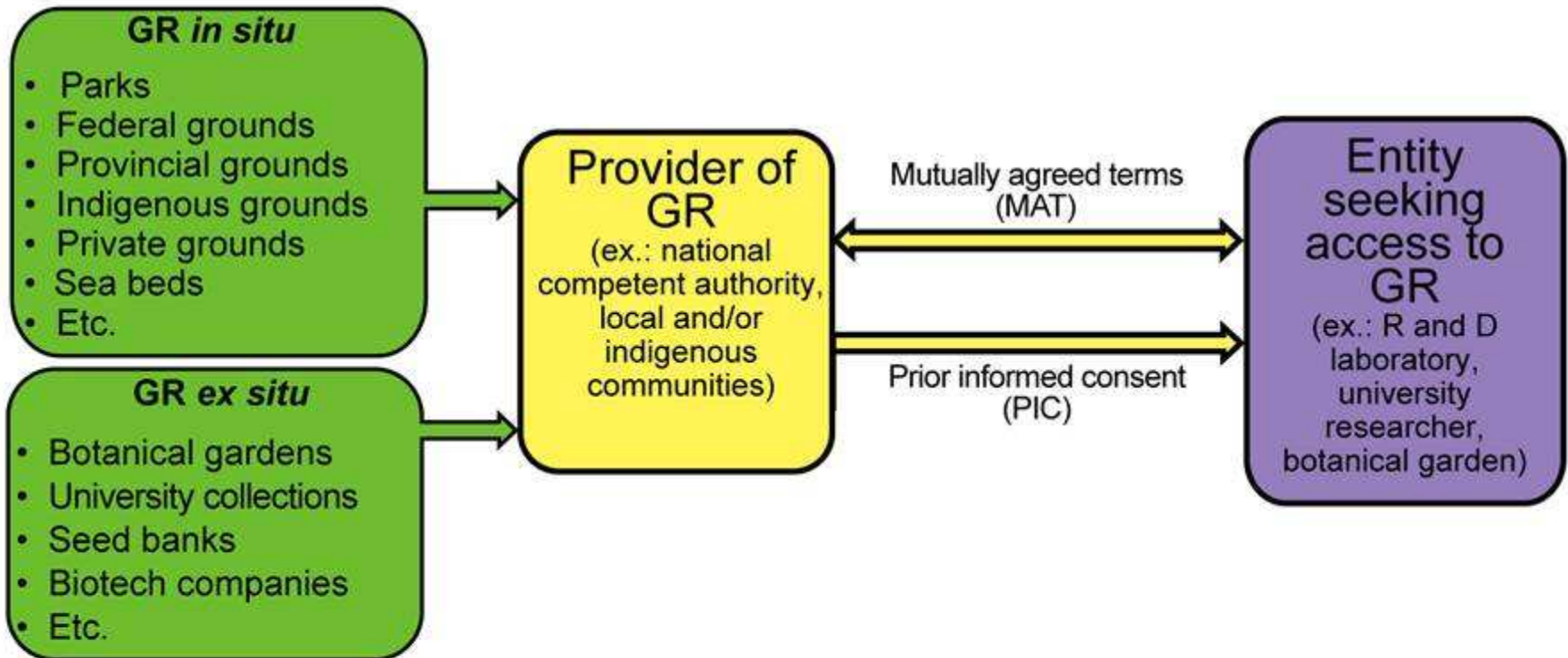
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## Legal certainty through a transparent framework on ABS:

- **For providers:** to ensure benefit-sharing once genetic resources leave the provider country
  - To prevent misappropriation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge
- **For users:** to provide for clear procedures for access to genetic resources



## ABS - The Major Steps 1) **Access** to GR

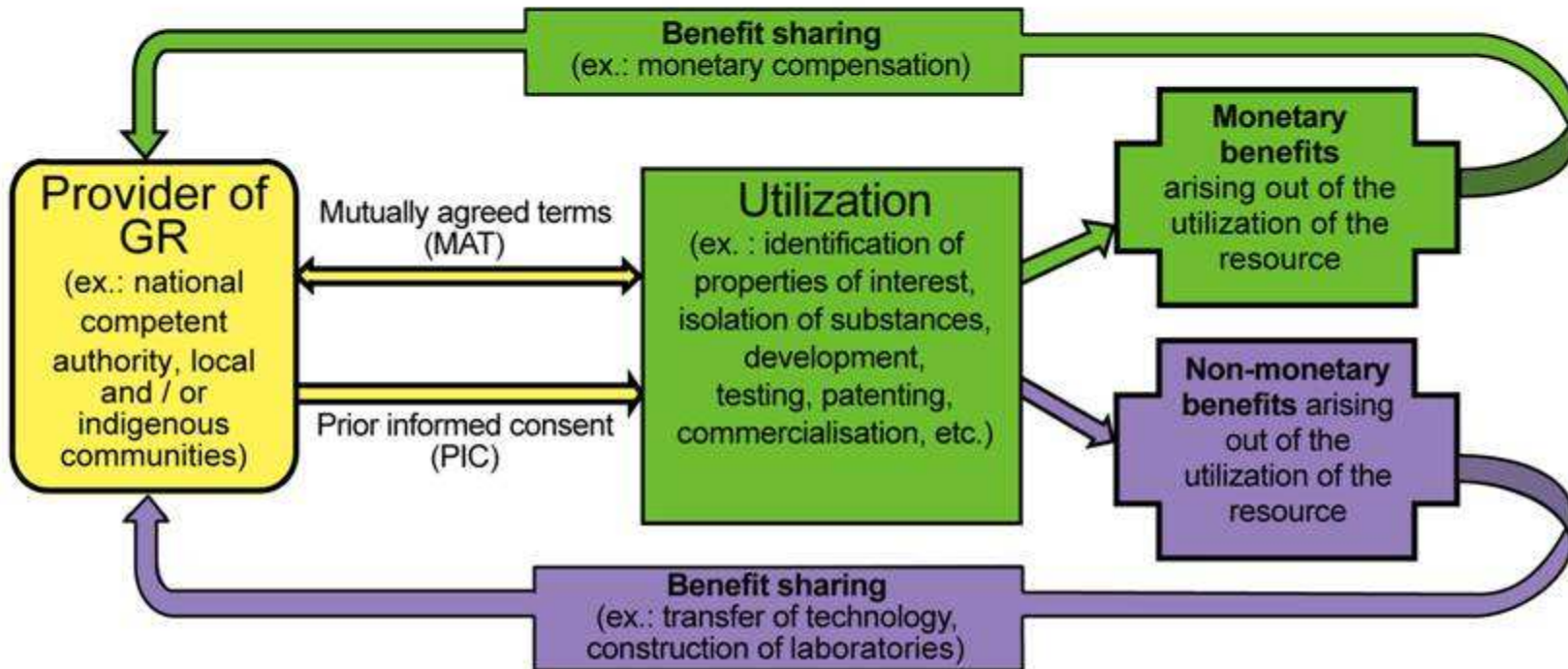


**GR** : Genetic resources



## ABS - The Major Steps

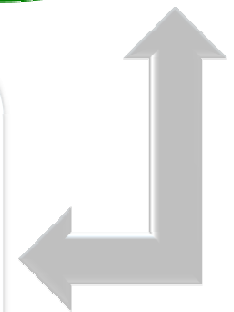
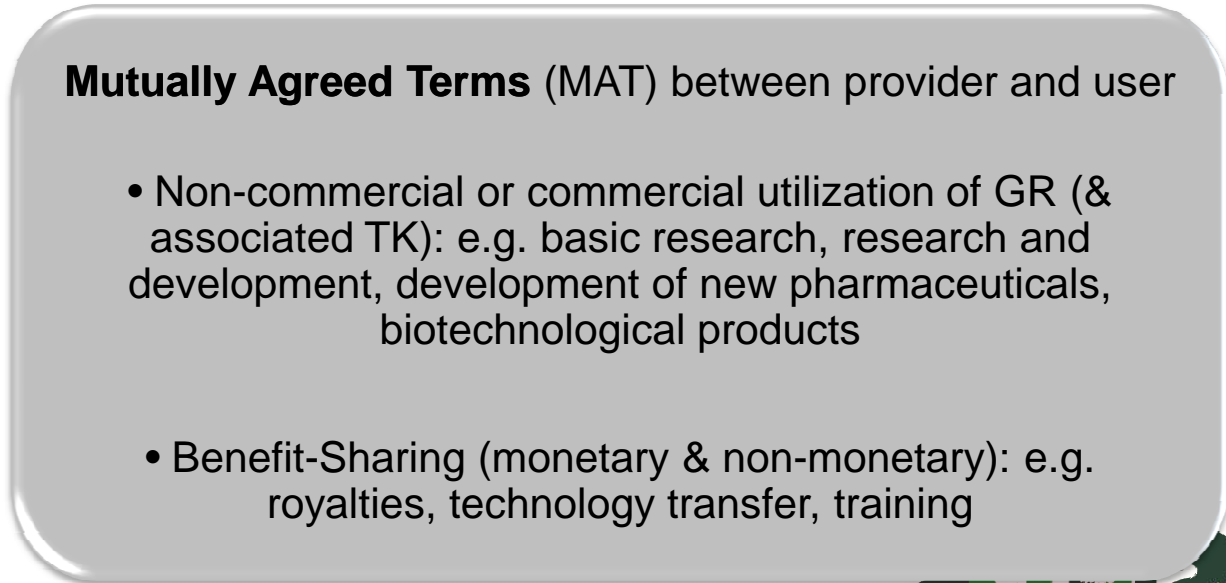
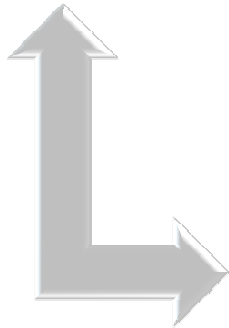
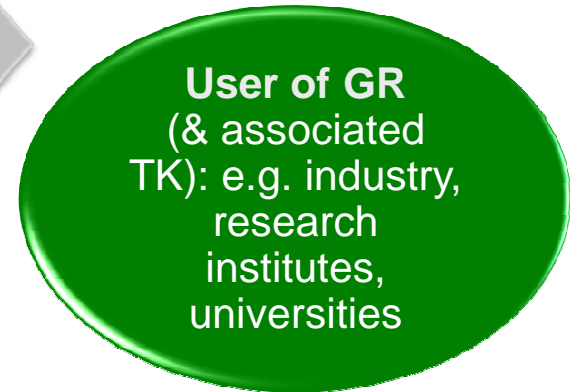
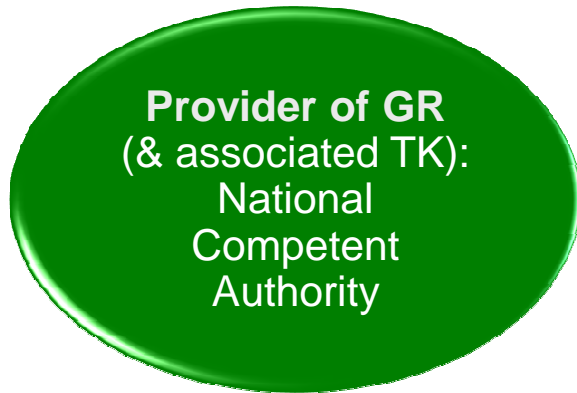
### 2) The **Sharing** of benefits arising out of the utilization of GR



GR: Genetic resources



# Uses of Genetic Resources: ABS in practice





# Thank you for your attention!

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ABS:

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