

## Growing Diversity Project Evaluation



Growing Diversity, March 2025

Prepared by AJS Flood Risk Consulting on behalf of Woodland Trust as part of the Growing Diversity project

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## 1 Executive Summary

This paper presents an evaluation of the Growing Diversity project, and an analysis of the support needed for the Community Tree Nursery (CTN) sector. The Growing Diversity project aimed to unite and coordinate community tree nurseries (CTNs) within England to increase the production of difficult to source native tree species and provenances. The project was delivered between 2023 and 2025 in partnership between the Woodland Trust and the Fellowship of the Trees CIC, funded by the Forestry Commission’s Tree Production Innovation Fund (TPIF).

The evaluation was conducted using a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods, including an evaluation survey, interviews, and data analysis. A review of existing literature was used to provide a comprehensive understanding of the current CTN landscape, and these ideas were further developed with CTNs and other stakeholders to form the support mechanisms presented in this paper.

### Summary of evaluation

The Growing Diversity project met all its aims, objectives, and planned outcomes. It has created several new resources for CTNs including webinar recordings, seed collection and processing videos and a seed collection handbook that includes all the priority tree species underserved by the current tree market. These resources can help CTNs to fill this important gap in domestic tree supply. The success of the project was underpinned by the strong partnerships formed.

### Summary of CTN support mechanisms

Continued support for the CTN sector should be underpinned by the continuation of the national CTN network the Community Tree Nursery Collaborative (CTNC), run by the Fellowship of the Trees. Local networks can foster collaboration between CTNs, Local Authorities (LAs), businesses, and other organisations, enhancing CTN resilience and leveraging financial and volunteering opportunities. A proposed CTN hub would centralise resources and raise awareness of CTNs to tree buyers. Accessible grant schemes based on research evidence can aid CTNs in developing sustainable nursery management plans and improving infrastructure, while advocating for locally produced trees within local policy can support CTNs and help LAs meet tree planting targets and achieve wider social objectives.

## Key recommendations

<b><u>Responsible Group</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>
CTN community and researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development, implementation and resourcing of a CTN hub to host resources relevant to CTNs, both to support CTNs and to help tree buyers learn about CTNs.</li> </ul>
Woodland Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage uptake of UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown (UKISG) through increased marketing to CTNs.</li> </ul>
Tree buying organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer flexible and partial-fulfilment contracts, with minimum and maximum number on species within an order and allowing individual nurseries to fulfil part or a larger order.</li> </ul>
UK and devolved governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to funding the Fellowship of the Trees' Community Tree Nursery Collaborative (CTNC) Coordinator role when current funding ends (March 2025).</li> <li>• Commit to development of an accessible grant for CTNs, based on evidence gathered by CTN-related research projects.</li> <li>• Free or subsidised entry to Plant Healthy, with support of plant health experts to create scale-appropriate biosecurity protocols for CTNs, that meet existing biosecurity standards without excessive administrative burdens on CTNs.</li> <li>• Extend the Biosecure Procurement Requirement exemption form to include evidence-based low risk tree suppliers such as CTNs producing trees for local tree planting schemes and allow membership of the UKISG scheme as evidence of sufficient biosecurity measures in the "sourcing summary".</li> <li>• The streamlining of FRM requirements for seed testing to reflect small-scale seed collection and non-commercial forestry seed. Support for smaller seed collectors such as CTNs to engage with the system to enable them to sell seed.</li> </ul>
Local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of a trial of local networks to foster collaboration between CTNs and LAs, local businesses and other organisations.</li> <li>• Inclusion of commitments within Local Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies to use locally grown trees to achieve tree planting ambitions, including support for existing CTNs and support for the creation of new CTNs to grow these trees.</li> </ul>



## 2 Context

### 2.1 Tree Procurement Innovation Fund (TPIF)

The TPIF has been designed to encourage the development and adoption of new technologies and ways of working that will enhance the quantity and quality of tree planting stock available for planting in England, and to ensure genetically diverse material from a wide range of species and provenances is available. This will ensure that we are able to support the England Trees Action Plan (ETAP) ambitions to plant treescapes that are resilient to stresses including climate change and pests and diseases.

### 2.2 Community Tree Nurseries

The CTN sector is small but growing, with an estimated 80 CTNs in 2023<sup>1</sup>. The CTN sector is diverse in terms of the types of organisations. These include voluntary organisations, charities and community interest companies. Some CTNs are hosted by larger organisations and companies. Most CTNs are young, starting within the last one to three years, and 87% of CTNs in the national CTN survey said they plan to upscale production by 10% or more<sup>1</sup>.

Forest Research<sup>1</sup> has defined a CTN as: 'An enterprise, social enterprise, community-based group, charitable or public sector endeavour or network where volunteer community members and groups take part in growing trees, including seed/wilding collection, nursery management and sales/distribution, and also in some cases planting out'. They identify four types of CTN: Organisation and project-based; Enterprises; Community-based and Networks.

### 2.3 Importance of local provenance

The UK imports a vast and growing number of trees, with the value of imports more than doubling from £110 million in 2021 to £242 million in 2022 - compared to just £6 million in 1992<sup>2</sup>. Between 1971 and 2000, five new tree diseases were detected in the UK, while between 2000 and 2024 this figure rose to 21. Producing local trees from local seed significantly reduces the risk of importing new diseases, while ensuring trees are better adapted to local conditions and support local wildlife<sup>3</sup>. The UK Forest Standard states, "When planting native species and native woodland, it is generally best to use well-adapted local or regional origins from similar elevation"<sup>4</sup>. CTNs can play an important role in ensuring local provenance because the majority of CTNs focus on growing local trees from local seeds and sell or give away trees in their local area.

### 2.4 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the Fellowship of the Trees, Norfolk County Council, Woodland Trust, Coventry University, Llais y Goedwig, ACRES highland Ltd, and a wide range of Community Tree Nurseries (CTNs), whose input was invaluable in writing this report.

## 3 Growing Diversity Project

### 3.1 Overview of project

The Growing Diversity project is funded by the Forestry Commission through the Tree Production Innovation Fund. The project aims to unite and coordinate community tree nurseries (CTNs) within England to increase the production of difficult to source native tree species and provenances. The Woodland Trust and Fellowship of the Trees CIC collaborated to deliver this project over 18 months from Sept 2023 to March 2025.

### 3.2 Aims and objectives

The project aim is to improve species diversity and fill a gap in the forestry sector through training, networking, and supporting of Community Tree Nurseries (CTNs). The objectives are:

- To identify provenance zones in which there is little or no seed collection and map areas in which hard-to-source native species grow.
- To identify barriers and develop a plan to overcome them. This will include expert insight and support to deliver training sessions and resources on topics such as seed collection, propagating hard-to-grow species and biosecurity.

### 3.3 Planned outcomes

The project has planned outcomes for CTNs, the wider tree market and for the Woodland Trust and partners.

#### CTNs

1. CTNs will be more resilient, knowledgeable, and better able to meet market demand.
2. CTNs will have experience of using new and innovative materials and equipment to support their work, and they will be able to share this knowledge within the sector.

#### Wider tree market

3. Tree buyers will have access to a wider availability of native broadleaf tree species that have been collected from local seed sources and grown to best practice biosecurity measures.
4. Genetic tree diversity will improve nationally as local seed for a diversity of native species is available for local planting projects, resulting in better adapted and resilient woodlands and treescapes.

#### Woodland Trust and partners

5. A roadmap is produced for future engagement with CTNs that identifies areas needing support and helps inform future work to support the role of CTNs in diversifying the wider tree market.

### 3.4 Funded activities

The following ten activities were funded by the project to help deliver the stated aims and objectives:

- CTN networking.
- Identify tree species and provenance gaps.
- Identify training and resource gaps.
- Webinar series.
- Site visit programme.
- Equipment and materials grant.
- Seed collection volunteering events.
- Film production.
- Handbook production.
- Consultancy reports.

### 3.5 Purpose of this report

This report is focussed on the evaluation of the Growing Diversity project's funded activities (**Section 0**) against its aims and objectives (**Section 3.2**) and planned outcomes (**Section 3.3**). It also looks more widely at:

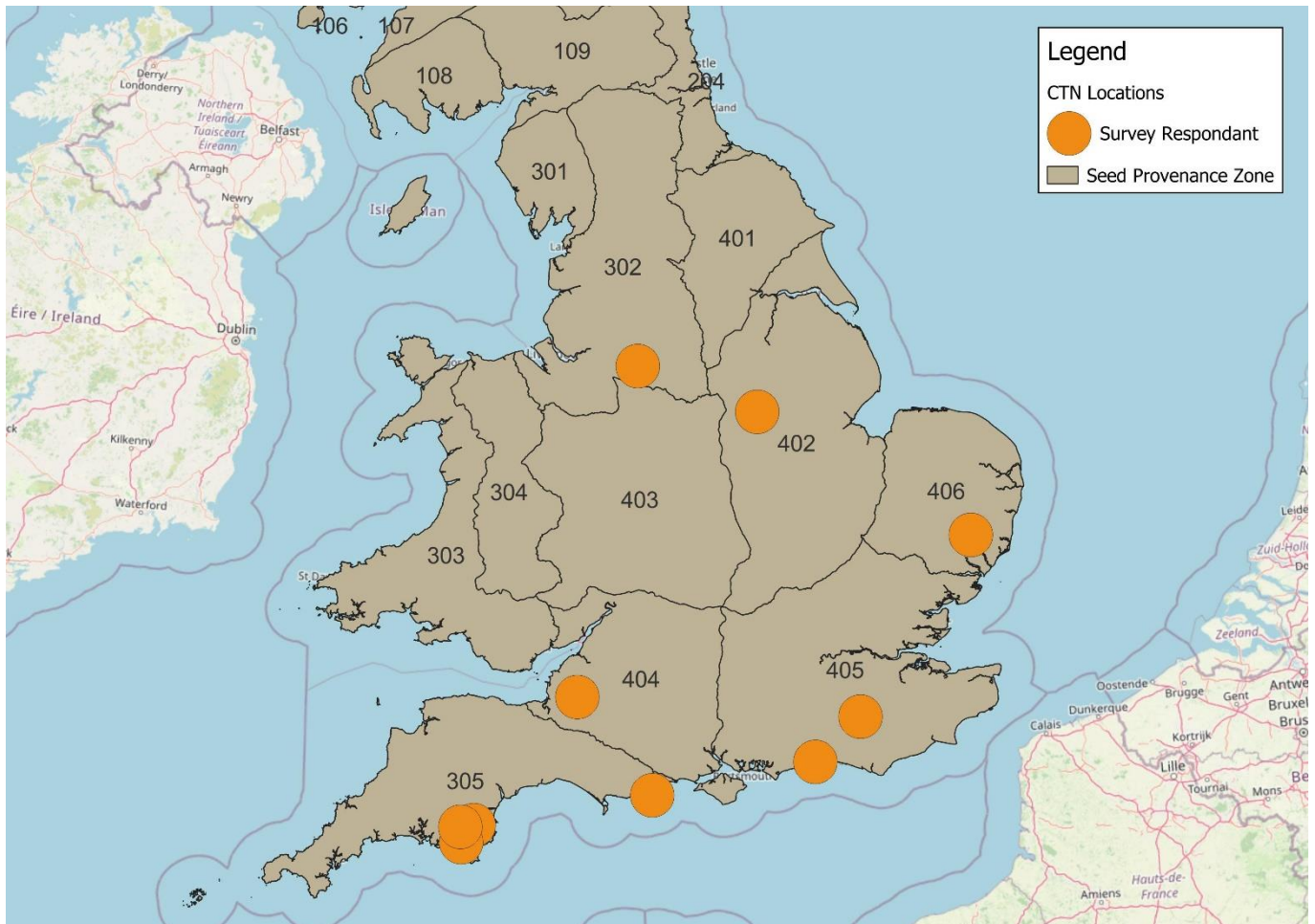
- Challenges and opportunities for CTNs (**Section 5**).
- Discussion of support mechanisms for CTNs (**Section 6**).
- Sets out a roadmap for future support for CTNs (**Section 9**).

### 3.6 Methodology of Evaluation

The evaluation of the Growing Diversity project was conducted using a multi-faceted approach to gather comprehensive feedback and insights. To assess the success of the funded activities, feedback forms were collected after events to capture immediate responses from participants. Additionally, feedback was obtained through applications to the Materials and Equipment Grant and online Community Tree Nursery (CTN) drop-ins, where six CTNs provided their input.

An evaluation survey was also conducted, with eleven respondents with a good geographic spread (**Figure 1**) contributing their perspectives (full results in Appendix A). Data was gathered at the start of the Growing Diversity project through a CTN survey (26 responses) that helped inform the project's focus. Attendance figures for all events were recorded, and location maps produced to assess the geographic range of CTNs engaged.





**Figure 1 Survey respondents by location**

Interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including representatives from Woodland Trust external affairs, the Fellowship of the Trees (FotT) – the Growing Diversity lead and the CTNC coordinator, Norfolk County Council (Trees Outside Woodland officer), and Coventry Universities Growing Connections team. Regular meetings were held with an existing national CTN stakeholder group, chaired by Defra and including representatives from the Tree Council, Woodland Trust, Coventry University, Fellowship of the Trees, International Tree Foundation and Norfolk County Council.

To develop the support mechanisms and roadmap for CTNs a literature review was performed, encompassing various reports:

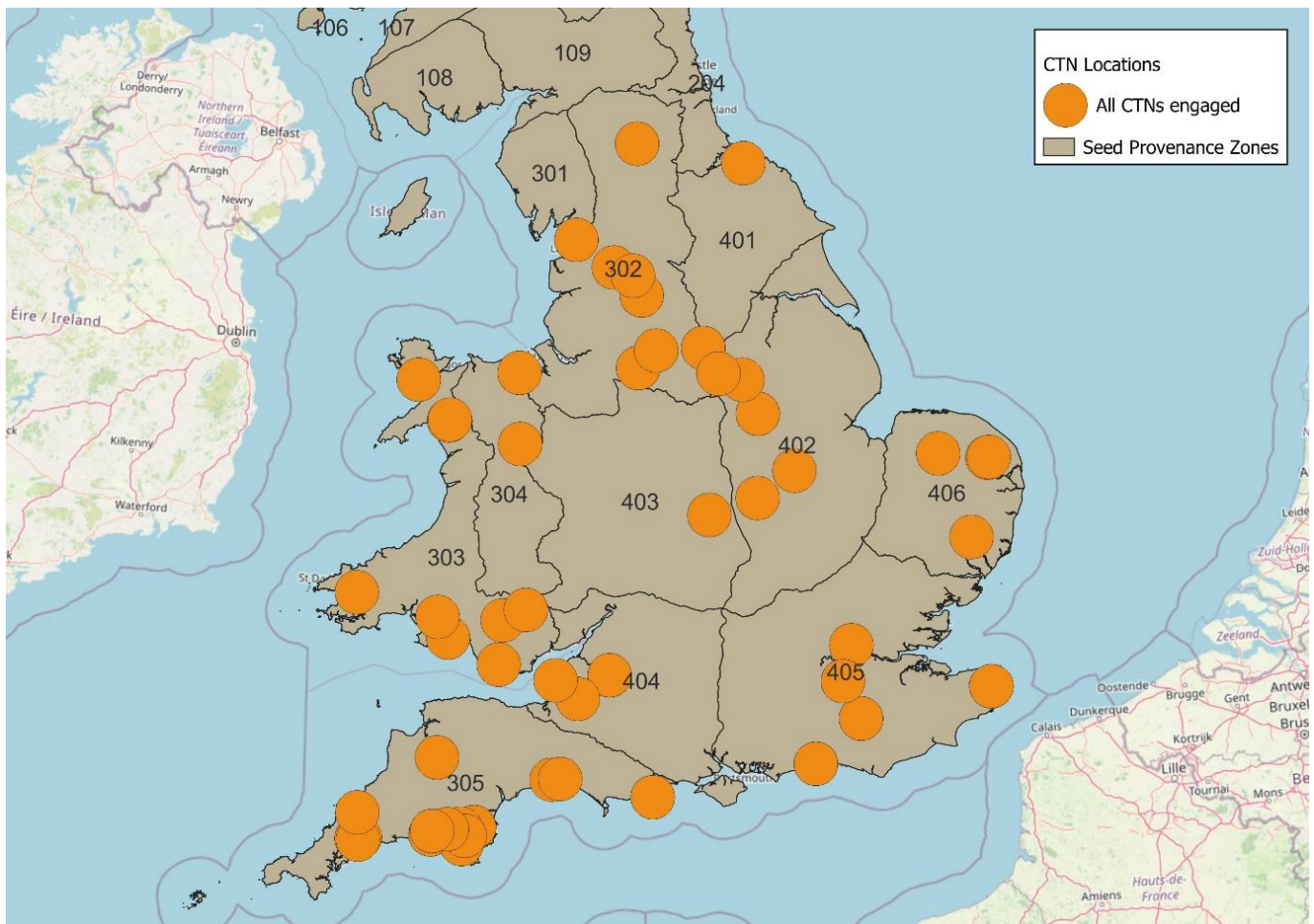
- Growing Connections output: tree buyers survey (121 responses)<sup>5</sup>, and reports on the Sustainability of CTNs<sup>6</sup> and on Recognition and Celebration of CTNs<sup>7</sup>.
- Results of a national CTN survey<sup>1</sup>, conducted by Forest Research as part of the Trees Outside Woodland Programme (67 responses).
- Growing Diversity Feasibility Study<sup>8</sup> looking at routes to market for CTNs.
- Fellowship of the Trees Community Tree Nursery Collaborative engagement reports<sup>9, 10</sup>.
- Two regional tree market assessments, one for West Midlands<sup>11</sup> and one for Greater London<sup>12</sup>.

## 4 Growing Diversity Evaluation

Each of the funded activities (**Section 3.4**) are assessed against the aims and objectives (**Section 3.2**) and planned outcomes (**Section 3.3**), and at the end of each section there is an overview of next steps to continue to build on these impacts into the future.

### 4.1 CTN Networking

Through existing contacts developed as part of the CTNC, the Growing Diversity project has engaged over 67 CTNs (54 in England, 2 in Scotland and 11 in Wales) across the UK (**Figure 2**), over half the estimated CTNs nationally. Survey data from the start of the project (26 responses) shows that a large range of CTNs were reached, in terms of growing methods, size (number of trees grown), age and staff and volunteer levels. This highlights the strength of the networks created and this high level of knowledge sharing supports the planned outcome 1. Engagement was delivered through email, Growing Diversity website (121 visitors in latest month) and the creation of a [Substack](#) In October 2024 (an average of 59 views per post).



**Figure 2 Map of CTNs engaged with Growing Diversity project**

Alongside the high level of engagement with the CTN community, the project team for Growing Diversity have attended a monthly CTN-focussed national stakeholder group, chaired by Defra and including representatives from the Tree Council, Woodland Trust, Coventry University, Fellowship of the Trees, International Tree Foundation and Norfolk County Council. This has enabled various CTN focussed projects (including another TPIF-funded project Growing Connections) to work together on outcomes

rather than duplicate efforts, building on each other's work. These projects have also increased their individual reach by jointly advertising events and useful resources where possible.

Internal communication for the project was good, with the project team meeting every week, with interview feedback from staff that this was key to help them feel supported and be able to adapt to the needs of CTNs as the project developed. This adaptation ensures the project can continually meet the needs of the CTN it aims to support.

#### **Next steps**

To continue to share skills and knowledge retaining this strong CTN network is key, by supporting FOTT to continue to run the CTNC. This is discussed in **Section 6.2**.

#### 4.2 Identify tree species and provenance gaps

An initial survey of CTNs received 26 responses, representing a good range of different sizes, ages and types of CTN. This survey was used to understand the range of trees CTNs grow, and which they find difficult (full list in Appendix B). Commercially available seed was also considered and from here a list of priority seed Provenance zones and tree species was developed:

- Priority Seed Provenance Zones: 302, 305, 405, 406
- Priority Tree Species: Wayfaring tree, spindle, wych elm, wild pear, guelder rose, hazel, holly, hornbeam, wild service tree, small-leaved lime, whitebeam (spp.) and yew

The creation of these priority lists underpinned the development of the in-person events (seed collection events and onsite training) and strongly supports planned outcomes 3 and 4 for the wider tree market (see **Section 3.3**).

#### **Next steps**

Continue to support CTNs to grow priority tree species and from priority seed provenance zones and assess if the availability of these trees improves in the future (an assessment would need to take place at least two years from now, and ideally 3-5 years, to allow the time to stratify and grow on these tree seeds).

#### 4.3 Identify training and resource gaps

As with 5.2, the initial CTN survey (26 responses) provided the data for this activity. Where the training needs identified matched the aims and objectives of Growing Diversity, they were all met by webinar, on site events and handbook and video production (**Table 4-1**). By responding to training needs identified by CTNs this activity helps meet the second project aim by identifying and overcoming barriers, and the first planned outcome by helping CTNs become more knowledgeable.

Training need identified	No. responses	% responses	Covered by training/resource
Biosecurity and Quality Assurance Standards	20	77%	Biosecurity Scheme (webinar), Biosecurity training (on site)
Seed Processing	16	62%	Seed protocols (webinar), seed processing handbook, seed processing video
Nursery Admin and Finance	15	58%	Admin and finance (webinar)
Pricking out and potting on	13	50%	Bare plots to trees (on site and two webinars)
Lifting and planting trees	13	50%	Bare plots to trees (on site and two webinars)
Marketing and Communications	11	42%	
Forecasting - Demand planning	10	38%	
Seed Collection	10	38%	Three seed collection events, handbook and seed processing video
Transporting trees	7	27%	

**Table 4-1 Training needs identified in initial CTN survey (26 responses) against activities/.resources delivered by the project**

### Next steps

Growing Diversity and other CTN-focussed projects have identified and responded to training and resource gaps for CTNs. To continue to meet the need of CTNs regular surveys (suggested annually) of updated needs should be conducted, alongside sharing of the resources that address these needs. This will be best achieved through supporting the CTN network (**Section 6.2**) and creating a CTN hub of resources (**Section 6.4**).

#### 4.4 Webinar series

In total nine webinars were held, with an average attendance of 29 participants live and 98 views on YouTube of the webinar recording, giving a total number of 275 live participants and 781 views on YouTube (**Table 4-2**). Survey results show that several participants attended several webinars (27% just attended one, 36% attended three and 36% attended 4 or more), and participants were very satisfied with the organisation, format and contents of the webinars. 91% (10/11) of survey respondents would recommend attending a webinar to others and 9% (1/11) were unsure. Comments in the survey

highlighted that over half of respondents (6/11) have implemented positive changes at the nursery following webinar attendance. These figures highlight the success of the webinar series, especially in helping achieve planned outcome 1 by giving CTNs information they need to improve their nursery operation.

Webinar title	Date	Registrations	Attendance		Views on YouTube <sup>1</sup>
			Number	% registered	
Introduction to the Growing Diversity project	25/10/2023	69	30	43%	121
The Business of Community tree nurseries	21/12/2023	74	38	51%	80
Healthy Community Trees	23/01/2024	97	45	46%	69
Biosecurity Certification and Assurance Schemes	07/02/2024	58	27	47%	89
Seed Protocols	12/03/2024		28		
Growing Volunteers	14/05/2025	56	20	36%	74
Introduction to growing trees in CTNs part 1	18/06/2024	87	31	36%	196
Introduction to growing trees in CTNs part 2	09/07/2024	60	22	37%	96
Growing Together - Learning From Other Community Tree Nurseries	23/01/2025	72	24	33%	56 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Totals</b>		<b>275</b>	<b>265</b>		<b>781</b>
<b>Averages</b>		<b>72</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>98</b>

<sup>1</sup> YouTube view figures correct as of 12/2/25.  
<sup>2</sup> Please note the final webinar has only been available on YouTube for two weeks which is likely the cause of the lower number of views

**Table 4-2 Viewing figures for the Growing Diversity webinar series**

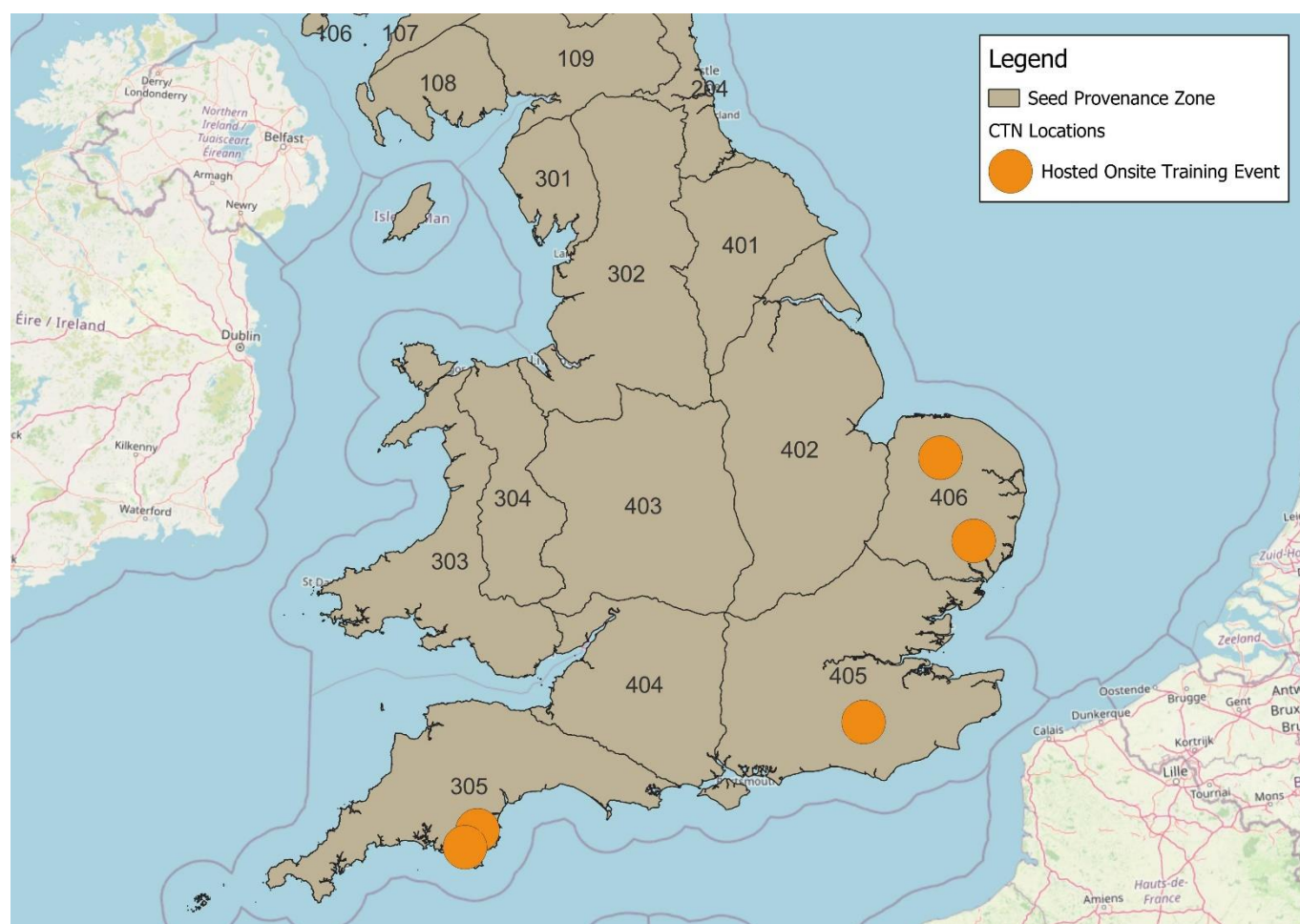


## Next steps

During the CTN drop-ins the value of webinars, particularly the opportunity to ask questions, was shared by all participants. Therefore, FOTT's CTNC should be supported to host regular webinars for CTNs (**Section 6.2**). Survey responses for future useful webinar topics are: Seed germination (and advice on compost), growing street trees (often none native), biosecurity, plant health certifications, ongoing support with tree health and disease, new ideas for growing and the challenges of chaotic climate, pest control, seed saving, germination issues and new techniques, volunteering good practice (recruitment etc.), and lifting and storing trees.

### 4.5 Site visit programme

A total of five onsite training sessions were held, two in East Anglia (Norfolk and Suffolk) and two in Devon (**Figure 3**), representing three of the priority seed zones (305, 405 and 406). Finding suitable CTN hosts (e.g. who have facilities to host a group) in suitable geographic areas (e.g. within priority seed zones, well spread nationally) was highlighted as a challenge to the project, but the hosts represented a good range of CTN types, from education-focussed, to agroforestry, and a large enterprise CTN.



**Figure 3 Locations of onsite visit (training sessions)**

The average attendance was 8 giving a total number of 40 (**Table 4-3**). Most events were limited to 10 participants (one to 20) and none of them reached the participant limit. Survey feedback for non-

attendance was times/dates not working out (67%) and no events in the local area (44%). Following lower than expected attendance for the first few on-site events, travel expenses were made available to help remove the financial barrier. However, it is likely the time commitment involved in attending on site visits remains a barrier which is outside of the control of the project team. Posts on Substack on the topic of the onsite events have received a high level of views (50+) so the learnings from these events went beyond the initial participants and other CTNs were able to benefit. For those who did attend a training event, organisation and on the day running were highly rated. All survey respondents felt more experienced with the training topic following the training and would recommend the training to others.

Onsite event title	Date	Registrations	Attendance		Location
			Number	% registered	
Biosecurity for Community Tree Nurseries	29/02/2024	*	9	*	Devon
Introduction to Growing	18/05/2024	7	4	57%	Norfolk
Trees in the Ground and Hope in Hearts	02/06/2024	6	6	100%	Sussex
Growing Trees for Climate Resilience and Agroforestry	09/07/2024	20	15	75%	Suffolk
Holistic approached to growing native trees from seed in woodland	28/09/2024	6	6	100%	Devon
<b>Totals</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>40</b>		
<b>Averages</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40%</b>	
* Figures not available					

**Table 4-3 Attendance figures for the Growing Diversity site visit programme**

In terms of event hosts, their motivation to host an event centred around wanting to share their experience with other CTNs. All event hosts felt the events went well and reported positive experiences working with the Growing Diversity team. The events are unlikely to have all gone ahead without the support of Growing Diversity (50% possibly, 25% unlikely, 25% very likely).

The series of onsite training events helps the project meet its second objective by helping to overcome barriers for CTNs and planned outcome 2 through sharing knowledge between CTNs. Alongside the course content, anecdotal evidence suggests that good connections between CTNs have been formed, and one event host used the training to help launch their own education training series.

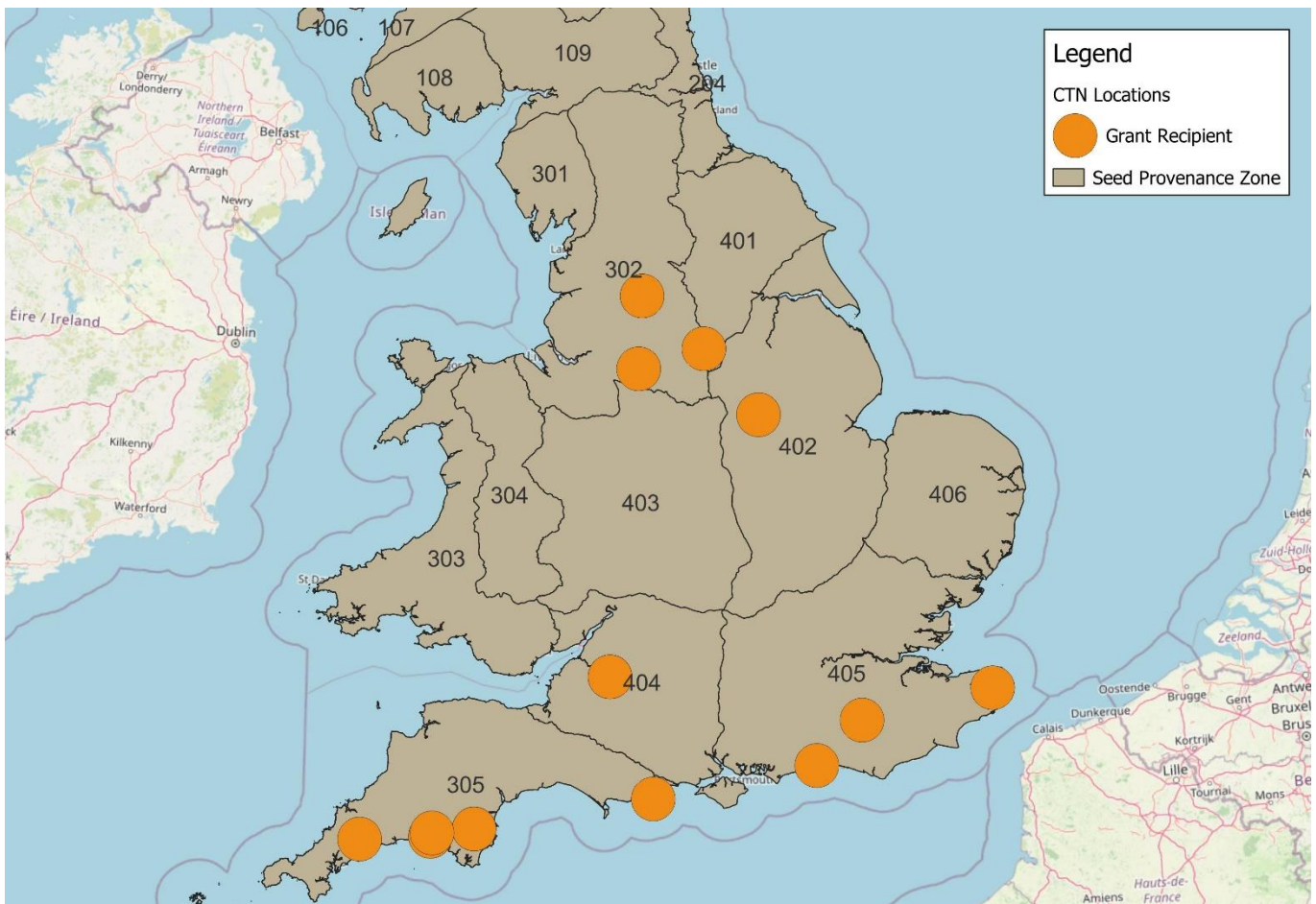


### Next steps

Onsite events are a way to build strong links between local CTNs that can support them to be more resilient. To reduce costs and time commitment, they are best coordinated through these local networks (**Section 6.3**). Events can also be supported and advertised through the national network (**Section 6.2**).

#### 4.6 Equipment and materials grant

In total, 13 grants of £500 were provided to 12 CTNs (1 CTN received 2) across the two rounds of the equipment and materials grant, from a total of 20 available. There was a good geographic spread of grant recipients (**Figure 4**) and applicants from three of the priority seed zones (302, 305, and 405) made up the vast majority (83%) of CTNs, supporting the project objectives to focus on priority seed zones. The use of grants (**Table 4-4**) was varied, with the most common theme biosecurity improvements and improving seed storage, both of which contribute to planned outcome 3, and some grants were for innovation in tree growing that supports planned outcome 2.



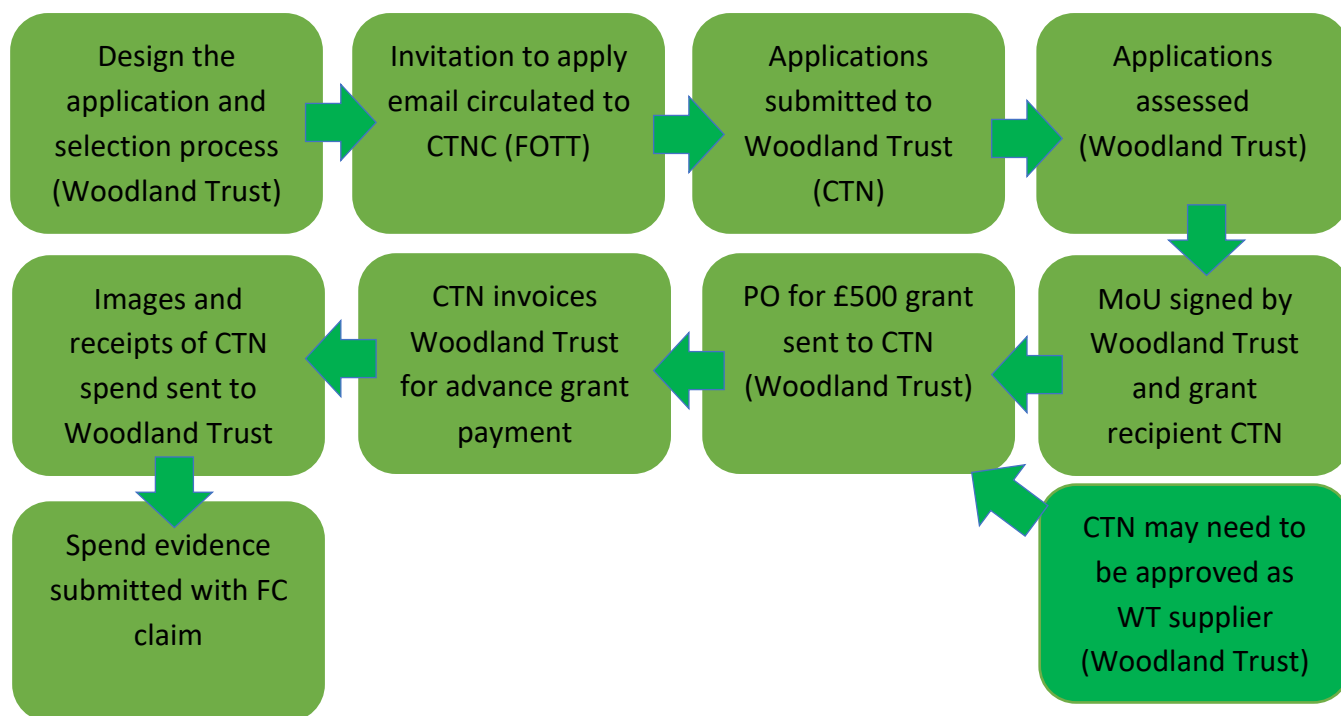
**Figure 4 Locations of Equipment and Materials Grant recipients**

Year 1 Grant Projects	Year 2 Grant Projects
CTN1 – Improve biosecurity	CTN7 – Improve biosecurity
CTN2 – Trial use of airpots for school project to grow on container trees	CTN8 – Build shed for storage and indoor work area for volunteers
CTN3 – Improve seed storage and trial use of variable heated propagator	CTN4 – contribute to outdoor and polytunnel sinks for good nursery hygiene
CTN4 – Raise biosecurity standards	CTN9 – Construct cordons
CTN5 – Improve site conditions with secure seed storage and raised beds	CTN10 – Trial regenerative soil management with local biochar & woodchip
CTN6 – Gazebo to provide cover for seed collection and processing activity	CTN11 – Cages to protect against rodent predation of young trees and planted seed
	CTN12 – Volunteer PPE and compost

**Table 4-4 Overview of the grants**

Of the 12 individual grant recipients who received the grant, eight gave feedback via the evaluation survey with largely positive feedback. The grant led to all CTNs improving the performance of their CTN. Without the grant, just 1 respondent (12.5%) said it was likely they would still be able to buy the equipment without the grant -2 respondents (25%) said possibly, 3 (37.5%) said unlikely and 2 (25%) said very unlikely. All 8 respondents would recommend the grant to others.

Feedback received highlighted the complex process of receiving the grant (process laid out overleaf in **Figure 5**), which may have contributed to the grant being under subscribed. A similar biosecurity grant scheme administered by FOTT on behalf of Norfolk County Council was fully subscribed and was kept simple, with the FOTT being the key contact for CTNs (and administering the payments) and Norfolk County Council advising on technical matters. This grant scheme was offered to CTNs a year before the first round of the Growing Diversity grant, with the resulting reduced demand being a further contributor to the low uptake. Survey feedback supports this, with all non-grant recipients giving “Not relevant/didn’t need a grant” as their reason for not applying.



**Figure 5 Process for Equipment and Materials Grant. Name in brackets is who undertakes that task.**

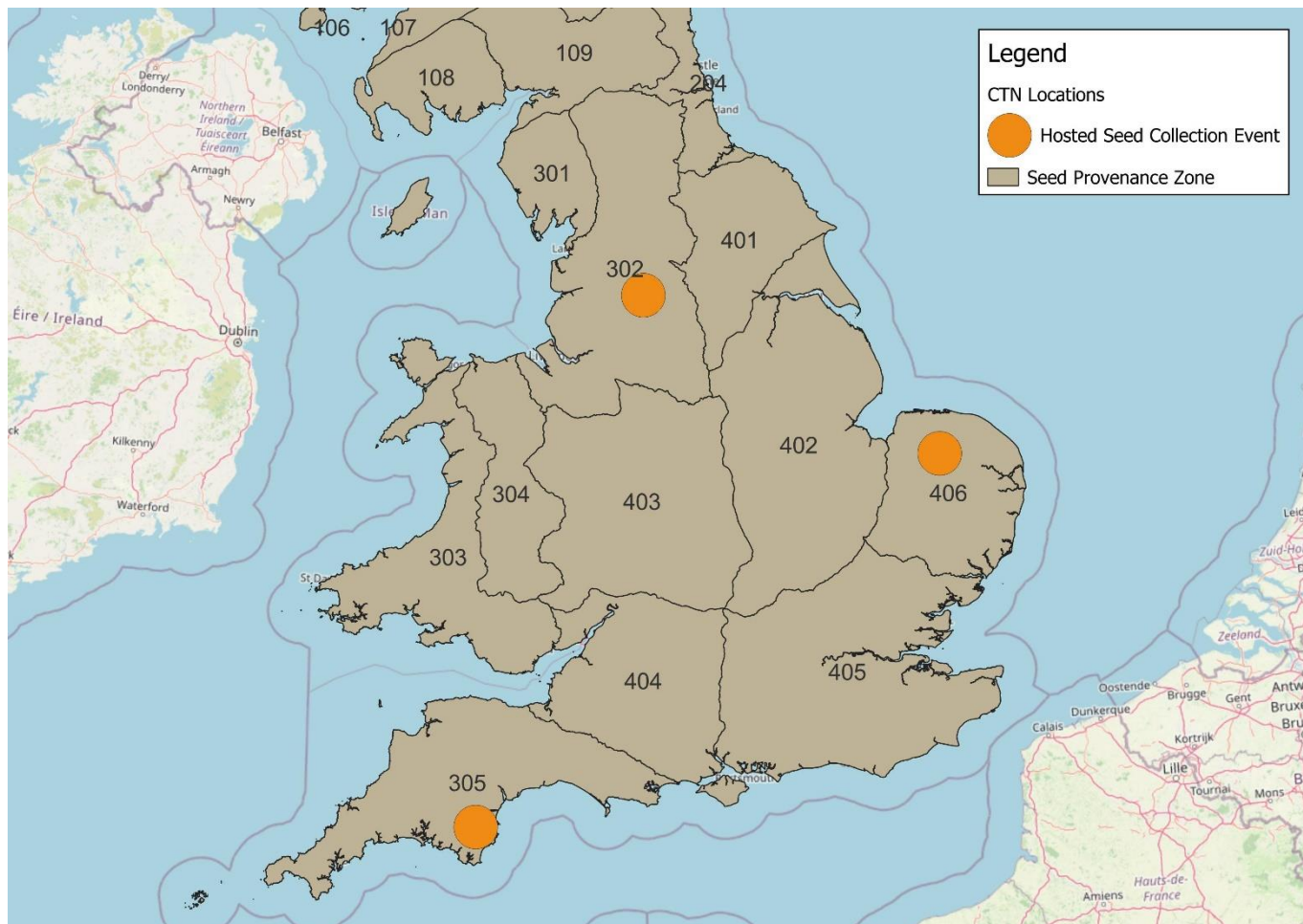
### Next steps

Survey responses show that revenue grants are more useful for CTNs than capital grants (which are still highly valued), therefore for future grant schemes a consideration for revenue payments, predominantly staff time or volunteer expenses, can support CTNs to improve their nursery and support all of the planned outcomes of Growing Diversity - for example, having time to engage in biosecurity certification, FRM regulations, and other measures that can increase the capacity of the CTN to produce high quality local trees.

Future grant schemes are best administered and advertised through FOTT, building on the success of the Trees Outside Woodland biosecurity grant, with a partner organisation such as the Woodland Trust acting as expert advisor, for example in preparing the grant application and assessing applications. See **Section 6.7** for a discussion on accessible grants for future CTN support.

#### 4.7 Seed collection volunteering events

Three seed collection events were held as part of Growing Diversity, in three different priority seed zones (302, 305, and 406 – see **Figure 6**), spread across the country to ensure most areas were within easy reach. For the later seed collection events, travel expenses were made available to support CTNs to take part and the events were also advertised to the general public, to raise awareness of the need to collect seed and empower people to take action. Each partner CTN who hosted the event was given a £700 grant towards seed collection equipment to use on the day and for 20 x volunteer seed collection starter kits to include gloves, collection bags and buckets, secateurs, hooked sticks, and pens for participants to take home. In total 40 participants took part in the three events (**Table 4-5**).



**Figure 6 Locations of the three seed collection events**

Seed collection event location	Date	Registrations	Attendance	
			Number	% registered
Avon Valley Woods, Devon	04/10/2024	20	18	90%
Beetley Meadows, Norfolk	05/10/2024	10	10	100%
Centre Vale Park, Yorkshire	19/10/2024	*	12	*
<b>Totals</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	
<b>Averages</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>95%</b>
* Figures not available				

**Table 4-5 Details of the three seed collection events**

The event hosts were supported to find seed sources (ideally that contained some of the priority species of the project) close to their CTN base. This support led one CTN to find a nearby public park that they will now use again, building a good relationship with the Friends of the Park group. The experiences of the CTN hosts were all positive, with good experiences working with the Growing Diversity team, and the events going well. Two CTN hosts (67%) said they were unlikely to have run this event without the

support of Growing Diversity, while the third was more experienced and commonly runs events like these for the general public. Two CTNs (67%) are very likely to run more seed collection events in the future and the third answered possibly.

Alongside CTNs, one event attracted a large corporate volunteer group, making up around half of the participants. The CTN host felt these days would be better aimed at just CTNs, enabling them to go deeper into the administrative elements of seed collection such as record-keeping and FRM requirements. On the other hand, the FOTT coordinator for Growing Diversity saw engaging beyond their current circles as important. Participant feedback on the day was very positive – as these were public events, attendee details were not retained and so it has not been possible to survey the participants.

All surveyed CTNs (n=26) collect their own seed, so supporting them with equipment and knowledge to widen the diversity of seed they can collect strongly supports planned outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

### **Next steps**

Supporting public seed collection events can increase the number of seed collected and may create regular volunteers for CTNs. Funding for future events would be beneficial, and alongside the film production (**Section 4.8**) and handbooks (**Section 4.9**) can help CTNs gain confidence and experience.

#### 4.8 Film production

Four films were produced by Stroma and Superlative Films in collaboration with Forus Tree, Elsoms Trees, and Moor Trees nurseries. The combined film viewing figures (YouTube and Substack) stand at 878 as of 11<sup>th</sup> February, less than a month after their release (more details in **Table 4-6**). These very high viewing figures highlight strongly the value of these films, and the reach of the CTN network. The Growing Diversity sub stack account was only created in October 2024 and within four months has become very popular. Alongside the film production the Substack has a blog post about the films, pulling out instructions and key screenshots to help CTNs make the most of the film. This useful addition is likely to explain the higher viewing figures compared to YouTube.

The four films cover all aspects of the seed journey from engaging volunteers and having biosecurity procedures in place to collecting and processing the seed, for some of the priority species of tree. This strongly supports planned outcomes 1, 3 and 4 and the overall project objective of overcoming barriers through resource delivery.



Name of film	Viewing figures		
	Substack	YouTube	Total
Introduction to Biosecurity	Not available <sup>1</sup>	232 views	232
Seed Collection	128 views (in 2 weeks)	112 views (in 2 weeks)	240
Seed Processing	86 views (in 1 week)	125 views (in 1 week)	211
Introduction to Volunteer Roles and Seed Collection events	170 (in 2 weeks)	25.(in 2 weeks)	195
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>878</b>

<sup>1</sup> The Introduction to biosecurity video was created eight months ago, before the creation of the Growing Diversity Substack account.

**Table 4-6 Viewing figures for the four films produced**

The videos received very positive feedback from the TPIF lead at the Forestry Commission: “Really informative and accessible series with we’d like to share with stakeholders”, and they will promote the videos on their social media.

#### **Next steps**

Continue to promote the videos, including considering the long-term use of Substack as an engagement tool beyond the end of the Growing Diversity project in March 2025. This resource should also be included in the resource section of the proposed CTN hub (**Section 6.4**)

#### 4.9 Handbook production

The handbook is a photographic guide to seed collection with seed processing and germination tips, designed for volunteer field use. It was produced in collaboration with the Seed Collection Pilot in Scotland (a partnership involving the Woodland Trust for Scotland, Elsoms Trees and Trees for Life) with technical oversight from Forest Research and Karen Russel Consulting. Images are from the Woodland Trust Media Library, Rob Still, and [Woodland Classroom](#).

The handbook has a very professional look and the pictures are high quality and enable the identification and seed collection of over 30 native tree species including all twelve priority species (An example page is presented in **Figure 7**). There is useful information on tree reproduction, dormancy, and ripeness, including a calendar of when best to pick the tree seed (**Figure 8**). At the time of the project evaluation (February 2025) the handbook is in the final editing stages and has not been published, so it is not possible to assess the views of users. However, much of the information it contains is not available in other sources and so it is highly likely to be a very useful resource and will contribute strongly towards CTNs being able to widen the seed they collect, supporting planned outcomes 3 and 4.

# YEW

(*Taxus baccata* L.)

## WHEN TO COLLECT

Collection



### Classification:

**Fruit/seed type:** Fleshy fruit (aril) containing a single seed

**Reproductive age:** 20+ years<sup>4</sup>

**Masting frequency:** No information available

### Collection:

**Technique:** Either pick from branches by hand or lay a net on the ground and shake the branches, taking care not to stand in the line of fall

**Equipment required:** Gloves, nets and soap and water for handwashing

### Preparation:

**Processing:** If fruit is wet, dry and store it whole in a paper or cloth bag and send to the nursery as soon as possible. If you want to keep seed for longer, remove the hard seeds from the fleshy fruit by crushing with your fingers, or an electric hand whisk with beaters on slow speed for larger quantities. The seeds and pulp can be separated by flotation or by rubbing the pulp in a sieve with flowing water. Surface dry at room temperature.

**Storage and delivery:** If keeping fruits whole, send to the nursery as soon as possible. Seeds are easy to store if removed from their fleshy casings and could be kept for the entire collection season. If processed, store the seeds dry in a loosely tied polythene bag at 4°C (e.g. a domestic refrigerator). If unable to refrigerate, send to the nursery at the earliest opportunity.

**Dormancy:** Deep – difficult to germinate.

**Pretreatment:** 20-52 weeks warm stratification (c. 15°C) followed by 32-52 weeks cold stratification (c. 4°C). Scarification/abrasion of the seed coat may reduce pretreatment times but may not be practical with large quantities.

**Notes:** Yew is dioecious, i.e. separate male and female trees with fruits only found on female trees.

Seed collection guide

**1** When unripe, berries are small and green.

**2** A ripe and unripe berry side by side.

**3** Yew berries (technically arils) are ready to collect when bright red.

IMAGE REQUIRED

**4** Beware the toxicity of yew berries when picking - wear gloves and ensure you thoroughly wash your hands after handling.

**ID TIPS**  
Distinctive red fleshy berry-like arils on female trees in autumn. Buds are green [1], shoots are hairless and remain green for several years before becoming woody and brown. Needles are dark green above, pale green below.

**HABITAT PREFERENCES**  
Found in mixed deciduous woods, within pure ancient woods occurring on chalk in southern England<sup>4</sup>. Very widely planted in churchyards, parks and large gardens<sup>4</sup>. Found across the UK mainly on well-drained calcareous soils.

**MAY BE CONFUSED WITH**  
Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*).

**ASSESSING RIPENESS:**  
When the arils (commonly called berries) are bright red [3].

**TOXICITY WARNING**  
Parts of yew trees, including the foliage, shoots and seeds, are poisonous so take adequate precautions when handling<sup>5</sup>. Wear gloves and avoid touching your face until you have thoroughly washed your hands.

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Figure 7 Example page from the seed collection handbook

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Common Alder												
Holly												
Scots pine												
Aspen												
Willows												
Wych elm												
Bird cherry												
Wild cherry												
Downy birch												
Silver birch												
Rowan												
Gelder rose												
Juniper												
Beech												
Hawthorn												
Pedunculate oak												
Sessile oak												
Spindle												
Wild apple												
Blackthorn												
Dogwood												
Hazel												
Wayfaring tree												
Whitebeams												
Wild service												
Yew												
Hornbeam												
Small-leaved lime												
Wild pear												
Dwarf birch												

Figure 8 Extract from the handbook showing when to best collect tree seed (tree seed ripeness)

### Next steps

Once finalised, distribute the guide in both digital and print form. This resource should be included in the resource section of the proposed CTN hub (Section 6.4).



## 4.10 Consultancy reports

Two consultancy reports have been produced as part of the Growing Diversity project. One was a feasibility study that explored market opportunities for community tree nurseries (CTNs) to expand tree and tree seed sales. The study examined barriers to CTNs selling trees and assessed potential sales mechanisms. It outlined support for CTNs in accessing markets through recommendations of the best way forward for tree buyers, CTNs and government, alongside a roadmap to achieve this.

The report was presented to an expert stakeholder group, chaired by Defra and including representatives from the Tree Council, Woodland Trust, Coventry University, Fellowship of the Trees, International Tree Foundation and Norfolk County Council. This stakeholder group will discuss best ways to action the recommendations. This report supports planned outcomes 3 and 5.

The second report is this document: an evaluation of the Growing Diversity project and an in-depth look at future support for CTNs:

- Identifying challenges and opportunities for CTNs (**Section 5**)
- Discussion of support needed to realise these opportunities (**Section 6**)
- Recommendations based on this support (**Section 8**)
- Roadmap of how to action the recommendations (**Section 9**)

This report focusses on supporting planned outcome 5, through assessing existing literature, interviews with key industry experts and engagement with the CTN community.

### **Next steps**

The recommendations and roadmaps laid out in these reports need to be actioned, through the support of the Woodland Trust and other partners.

## 4.11 Overall impact of Growing Diversity

The information in sections 5.1 – 5.10 is summarised below, for each project aim and objective (**Section 4.11.1**) and for the planned outcomes by target audience: CTNs (**Section 0**), the wider tree market (**Section 4.11.3**), and Woodland Trust and partners (**Section 4.11.4**).

### 4.11.1 Aims and objectives

- To identify provenance zones in which there is little or no seed collection and map areas in which hard-to-source native species grow.

<b>Funded activity</b>	<b>How it has helped achieve this aim/objective</b>
5.2 Identify tree species and provenance gaps	Through a CTN survey (26 responses) and market research priority seed provenance zones were mapped, and a list of which trees CTNs grow

- To identify barriers and develop a plan to overcome them. This will include expert insight and support to deliver training sessions and resources on topics such as seed collection, propagating hard-to-grow species and biosecurity.

Funded activity	How it has helped achieve this aim/objective
5.3 Identify training and resource gaps	Through a CTN survey (26 responses) key barriers were identified
5.4 Webinar series	Through the delivery of nine webinars covering topics identified in 5.3 above, with very positive feedback and well attended. The webinars were uploaded online with a high number of views, available to continue to support CTNs.
5.5 Site visit programme	Through the delivery of five site visits spread across the country, with positive feedback from attendees and site hosts.
5.6 Equipment and materials grant	Through the awarding of 13 grants of £500 across 12 CTNs, helping them improve the performance of their CTN.
5.7 Seed collection volunteering events	Through the delivery of three seed collection events, supporting CTNs to gather a wider range of seeds.
5.8 Film production	Through the delivery of four films covering biosecurity, volunteering and events, seed collection and seed processing, with combined viewing figures of 878 (three of the videos have only been uploaded for less than 2 weeks).
5.9 Handbook production	Through the delivery of a seed collection handbook, covering over 30 native tree species including all 12 priority species.
5.10 Consultancy reports	Through the delivery of two reports that identify barriers for CTNs and lay out roadmaps for future support.

#### 4.11.2 CTNs

- CTNs will be more resilient, knowledgeable, and better able to meet market demand.

Funded activity	How it has helped achieve this planned outcome
5.1 CTN networking	The project has engaged with a very high number of CTNs and received very positive feedback. Communication channels include a website, Substack and YouTube and continue to receive high numbers of traffic.
5.4 Webinar series	Through the delivery of nine webinars covering topics identified in 5.3 above, with very positive feedback and well attended. The webinars were uploaded online with high number of views, available to continue to support CTNs.
5.5 Site visit programme	Through the delivery of five site visits spread across the country, with positive feedback from attendees and site hosts.
5.6 Equipment and materials grant	Through the awarding of 13 grants of £500 across 12 CTNs, helping them improve the performance of their CTN.
5.7 Seed collection volunteering events	Through the delivery of three seed collection events, supporting CTNs to gather a wider range of seeds.
5.8 Film production	Through the delivery of four films covering biosecurity, volunteering and events, seed collection and seed processing, with combined viewing figures of 878 (three of the videos have only been uploaded for less than 2 weeks).
5.9 Handbook production	Through the delivery of a seed collection handbook, covering over 30 native tree species including all 12 priority species.
5.10 Consultancy reports	Through the delivery of two reports that identify barriers for CTNs and lay out roadmaps for future support.

- CTNs will have experience of using new and innovative materials and equipment to support their work, and they will be able to share this knowledge within the sector.

<b>Funded activity</b>	<b>How it has helped achieve this planned outcome</b>
5.6 Equipment and materials grant	Several grants included new equipment to support the functioning of the CTNs.
5.7 Seed collection volunteering events	Grants of £700 were given to each CTN host for the purchase of new seed collection equipment.
5.8 Film production	The film produced provides new material to aid with the processing of hard-to-grow species, with combined viewing figures of 878 (three of the videos have only been uploaded for less than 2 weeks).
5.9 Handbook production	The handbook covers all 12 priority species that are currently hard to grow or source.

#### 4.11.3 Wider tree market

- Tree buyers will have access to a wider availability of native broadleaf tree species that have been collected from local seed sources and grown to best practice biosecurity measures.

<b>Funded activity</b>	<b>How it has helped achieve this planned outcome</b>
5.4 Webinar series	Through the delivery of nine webinars covering topics including biosecurity.
5.5 Site visit programme	Through the delivery of five site visits spread across the country, helping CTN participants improve their CTNs which can increase the resilience of future tree supply.
5.6 Equipment and materials grant	Through the awarding of 13 grants of £500 across 12 CTNs, helping them improve the performance of their CTN.
5.7 Seed collection volunteering events	Through the delivery of three seed collection events, supporting CTNs to gather a wider range of seeds, meaning more seed covering different species will be available in the future.
5.8 Film production	Through the delivery of four films covering biosecurity, volunteering and events, seed collection and seed processing, with combined viewing figures of 878 (three of the videos have only been uploaded for less than 2 weeks).
5.9 Handbook production	Through the delivery of a seed collection handbook, covering over 30 native tree species including all 12 priority species.

- Genetic tree diversity will improve nationally as local seed for a diversity of native species is available for local planting projects, resulting in better adapted and resilient woodlands and treescapes.

<b>Funded activity</b>	<b>How it has helped achieve this planned outcome</b>
5.6 Equipment and materials grant	Some of the grants enabled more tree species to be successfully grown, through innovations or protection from pests.
5.7 Seed collection volunteering events	Through the delivery of three seed collection events, supporting CTNs to gather a wider range of seeds, meaning more seed covering different species will be available in the future.
5.8 Film production	Through the delivery of four films that included seed collection and seed processing, helping CTNs grow a wider range of trees.
5.9 Handbook production	Through the delivery of a seed collection handbook, covering over 30 native tree species including all 12 priority species.

#### 4.11.4 Woodland Trust and partners

- A roadmap is produced for future engagement with CTNs that identifies areas needing support and helps inform future work to support the role of CTNs in diversifying the wider tree market.

<b>Funded activity</b>	<b>How it has helped achieve this planned outcome</b>
5.10 Consultancy reports	Through the delivery of two reports that identify barriers for CTNs and lay out roadmaps for future support, and engagement with a national stakeholder group and a range of CTNs.

## 5 Challenges and Opportunities for CTNs

### 5.1 Key challenges for CTNs

#### 5.1.1 Visibility and reputation

A national survey of tree buyers (n = 121), undertaken as part of the Growing Connections project, highlights that most tree buyers are unaware of CTNs<sup>5</sup>. Just 13.3% (n = 16) of tree buyers surveyed currently buy from CTNs, with 72% of those who don't buy stating their main reason is not aware of CTNs, and 25% reporting there are no CTNs available locally. This mirrors the CTN survey carried out for the Growing Diversity CTN markets feasibility study in which finding customers was identified as the joint biggest barrier to tree sales (8/16 CTNs, 57%)<sup>8</sup>. Encouragingly, 91% of buyers who don't currently use CTNs would consider it in the future<sup>5</sup>. Of those who were aware of CTNs, 63% found their local CTN by word of mouth, suggesting both that continuing to develop local advertising and partnerships, and a greater online presence, would help CTNs become more visible.

The main requirement of tree buyers is tree quality (69% essential, 30% important) followed by availability (51% essential, 44% important)<sup>5</sup>. Evidence of biosecurity was also important (46% essential, 30% important). When asked for reasons for not buying from CTNs, lack of regular supply (16% overall, 28% of organisational buyers), quality concerns (12% overall, 23% organisations) and biosecurity concerns (13% overall, 23% organisations) were all mentioned. This highlights that the reputation of CTNs is currently a barrier, though much less than visibility.

#### **Overcoming the challenge**

A CTN hub (**Section 6.4**) can raise the visibility of CTNs by providing information about what is a CTN and can include a map of CTNs to help tree buyers find their local CTNs. Continuation of the national network (**Section 6.2**) can provide a national voice for CTNs and local networks (**Section 6.3**) can create partnerships with LA's and other stakeholders. Support in attaining accreditation (**Section 6.6**) can improve the reputation of CTNs to produce high quality healthy trees.

#### 5.1.2 Government policy and legislation

The Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) Regulations<sup>13</sup> applies to the sale of seeds or trees of 46 controlled species in the UK, which includes several common native species such as oak (English and sessile), birch (downy and silver), hornbeam, beech, Scots pine and wild cherry. There is a further list of voluntary control species which includes most other native trees. Following FRM regulations presents a significant administration cost, leading some CTNs to instead choose to give away their trees to avoid it<sup>8</sup>. For selling tree seed, the regulations state it must first be tested – there are currently only four organisations approved to do this: Maelor Forest Nurseries Ltd, Forestart Ltd, Elsoms Trees and Scotia Seeds Ltd<sup>13</sup>.

Unless selling directly to the end user (in-person) nurseries must also adhere to plant passporting<sup>14</sup> regulations. The inspection fees are not scale-dependant, with a fee of £61.58 per 15 minutes (including travel time of inspector) and a minimum fee of £123.16. This cost creates a significant barrier for CTNs to upscale beyond local direct sales, into potential larger markets such as online sales or joint selling<sup>8</sup>.

The Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot<sup>15</sup> requires that trees purchased as part of any of the five tree planting grants<sup>i</sup> come from a nursery with Plant Healthy certification or from a consignment with a Ready to Plant certificate. An exemption form exists if trees are donated. As of February 2025, just three CTNs are currently registered with Plant Healthy<sup>16</sup>, though in the evaluation survey 10 out of 11 CTNs (91%) said support for Plant Healthy is useful or very useful for their nursery.

For the majority of CTNs, this scheme is not scale-appropriate and are cumbersome to navigate<sup>6</sup>, with much of the information not relevant to small nurseries who for example do not import seed or trees. This means that CTNs, especially small and medium sized, are effectively barred from selling trees for government grant-funded tree planting schemes. The Ready to Plant assessment can allow CTNs to still participate (cost is based on consignment value, currently 15%) where the size of an individual order justifies the time and cost.

CTNs often report find the current systems difficult to navigate. Understanding the relevant regulations was identified as the biggest barrier to selling trees or increasing tree sales in the CTN markets survey (8/16, 57%)<sup>8</sup>.

### **Overcoming the challenge**

Support in helping CTNs understand the relevant legislation is discussed in **Section 6.5**. Support in attaining Plant Healthy certification (**Section 6.6.1**) can give CTNs the opportunity to sell trees funded by public grants.

#### 5.1.3 Lack of appropriate infrastructure

Most CTNs do not own the land on which the nursery sits, and lack the professional infrastructure of commercial operations, highlighted by CTN comments on the equipment and material grant application forms (**Section 4.6**):

- Insecure seed storage (vulnerable to predation, damp etc.).
- Insecure germination and growing areas (vulnerable to rodent predation and/or flooding).
- Lack of funds to invest in improving volunteer facilities (e.g. shelter).
- Lack of sites to improve or expand activities (e.g. community owned land and buildings).

### **Overcoming the challenge**

An accessible grant scheme (**Section 6.7**) can fund CTNs to develop a sustainable nursery plan, with grant support towards critical infrastructure based on this plan.

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<sup>i</sup> The Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot applies to the following five grants: [England Woodland Creation Offer](#) (EWCO), [Tree Health Pilot](#) (restocking grants), [Local Authority Treescapes Fund](#) (LATF), [Urban Tree Challenge Fund](#) (UTCF), and [HS2 Woodland Fund](#) (HS2 WF).



#### 5.1.4 Capacity constraints

Capacity restraints can broadly be placed into three categories: time, knowledge and financial. The average CTN has 1.22 full time equivalent staff members<sup>1</sup>. This is influenced by some CTNs having high numbers of staff (range 0-10), with the majority having no staff members. Due to the nature of volunteering, it is difficult to maintain continuity, particularly for administrative tasks such as adhering to rules and regulations. Due to the range of skills needed to run a CTN, it is likely some will be lacking amongst the key staff and volunteers, in particular marketing and business planning skills. Cash flow constraints are common due to the time and money invested for up to three years before tree sales, and many CTNs close during this key early establishment phase.

Specific capacity constraints from the equipment and material grant application forms (**Section 4.6**):

- Lack of funds to invest in equipment that is more robust (sturdy storage containers, sturdy reusable root trainers and air pots, raised beds, rodent proof cages).
- Lack of funds to invest in equipment to support complex stratification/germination protocols (variable heated propagator, fridge)
- Lack of funds to invest in installing good practice biosecurity measures (boot wash facilities, fencing, signage).
- Lack of staff time to invest in more complex processes (e.g. monitoring seed collection sites regularly to ensure the best collection window (especially for fruits and nuts with a high predation rate), experimenting with different germination/growing protocols for harder to grow species such as guelder rose).
- Lack of specialist advice (protocols for hard to grow species, developing strong traceability practices, biosecurity training).

The initial CTN survey for Growing Diversity also asked about key challenges, those relating to capacity constraints are as follows:

- No paid staff (10/26, 38.5%).
- Not enough volunteers involved (17/26, 65.4%).
- Gaps in knowledge relevant to growing healthy trees (14/26, 53.8%).
- Insufficient income or funding (17/26, 65.4%).

#### **Overcoming the challenge**

Accessible grants (**Section 6.7**) that fund a member of staff in the critical early years of a CTN can increase the CTNs capacity. Business support development (**Section 6.7.2**) can help CTNs build financial resilience, while the national CTN network (**Section 6.2**) can help share knowledge and local networks (**Section 6.3**) can share equipment, staff and volunteers where appropriate. A CTN hub (**Section 6.4**) can host useful resources to help CTNs overcome technical constraints.

## 5.2 Opportunities

### 5.2.1 Expanding tree supply and species diversity

CTNs are well placed to help expand species diversity and the supply of trees from underserved seed provenance zones. The majority of CTNs collect local seed and grow a wide variety of trees<sup>1</sup>. The production of the seed collection handbook, videos on seed collection and processing, and webinar recordings from the Growing Diversity project can help further increase the diversity of trees CTNs offer.

#### **Realising the opportunity**

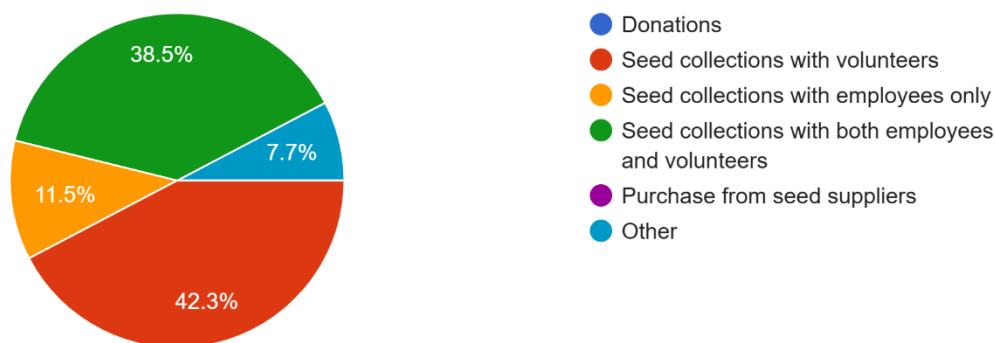
CTN networks – both national (**Section 6.2**) and local (**Section 6.3**) can support CTNs to grow more healthy trees with a large diversity of species through knowledge sharing. A CTN hub (**Section 6.4**) can store useful resources including the new seed collection guide and videos produced by the Growing Diversity project. Accessible grant schemes (**Section 6.7**) can fund the equipment and infrastructure needed for resilience at the nursery.

### 5.2.2 Selling tree seed

Nearly all CTNs collect their own seed, using a mix of staff and volunteers (**Figure 9**). Selling seed – whether the seed is surplus to their own growing requirements or collected specifically to sell – can provide a valuable income opportunity to CTNs and support an increase in the diversity of species and seed provenance zones currently offered through commercial seed growers. None of the CTN markets survey respondents<sup>8</sup> currently sell tree seed but 31.2% (5/16) would consider it.

#### 13. How do you get the seeds required to produce the planting stock?

26 responses



**Figure 9 Survey response from an initial survey conducted by Growing Diversity, November 2023.**

The key here is to develop relationships with other nurseries. On a small-scale CTNs can sell seed to local nurseries, perhaps a surplus that they cannot grow themselves due to capacity constraints. On a larger scale, and to generate more reliable income, CTNs could look to sell specific seed to larger nurseries, both CTNs and commercial. This can be aimed at nurseries who do not collect their own seed or the CTN can specialise in local provenance seeds or rarer species that are underserved by the current market.

Apart from a few large commercial nurseries – and most CTNs – who collect their own seed, the seed market is dominated by one supplier, Forestart. There are currently gaps in provenance zones and

species that can create a niche for CTNs. One commercial nursery, Elsom's Trees, has already proactively contacted some CTNs to ask to buy seed.

Forestry England allow seed collection on their estate, by following the [guidance on their website](#). CTNs would need to contact them first (via [seedenquiries@forestryengland.uk](mailto:seedenquiries@forestryengland.uk)) with at least 6 weeks' notice. You must include details of the type and quantity of plant material you want to collect, the precise location of the collection and when you want to collect. Seed collection resources developed by the Growing Diversity project can help CTNs plan ahead further including quantities, and it is likely that this increased planning will aid them with wider market planning for sales too.

### **Realising the opportunity**

Support needed in seed collection and sale is discussed in **Section 6.1**, including case studies of projects that have supported the expansion of seed collection and processing. CTN networks – both national (**Section 6.2**) and local (**Section 6.3**) can aid knowledge sharing and provide collaboration opportunities, while a CTN hub (**Section 6.4**) can host resources including case studies.

#### 5.2.3 Local networks

The benefits of CTNs goes beyond tree growing<sup>6</sup> and they can act as social and environmental hubs within communities. CTNs can develop local partnerships to help expand these benefits, including but not limited to:

- Local NHS Trusts – opportunities for funding and volunteering through social prescribing.
- Local Authorities (LAs) – CTNs can provide trees towards LA tree planting targets while providing wider social benefits. These wider benefits increase the available funding pots for LAs to support CTNs, and LAs may also be able to offer technical advice.
- Local businesses – opportunities for corporate sponsorship and corporate volunteering.

### **Realising the opportunity**

Support for local networks is discussed in **Section 6.3**. Wider support locally can come from advocating for local trees in Local Plans and other plans, policies and strategies (**Section 6.9**).

#### 5.2.4 Offering training and other services

To diversify income from tree-related activities, CTNs can offer related services:

- Planting and aftercare service: This can be an added fee per tree for planting and or aftercare, or have a cost per established tree, with failures replaced by the CTN. This can provide a stable income for CTNs alongside tree sales. Some government grant schemes pay for aftercare including weeding, watering and tree replacement – even where current regulations exclude CTNs from directly supplying the trees, they could engage with grant recipients to offer the planting and aftercare for trees purchased elsewhere.
- Offer woodland design (where relevant skills exist), which the CTN can then grow the trees for.

- Training courses: tree growing (e.g. seed collection, seed processing, tree care), tree planting and establishment, woodland crafts, other nursery-specific specialist courses. Relevant knowledge of those involved in the CTN was highlighted as a key strength in 61.5% (16 out of 26) CTNs in the initial Growing Diversity CTN survey.

### **Realising the opportunity**

Business development support (**Section 6.8**) can help CTNs develop these secondary markets. The national network (**Section 6.2**) and a CTN hub (**Section 6.4**) can help produce and share resources while local networks (**Section 6.3**) can enable collaboration between CTNs on these opportunities.

### 5.3 Summary of challenges and opportunities

A summary of the challenges and opportunities discussed, alongside the support needed to overcome the challenges and realise the opportunities, is presented in **Table 5-1** below.

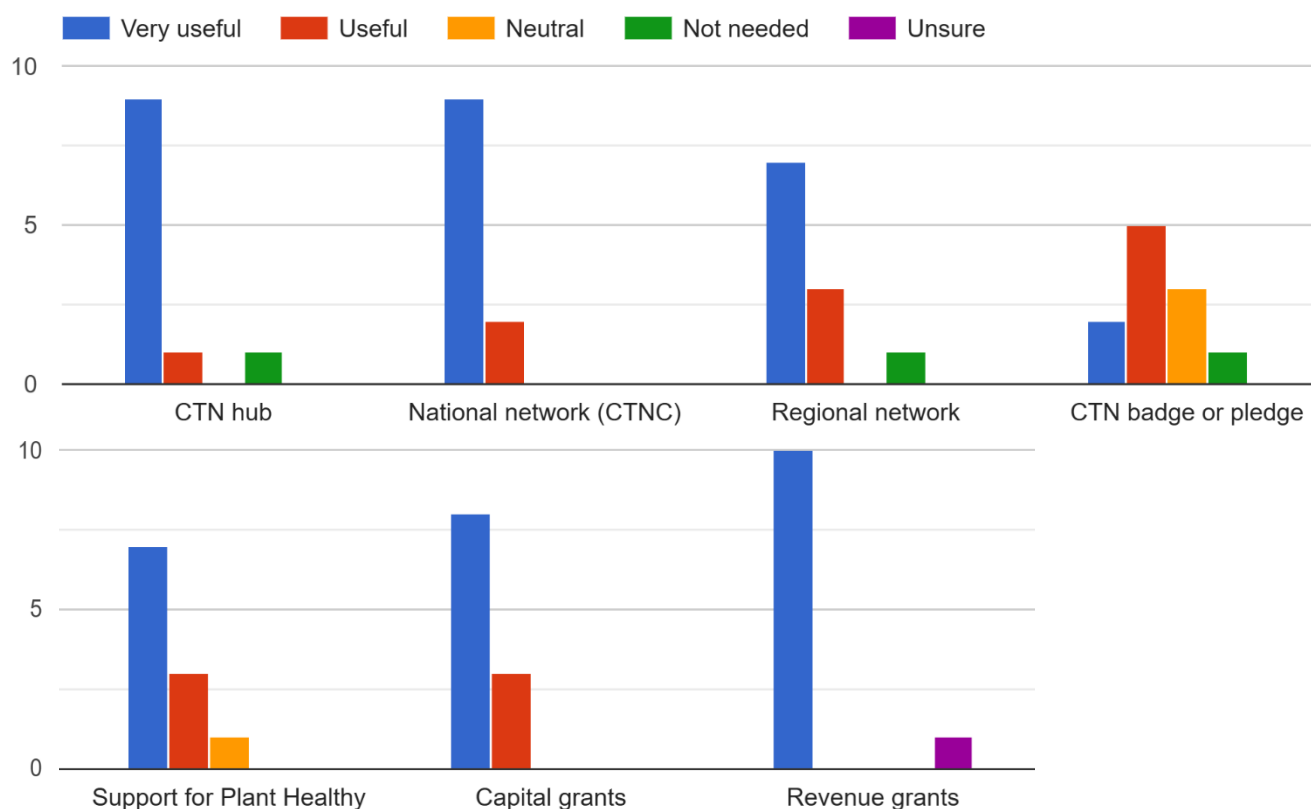
<b>Challenge</b>	<b>Support needed</b>
Visibility and reputation	National CTN network ( <b>Section 6.2</b> ), Local networks ( <b>Section 6.3</b> ), CTN hub ( <b>Section 6.4</b> ), Support for certification ( <b>Section 6.6</b> ).
Government policy and legislation	Understanding regulations ( <b>Section 6.5</b> ), Support for certification ( <b>Section 6.6</b> ).
Lack of appropriate infrastructure	Accessible grant schemes ( <b>Section 6.7</b> ).
Capacity constraints	National CTN network ( <b>Section 6.2</b> ), Local networks ( <b>Section 6.3</b> ), CTN hub ( <b>Section 6.4</b> ), Accessible grant schemes ( <b>Section 6.7</b> ), Business development support ( <b>Section 6.7.2</b> ).
<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Support needed</b>
Expanding tree supply and species diversity	National CTN network ( <b>Section 6.2</b> ), Local networks ( <b>Section 6.3</b> ), CTN hub ( <b>Section 6.4</b> ), Accessible grant schemes ( <b>Section 6.7</b> ).
Selling tree seed	Support in seed collection and sale ( <b>Section 6.1</b> ), National CTN network ( <b>Section 6.2</b> ), Local networks ( <b>Section 6.3</b> ), CTN hub ( <b>Section 6.4</b> ).
Local networks	Local networks ( <b>Section 6.3</b> ), Advocating for local trees ( <b>Section 6.9</b> ).
Offering training and other services	National CTN network ( <b>Section 6.2</b> ), Local networks ( <b>Section 6.3</b> ), Business development support ( <b>Section 6.7.2</b> ).

**Table 5-1 Summary of challenges and opportunities for CTNs**

## 6 Supporting the CTN Community

In order to support CTNs to overcome the challenges (**Section 5.1**) and realise the opportunities (**Section 5.2**), several support mechanisms are discussed. CTNs were asked how useful they felt each was to their CTN (**Figure 10**). Those with strongest support (all options except the CTN badge or pledge), along with support mechanisms added during the literature review and stakeholder interviews, are discussed in this section. Where possible, case studies and/or examples are presented in boxes within the relevant section.

- **CTN hub:** Development of a website/application dedicated to hosting all resources useful to CTNs, including a map of CTNs to aid in networking and for tree buyers to find CTNs.
- **The Community Tree Nursery Collaborative:** Continuation of the national CTN network hosted by Fellowship of the Trees.
- **Regional network:** The development of networks with CTNs and supporting organisations such as environmental NGOs and local authorities.
- **CTN badge:** The development of a CTN badge or pledge that allows CTNs to be easily identified and celebrate the wider benefits they bring.
- **Support for Plant Healthy:** Technical support and free or subsidised entry to the Plant Healthy accreditation scheme, that allows CTNs to sell trees for grant-funded tree planting schemes.
- **Capital grants:** Grants for CTNs to develop sustainable practices such as buying equipment or infrastructure.
- **Revenue grants:** Grants for CTNs to help pay for staff time and other ongoing costs.



**Figure 10** Survey results from the question: *Please rate how useful these resources would be to your CTN.*

## 6.1 Support in seed collection and sale

An overview of the opportunity to sell tree seed is discussed in **Section 5.2.2**. To support CTNs continued logistical and financial support to find seed collections sites and run seed collection events would be beneficial, following on from the positive experiences of the three seed collection events run as part of the Growing Diversity project (**Section 4.7**). Building relationships with large landowners such as Forestry England can help expand seed collection sites.

### **Case Study: Tree Seed Collection Project in Scotland**

The Tree Seed Collection Project is a collaborative three-year project between Woodland Trust Scotland and Trees for Life to enhance the availability of native trees from western Scotland. They are working with over 80 volunteers, as well as montane and niche tree species specialists to collect seeds from targeted areas, including temperate rainforest.

This project aims to enhance the availability of native trees from western Scotland by organising volunteers and montane specialists to collect seeds from the specific geographical areas, predominantly in Scotland's rainforest, where planting is planned. Local tree nurseries will receive assistance in growing trees from these seeds. The resulting trees will be supplied to Woodland Trust Scotland and Trees for Life for planting.

- Expand geographical areas of seed collection in the west and north of Scotland
- Focus on rare and montane tree species
- Collect and verify seed for at least 1,000,000 trees
- Donate enough seed to grow at least 500,000 trees to nurseries across Scotland

During the first year of the project a total of 2.2 million seed were collected enabling 1.5 million trees to be grown, far exceeding the project targets.

To support CTNs in selling seed, it is suggested a full feasibility study is funded to assess:

- Development of a CTN seed treatment hub, to overcome capacity constraints of having just four commercial seed treatment facilities.
- Logistics, and pros and cons, of combining seed collections to be treated and sold centrally, such as a seed cooperative model.
- Research into how to market CTN-gathered seed and market analysis of the full opportunity available.

There is a CTN in Wales that generates sufficient income from selling seed to cover all other business expenses, such as insurance and woodland activities.

**Case Study: Native Nursery Network project in Scotland (Trees for Life, Elsoms Trees, Woodland Trust for Scotland)**

To support local nurseries in collecting seed, this project includes both online and in-person training sessions, the development of a collection calendar with set collection dates for each species, and the establishment of legislation and seed storage protocols. Seeds are booked into an ERP/database system and grown on for known projects. Currently, the project supports eight native nurseries, with the majority in their first year of production. Elsoms Trees remain responsible for seed legislation and will provide support for online training sessions for volunteers. They can support seed collection projects in England and Wales.

6.2 National CTN network: Community Tree Nursery Collaborative (CTNC)

The CTNC was setup in 2021 as a partnership between Fellowship of the Trees and four established CTNs: Coeden Fach in Swansea (founded in 2010), Special Branch in Brighton (founded in 1997), Moor Trees in Dartmoor (founded in 1999) and the Tree Musketeers in Hackney (founded in 2000). These CTNs formed the Core Group that was later expanded to include three new CTNs, Forus Trees (founded in 2020), Mull Community Native Tree Nursery (founded in 2020) and Living Woods North East CIC (founded in 2017).

The network covers England, Scotland and Wales and as of October 2024 62 CTNs have signed up. The CTNC have a website, and accounts for LinkedIn (244 followers), Twitter (318 followers), Instagram (252 followers), Facebook (452 members) YouTube (161 subscribers), and Substack (30 subscribers). They run a series of peer-to-peer learning webinars (**Table 6-1**) with a total of 630 attendees over two years (average 53 per webinar) – the webinar recordings have been watched 1,693 times in total (average 169 views per webinar). Their OpenSpace sessions are informal and allow CTNs to bring their own topics and questions – In the same two-year period there were 160 attendees (average of 16 per session).

Year	Number of Webinars	Attendance	Views on YouTube
2021-2022	6	Total: 298 Average: 50 Range: 18 – 80	Total: 908 Average: 151 Range: 75 - 214
2022-2023	6	Total: 332 Average: 55 Range: 37 – 79	Total: 785 <sup>1</sup> Average: 196 Range: 121 - 267
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Total: 630</b> <b>Average: 53</b> <b>Range: 18 – 80</b>	<b>Total: 1693</b> <b>Average: 169</b> <b>Range: 75 – 267</b>
<sup>1</sup> Two of the six webinars (33%) were not made available on YouTube.			

**Table 6-1 Summary of webinars run by Fellowship of the Trees through the Community Tree Nursery Collaborative (CTNC). Data summarised from CTNC Engagement reports<sup>12,10</sup>**



The national network allows CTNs to be engaged effectively and gives CTNs a collective voice. Survey and interview evidence conducted as part of this report highlight that continuing the CTNC is the priority for CTN support. Despite the huge value they bring to CTNs and the tree production sector, funding for the FOTT's CTNC ends in March 2025. As this network underpins much of the positive work done to support the CTN sector it is strongly recommended that core government funding will cover the modest amount needed for the network to continue operating - £14,000 per year at current capacity<sup>17</sup>, estimated £21-28,000 to include extra elements such as hosting the CTN hub<sup>18</sup> (**Section 6.4**).

### 6.3 Local networks

The development of local networks is discussed in **Section 5.2.3**. To support the creation of these networks, Local Authorities (LAs) are well placed to offer technical and logistical support, bringing together interested stakeholders. Environmental NGOs can assist LAs in developing these local networks, which can help expand local tree supply. CTNs themselves can also be proactive by engaging other local CTNs and contacting their LA.

Local networks can be supported by sharing ideas and case studies of existing successful networks (see two case studies at the end of this section), that can be hosted on a CTN hub (**Section 6.4**). Local networks can include a mentoring resource<sup>19</sup> (experienced CTNs helping new CTNs) and can include CTNs sharing staff and equipment where appropriate. The network can work together on certification schemes (**Section 6.6**) such as the Plant Healthy group certification trial in Devon.

These networks can be coordinated by the CTNs involved, or by a network coordinator<sup>11</sup>, who can help the individual nurseries with administration (example, adhering to regulations and certifications), volunteer management (including recruitment campaigns), help find tree buyers and distribute trees and coordinate funding bids. The network manager could be an external paid role (that would itself require funding – see **Section 6.7**), a volunteer role (lower cost but will be difficult with the time commitments involved), or sit within an existing organisation such as a Local Authority (LA) or an environmental-NGO. The latter option would create more continuity and would be a good fit to help that organisation meet its own tree and community-related aims through supporting CTNs.

If the Tree Production Innovation Fund (TPIF) reopens, a funding application can be made to trial the creation of a local CTN network, that includes the creation of case studies and resources to support other areas to pursue networks.

#### **Case Study: Magu Coed, Regional tree nursery network in Wales<sup>20</sup>**

Magu Coed is a tree nursery network for Wales curated by Llais y Goedwig. It was developed in 2022 as part of the CommuniTree project in partnership with the Woodland Trust. Like the CTNC they run a series of networking events and workshops and have a lot of resources available on their website, available in both Welsh and English. They currently have a database of almost 100 small scale nursery practitioners with different areas of expertise and experience who share information/skills and progress via events and workshops and have 82 members across four regional WhatsApp groups.

## 6.4 CTN Hub

A CTN hub addresses two primary challenges: providing a centralised source of information for CTNs and allowing tree buyers to learn about their local CTNs and CTNs in general. Given the wide geographic distribution of CTNs, an online hub would be the most effective solution. Alongside a library of useful resources, this hub could include a CTN map, information on local networks (**Section 6.3**), and a calendar featuring relevant training and events.

The hub could take various forms, such as a website or an app, and it is recommended that a full feasibility study and options analysis be conducted to determine the best approach. Provided ongoing funding is secured for an administrator and hosting, the CTNC has shown interest in managing the hub once it is developed and launched. While the hub's development could be funded by grants, it is advised that its long-term maintenance be supported by a government budget to ensure its continued success. Fellowship of the Trees and the International Tree Foundation are currently seeking grant funding to pursue the CTN hub.

**CTN map:** A good current example of a tree nursery map is [More Trees Banes](#), who have a zoomable map with the nine current CTNs that make up their network, with each nursery containing a link for more information. The map is user-friendly and could be scaled-up nationally. The [CommuniTree](#) project in Wales is currently working on a CTN map for Wales (early 2025).

**Tree Growers Guide:** Produced as part of the Trees Outside Woodland programme, the [Tree Growers Guide](#) contains an in-depth booklet exploring most aspects of creating and running a nursery on dedicated website. The website also hosts additional resources, including outputs from another TPIF-funded project Growing Connections. These can be used as the basis of the resources part of a CTN hub.

## 6.5 Understanding regulations

A CTN-friendly guide, written in non-technical language, can be created to help CTNs understand the different regulations they must follow, and can include overviews of relevant accreditation schemes. As part of the TPIF-funded Growing Connections project, a regulation flowchart is currently (at time of report) undergoing review by plant health experts. This resource can be further developed and hosted on the CTN hub (**Section 6.4**). CTN networks – both national (**Section 6.2**) and local (**Section 6.3**) can help newer CTNs be mentored by CTNs experienced with the relevant regulations.

## 6.6 Support for certification

### 6.6.1 Plant Healthy and Ready to Plant

As described in **Section 5.1.2**, The Biosecure Procurement Requirement Pilot<sup>15</sup> requires that trees purchased as part of five government tree planting grants (which covers most grant-funded tree planting) come from a nursery with Plant Healthy accreditation or a Ready to Plant consignment certificate.

To support CTNs to become Plant Healthy certified CTNs should be supported with free advice from tree health specialists and ideally be given free or subsidised entry to Plant Healthy. There could be a role for

a small nursery specialist (such as an existing experienced CTN, as an additional income source) who helps CTNs and other small nurseries with scale appropriate biosecurity procedures. Extending the short deadlines would also help CTNs, especially in group schemes such as that currently being trialled in the southwest.

Producing a biosecurity plan can form part of a sustainable management plan grant (discussed in **Section 6.7**). The [Growing Connections project](#) is currently producing a spreadsheet-based tool that extracts and simplifies information from the Plant Health Risk Register, that can support CTNs in the Plant Healthy process.

#### 6.6.2 UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown (UKISG)

The Woodland Trust's UKISG scheme<sup>21</sup> offers participating nurseries free valuable advice from auditors, to help them improve measures such as biosecurity to produce healthy seeds from UK seed stock. As of February 2025, there are 16 CTNs enrolled in the scheme (and one more application pending) including two CTNs who joined after receiving the equipment and material grant from Growing Diversity. The UKISG does not meet the plant health management standard required for supplying trees under government grants. Nevertheless, the Woodland Trust prioritises procuring several million trees annually from UKISG nurseries. Although this does not guarantee CTNs will be able to sell trees for this purpose, the Woodland Trust is exploring ways to better utilise smaller UKISG suppliers.

Encouraging the uptake of UKISG among CTNs remains crucial. Increased marketing efforts towards CTNs, such as through the CTNC (**Section 6.2**) can sustain the high participation rates observed in 2023 and 2024.

### 6.7 Accessible grant schemes

Grant schemes can be utilised to help CTNs realise the wealth of potential benefits they bring. In the national CTN survey<sup>1</sup> (2022), 40% of respondents (27/67) identified short-term grants as a key threat to the sustainability of their CTN. Ideally a grant aimed at CTNs would have long open periods that take account of the busy period for tree nurseries and the nature of volunteering, with very few CTNs having staff that can take the lead on administrative tasks.

#### 6.7.1 Capital grants

Capital grants can help CTNs develop sustainable practices through investing in equipment or infrastructure. The [Tree Production Capital Grant \(TPCG\)](#) was a competitive grant administered by the Forestry Commission between 2022 and 2024 and offered 50% funding up to £175,000 in a competitive grant (see case study below). The continuation of this grant can support more CTNs (and other nurseries) to improve their nurseries. The 50% match-funding needed can be raised through other means such as corporate sponsorship, or trust and foundation grants.

### **Case Study: Support from the TPCG, More Trees Bath and North East Somerset (BANES)<sup>22</sup>:**

More Trees BANES is a CTN that aims to create a diverse, tree-rich landscape by collecting seeds from local woodlands and growing them into saplings. Their unique 'hub and spoke' model involves a central hub for processing seeds and growing seedlings, which are then distributed to community and school-based nurseries. Volunteers are integral to the process, participating in seed collection, propagation, and planting.

The nursery received funding from the Tree Production Capital Grant (TPCG) to develop a new central hub, expand their nursery network, and invest in an electric van. This funding covered 50% of the costs for essential materials and equipment, including a polytunnel, welfare facilities, rainwater harvesting systems, and deer fencing. These investments aim to increase sapling production, diversify species, and improve stock quality and biodiversity.

#### 6.7.2 Revenue grants

Revenue grants can help CTNs pay for staff time and other ongoing costs and are seen as more important than capital grants by many CTNs. Revenue grants for staff time can unlock many other sources of funding, as that member of staff can apply for wider grants and seek corporate sponsorship and other partnerships. Funding for volunteer expenses such as fuel can remove the financial barrier to volunteering, unlocking the associated social benefits.

#### 6.7.3 Combined grant: sustainable nursery management plan

A combined capital and revenue grant can help new CTNs become established and help existing CTNs to increase the sustainability of their nursery. This grant can be focussed on creating a sustainable nursery management plan, with revenue funding for a member of staff to find suitable land, establish local partners, develop a business plan and undertake relevant training. Capital funding can help CTNs with the infrastructure and equipment needed to realise their management plan. This can increase the tree production of CTNs overall, through supporting new CTNs to establish and supporting existing CTNs who want to raise production to do so, working towards a key aim of the Growing Diversity project.

Due to the wider range of social benefits CTNs bring<sup>6</sup> this grant could be funded by central government, with the Forestry Commission administering the grant. Another option is for a national funding pot to be developed with commercial partners, trusts and foundations, and the grant can be administered through Fellowship of the Trees CTNC. Local networks could also work together to find funding for nurseries within their area. In this case the production of a national template that can be adapted locally would be useful. These funds would take time to develop and so would rely on continued funding for the national network to lead them (**Section 6.2**).

#### 6.8 Business development support

Business development support for CTNs can be split into two key areas: developing a market for their trees and developing supplementary income from related activities (see **Section 5.2.4** for examples).

Two online courses, titled 'The Business of Community Trees' (focusing on business aspects) and 'Making Money Grow from Trees' (focusing on fundraising), were conducted as part of the Growing Diversity

project and CNTC respectively. Recordings of these courses are available on the Fellowship of the Trees website. Another useful resource is the “Business Planning Workbook – for Local Provenance Tree Nurseries”<sup>3</sup>, that can assist CTNs in planning the commercial side of their nurseries, offering tips on innovation and diversification, including the cultivation of wildflowers and woodland plants.

These resources can be developed and updated to create a CTN-specific document on business development, incorporating recent research such as the CTN market feasibility study<sup>8</sup>. The resource can be hosted on a CTN hub (**Section 6.4**) and experiences shared through CTN networks (**Sections 6.2 and 6.3**). A grant to fund the time needed to develop a business plan and forge local partnerships is discussed in **Section 6.7.3**.

#### 6.9 Advocating for local trees

There are many opportunities to advocate for local trees produced sustainably by CTNs:

- **Local Plans:** Including commitments to local tree production and support for community enterprises will both benefit CTNs. Environmental-NGOs and other interested parties can comment on draft local plans to recommend the inclusion of this support.
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS):** These strategies can promote CTNs by mapping where new habitats can be created and recommending further support for woodland management. Local plans should take account of LNRS.
- **Landscape Recovery schemes:** Support for local tree production can support the long-term and large-scale projects funded through Landscape Recovery.
- **Land allocations:** LAs can support CTNs by allocating land for their use, including through "call for sites" for development and green infrastructure.
- **Procurement policies:** Changing procurement policies to enable small local businesses to supply trees.
- **Tree policy:** LAs can include support for local tree growing as part of their wider trees strategy, for example contract buying trees from CTNs towards their tree planting ambitions or committing a proportion of their tree budget to CTNs to expand local tree supply.

#### **Case Study: Use of developer contributions and policy support: Swindon Forest Meadows project<sup>23</sup>**

The Swindon Forest Meadows Project is a collaborative effort between Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The project aims to create, restore, enhance, and better manage grassland sites across approximately 170 hectares, focusing on 12 key locations. This initiative includes the creation of new woodland towards the ambitions of the Swindon Great Western Community Forest.

The project is funded by Swindon Borough Council through developer contributions and other biodiversity grants. This funding includes the provision of training courses held at a tree nursery. A supplementary planning document provides the framework for developer contributions to be directed to the Great Western Community Forest.

## 7 Conclusion

The Growing Diversity project met all its aims, objectives, and planned outcomes. Each of the funded activities supported several of the planned outcomes, and each planned outcome was met by several of the funded activities. This highlights the interconnected nature of the various project elements. From webinar recordings to training videos and the seed collection handbook, the Growing Diversity project has created many new resources that will support CTNs and continue to meet the projects objectives going forward.

The success of the project was underpinned by the strong partnerships formed; the project partners Woodland Trust and Fellowship of the Trees working well together; strong relationships and good communication with CTNs; and collaboration with the wider CTN community including other CTN-focussed research projects.

This theme of strong partnership working is the key to continuing to support CTNs in the future. This will be underpinned by the continuation of the national network the Community Tree Nursery Collaborative (CTNC), run by the Fellowship of the Trees – ongoing financial support for the CTNC will give a collective voice for CTNs, enable networking and sharing of ideas, and allow relevant organisations and public bodies to actively engage with CTNs to strengthen their role within the wider tree production sector.

Local networks that foster collaboration between CTNs, Local Authorities (LAs), local businesses and other relevant organisations, can further support CTNs to become more resilient and take advantages of the opportunities available to them. The creation of a CTN hub would support CTNs by making the range of current resources easily accessible to them and help tree buyers learn about CTNs and how to find their local ones.

The creation of accessible grant schemes, based on evidence gathered during Growing Diversity and other CTN-focussed research projects, would enable CTNs to develop sustainable management plans and access the infrastructure and equipment needed to improve their nurseries. LAs have a role in advocating for locally produced trees, and the CTN model can help LAs meet their wider social objectives as well as supporting them to reach tree planting targets.

## 8 Recommendations

### 8.1 CTN community and researchers

- The development, implementation and resourcing of a digital CTN hub to host resources relevant to CTNs, both to support CTNs and to help tree buyers learn about CTNs.

This will increase awareness of CTNs (and hence potential sales) and provide a central place for CTNs to access training and other resources such as market planning, to help build local markets. A CTN map can direct tree buyers towards their local CTN(s). This option is currently being pursued by Fellowship of the Trees and the International Tree Foundation.

### 8.2 Woodland Trust

- Encourage uptake of UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown (UKISG) through increased marketing to CTNs.

Uptake of CTNs to the UKISG scheme has been high in 2023 and 2024, so continuing to engage with the CTN community can continue this trend. The UKISG offers good support to CTNs through the free site visits and advice and can help CTNs demonstrate good biosecurity procedures.

### 8.3 Tree buying organisations

- Offer flexible and partial-fulfilment contracts, with minimum and maximum number on species within an order and allow individual nurseries to fulfil part or a larger order.

This will enable more CTNs to access contracts by reducing the minimum number of trees they need to produce and will reduce the risks associated with low germination or growing losses. CTNs would have to be capable of responding to tender requirements set by tree buyers, which may include evidence of biosecurity procedures.

### 8.4 UK and devolved governments

- Commit to funding the Fellowship of the Trees' Community Tree Nursery Collaborative (CTNC) Coordinator role when current funding ends (March 2025).
- Commit to development of an accessible grant for CTNs, based on evidence gathered by CTN-related research projects.
- Free or subsidised entry to Plant Healthy, with support of plant health experts to create scale-appropriate biosecurity protocols for CTNs, that meet existing biosecurity standards without excessive administrative burdens on CTNs.
- Extend the Biosecure Procurement Requirement exemption form to include evidence-based low risk tree suppliers such as CTNs producing trees for local tree planting schemes and allow membership of the UKISG scheme as evidence of sufficient biosecurity measures in the "sourcing summary".
- The streamlining of FRM requirements for seed testing to reflect small-scale seed collection and non-commercial forestry seed. Support for CTNs to engage with the system to enable them to sell seed.

## 8.5 Local government

- The development of a trial of local networks to foster collaboration between CTNs and LAs, local businesses and other organisations.

Local networks can complement the national network by fostering collaboration through corporate sponsorship and volunteering, strong partnerships with LAs, sharing of equipment between CTNs and can be expanded to include joint sales. The Woodland Trust are currently leading a project in Greater London as part of the London Urban Forest Partnership that can include a trial of a local network.

- Inclusion of commitments within Local Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies to use locally grown trees to achieve tree planting ambitions, including support for existing CTNs and support for the creation of new CTNs to grow these trees.



## 9 Roadmap for CTN Support

The following roadmap actions the key recommendations against three key themes: Expanding markets for CTNs (**Section 9.1**); Supporting CTN networks (**Section 9.2**); and Development of accessible grant scheme (**Section 9.3**).

### 9.1 Expanding market for CTNs

Timeframe	Overview of action	Goal	Led by
Short term 0 - 12 months	<p>1) <u>Promote UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown (UKISG) Assurance Scheme</u></p> <p>Actively encourage CTNs to join the UKISG assurance scheme by demonstrating the benefits of free advice, biosecurity assurance, and improved buyer confidence. Collaborate with CTN networks (Community Tree Nursery Collaborative and CommuniTree) to advertise to CTNs.</p>	Make it easier for CTNs to access support and demonstrate good working practices to tree buyers.	Woodland Trust.
	<p>2) <u>Identify tree buying organisation(s) and CTNs to take part in a procurement trial</u></p> <p>The trial(s) will include flexible and/or part-fulfilment contracts as defined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flexible: Offer minimum and maximum quantities of each species required, with a total overall number of trees.</li> <li>Part-fulfilment: Allow nurseries to fulfil smaller parts of larger contracts, for example breaking larger orders into 10% blocks which a single nursery can only apply for up to 3 or 4, or splitting an order into a 10%, 20% and 70% block.</li> </ul>	To setup a trial of contracts that are better suited to CTNs.	Fellowship of the Trees CTNC (finding CTNs for trial).  Tree Buyer (TBC)

Timeframe	Overview of action	Goal	Led by
Medium term 12 - 24 months	<p>3) <u>Engage with the Forestry Commission</u></p> <p>Work with the Forestry Commission to make selling tree seed easier for small-scale seed collectors such as CTNs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarifications on testing requirements for small quantities of seed (as defined by the Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) Regulations, varies per species).</li> </ul> <p>Work to simplify the system of notification of seed collection and seed testing.</p>	Make selling tree seed more accessible to CTNs.	Fellowship of the Trees CTNC, Woodland Trust (policy and advocacy) and Forestry Commission.
	<p>4) <u>Tree buyer procurement trial of flexible and part-fulfilment contracts</u></p> <p>Trial flexible and part-fulfilment contracts, as defined in point 2 above.</p>	Make it easy for CTNs to provide trees as part of procurement.	Tree buyer organisation, working with CTNs in the trial.
Long term / Ongoing 24 months +	<p>5) <u>Promote local seed from CTNs</u></p> <p>Promote CTN tree seed by developing markets and partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build partnerships with tree seed buyers such as commercial nurseries.</li> <li>• Consider CTN cooperatives/networks to work together to sell larger quantities of seed.</li> </ul>	Increase the success of CTNs selling tree seed.	Fellowship of the Trees CTNC, with technical support from the Woodland Trust.

Timeframe	Overview of action	Goal	Led by
	<p>6) <u>Evaluation of procurement trial and sharing of experiences.</u></p> <p>Evaluate trial and publish advice for other organisations on how to offer flexible and part-fulfilment contracts, and the benefits of engaging with CTNs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey and or interview with tree buyers and CTNs who took part in the trial to evaluate the success.</li> <li>• Adapt and refine the procurement process to enable more CTNs to take part.</li> <li>• Share experiences to enable other tree buyers to learn from the trial.</li> </ul>	Continue to adapt the trial and encourage other tree buyers to consider CTN-accessible contracts.	Tree buyer organisation, working with CTNs in the trial and wider CTN community such as Fellowship of the Trees CTNC to promote the outputs.

## 9.2 Supporting CTN networks

Timeframe	Overview of action	Goal	Led by
Short term  0 - 12 months	<p>1) <u>Funding for Fellowship of the Trees for CTNC Coordinator</u></p> <p>Commit to urgent funding (end of March 2025) for the CTNC Coordinator role to recognise the value of this national CTN network. £14,000 per year needed at current capacity, £28,000 to include additional work such as hosting CTN hub.</p>	Funding secured for CTNC Coordinator role to allow the valuable network to continue.	Defra.
	<p>2) <u>Launch funding bid for a CTN hub</u></p> <p>Create a funding bid to collate and expand existing resources for CTNs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding bid to be developed by Fellowship of the Trees and International Tree Foundation and reviewed by existing national group of CTN stakeholders, chaired by Defra with representatives from the Tree Council,</li> </ul>	High quality funding bid submitted for CTN hub	Fellowship of the Trees and International Tree Foundation

	<p>Woodland Trust, Coventry University, Fellowship of the Trees, International Tree Foundation and Norfolk County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding bid to include extra ongoing staff resource to maintain the hub once complete (can be part of CTNC coordinator role in 1) above.</li> </ul>		
	<p>3) <u>Use London Urban Forest Partnership as pilot for local CTN network</u></p> <p>As part of the delivery of the London Urban Forest Plan the Woodland Trust are leading on a tree nursery project (2025-2027) titled 1H “<i>Assess and communicate the need, feasibility and impacts of expanding the supply chains for locally sourced and grown trees in and within close proximity to London, including borough and community tree nurseries</i>”. This project can be supported by the wider CTN community and experts within the Woodland Trust to become a trial for a local CTN network (to cover Greater London area).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider inclusion of a funding bid for a network coordinator role, that can support the CTNs in the network and help setup new ones.</li> </ul>	<p>Project in London is setup and monitored to learn lessons about how local networks can work.</p>	<p>Woodland Trust.</p>
<p>Medium term 12 - 24 months</p>	<p>4) <u>Launch and promote the CTN Hub</u></p> <p>Establish a centralised digital hub for CTNs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather key insights and resources from recent CTN-focused projects, including Growing Diversity, Growing Connections, CommuniTree, and the Boosting Community Tree Nursery pilot</li> <li>To include direct marketing resources and training, and wider training such as biosecurity that will help overcome concerns of tree buyers by enabling CTNs to follow best practice.</li> <li>Provide a repository for resources, training materials, and guides.</li> </ul>	<p>Create a platform for CTNs to network and share experiences and help tree buyers learn about CTNs.</p>	<p>Stakeholders from CTN community, including Fellowship of the Trees CTNC and the International Tree Foundation. Defra can provide strategic guidance.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a map and directory of CTNs who wish to sell trees with contact details.</li> <li>• Can help CTNs to collaborate, for example larger CTNs supporting their smaller local CTNs in generating sales and establishing local networks and cooperatives.</li> <li>• Actively promote the CTN hub to CTNs and tree buyers through newsletters, webinars, and events.</li> </ul>		
	<p>5) <u>Develop local network trial and draft model Local Plan</u></p> <p>Continue to develop the local network trial in Greater London and develop a draft of a model Local Plan that includes support for local tree nurseries.</p>	A model Local Plan for inclusion of local tree supply is drafted that can be used by LAs elsewhere.	Woodland Trust.
Long term / Ongoing  24 months +	<p>6) <u>Evaluate and improve the CTN hub</u></p> <p>Collect feedback and identify and overcome knowledge gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the effectiveness of the CTN hub and the dissemination of resources.</li> <li>• Collect feedback from CTNs and tree buyers to refine the hub and information-sharing processes.</li> <li>• Identify any information gaps and create new research projects to address these.</li> </ul>	Ensure continued relevance and support for CTNs in overcoming market barriers and sustaining growth.	Stakeholders from CTN community, including Fellowship of the Trees CTNC and the International Tree Foundation.
	<p>7) <u>Create case study and resources for local network formation</u></p> <p>Use the tree nursery project within Greater London as the basis for a case study on the formation and management of local networks. Share on the CTN hub.</p>	A local network model is shared allowing more networks to work around the country.	Woodland Trust.

### 9.3 Development of accessible grant scheme

Timeframe	Overview of action	Goal	Led by
Short term 0 - 12 months	<p>1) <u>Commit to reopening existing tree production grants when current funding period ends (March 25)</u></p> <p>Reopen the Tree Production Innovation Fund (TPIF) and Tree Production Capital Grant (TPCG). The TPIF can fund ongoing research to create useful tools for CTNs (such as development of the CTN hub) and the TPCG can support CTNs to improve infrastructure.</p>	Ensure access to grant for innovation and capital, that can support resource development and sustainable infrastructure for CTNs.	Defra and Forestry Commission.
Medium term 12 - 36 months	<p>2) <u>Develop accessible grant</u></p> <p>Use evidence gathered around the benefits of CTNs and the needs of CTNs and use to develop a CTN-accessible grant scheme. Grant-scheme to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated long-term funding for CTNs to develop and deliver sustainable nursery management plans including the development of local partnerships.</li> <li>• Capital and revenue grants to implement the sustainable nursery management plan.</li> </ul> <p>Long funding periods to allow CTNs to easily apply for funds.</p>	Make it easier for CTNs to access support and grants.	Defra and Forestry Commission.
Long term / Ongoing 36 months +	<p>3) <u>Review and update accessible grant</u></p> <p>Evaluate the success of the new accessible grant and continue to adapt to make it relevant. Keep grant as a long-term option to allow the wider social benefits of CTNs to be realised.</p>	Ensure long-term success of the grant.	Defra and Forestry Commission working with CTNs who have accessed the grant.

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8. Growing Diversity, 2025. *Feasibility Study - Routes to Market for Community Tree Nurseries*. Request a copy from [GemmaWorswick@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:GemmaWorswick@woodlandtrust.org.uk).
9. Fellowship of the Trees, 2023. *CTNC Engagement report 2021-2022*. [Link](#)
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11. AJS Flood Risk Consulting (2023). *WMCA Tree Supply report* [Unpublished manuscript]. Request a copy from [Pete@ajsfloodrisk.co.uk](mailto:Pete@ajsfloodrisk.co.uk).
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17. Fellowship of the Trees, 2025. *OpenSpace session on future of the CTNC, February 2025*.
18. Fellowship of the Trees, 2025. Personal comms (interview with Community Tree Nursery Collaborative (CTNC) coordinator in February 2025, conducted for this report).
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22. Forestry Commission, 2025. *Expanding More Trees community nursery to grow, improve and diversify tree stock*. [Link](#)
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## Appendix A – Evaluation Survey Results

### Onsite training event

What motivated you to attend the onsite training?

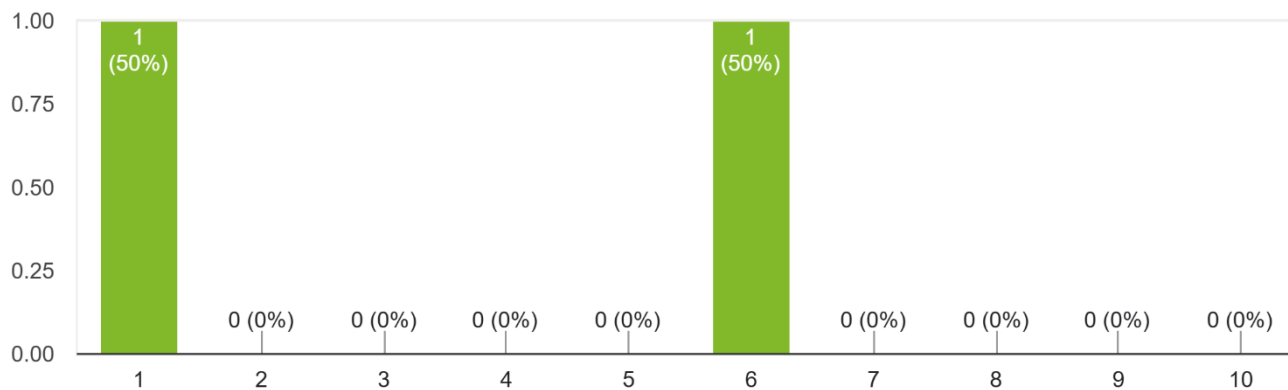
2 responses

It was close enough to me that I could attend and the topic seemed useful.

growing trees from local veterans, biosecurity training really useful to take CTN forward, and share site with NT

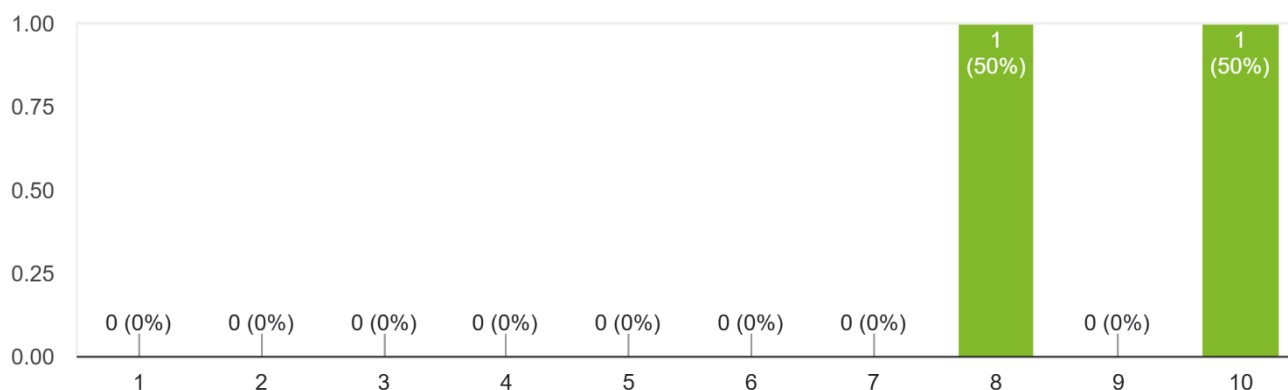
Before the training, how experienced were you with the training topic?

2 responses



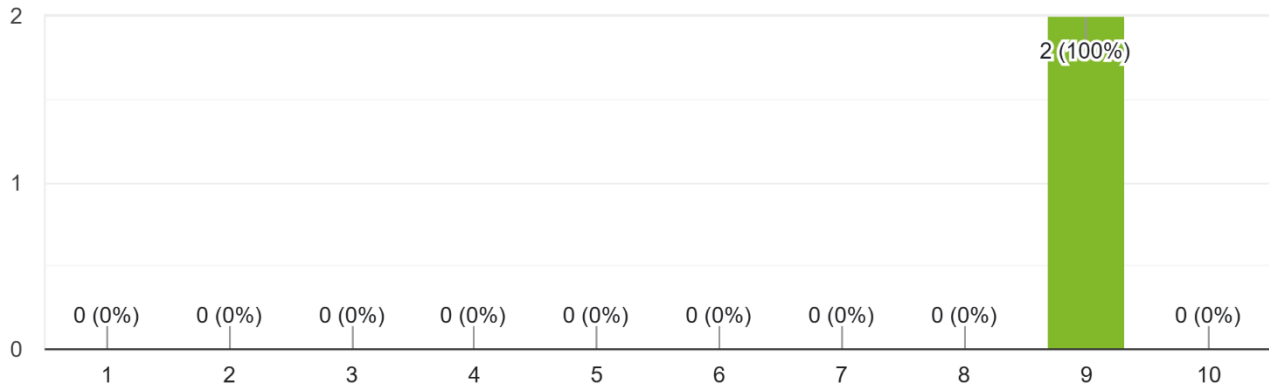
How satisfied were you with the event organisation and information received prior to the event?

2 responses



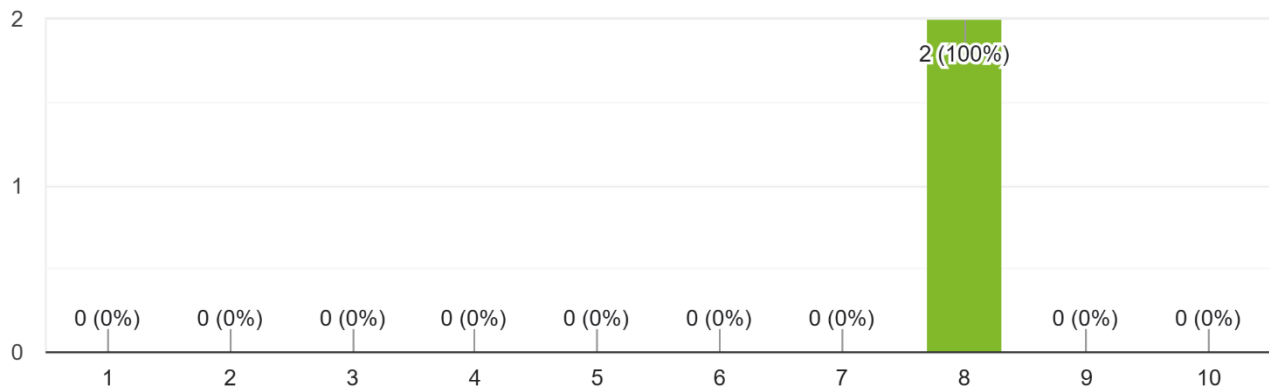
### How satisfied were you with the on the day running of the event?

2 responses



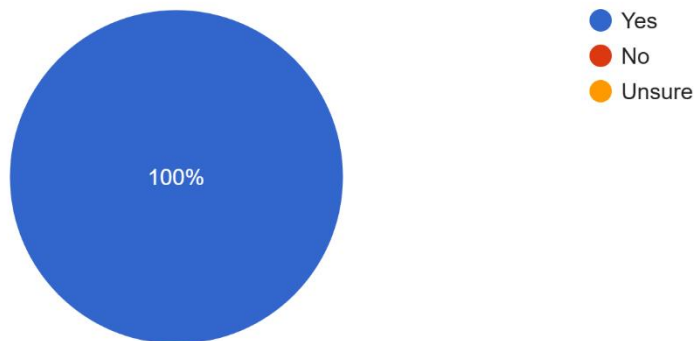
### How experienced do you now feel with the training topic?

2 responses



### Would you recommend the training to others?

2 responses



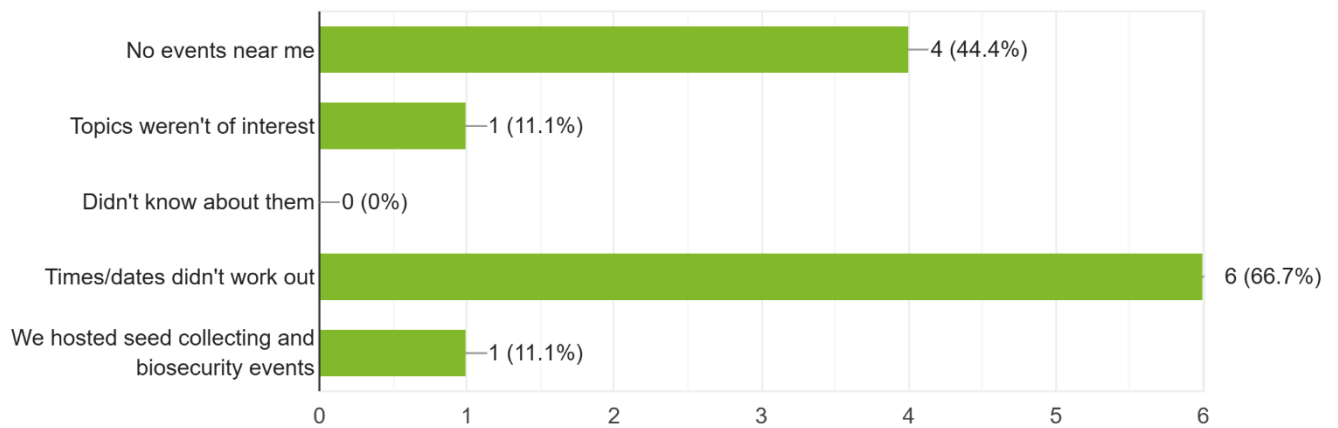
### Are there any changes to the training that could improve it in the future?

1 response

I have already given this feedback to the provider but just simple things about the way the day was structured and keeping participants warm and moving needed improvement.

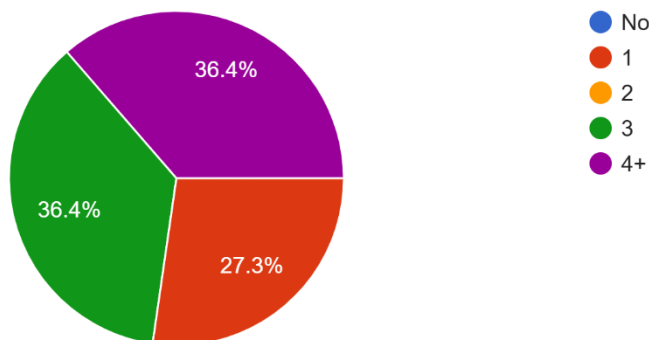
### Why didn't you attend an onsite training?

9 responses



### Did you attend any Growing Diversity webinars?

11 responses



## Growing Diversity Webinars

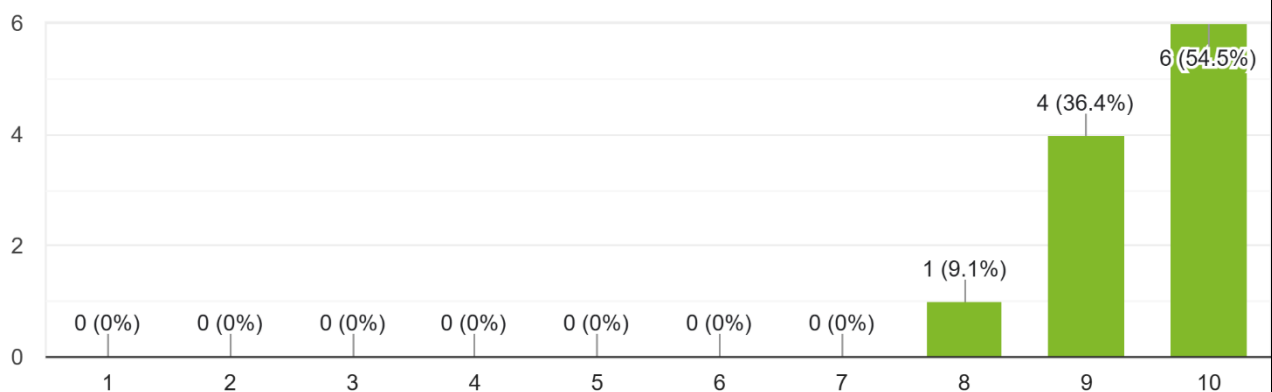
### What motivated you to attend one of more of the webinars?

11 responses

- to see if we could access more funding to help us continue to operate
- the topics were of interest, particularly biosecurity, to boost confidence
- was a gardener and conservationist but had no specialist tree growing knowledge, and the wider nursery team has less knowledge, so help plan the direction
- always useful to learn, and like to ask questions
- The topics were useful and there is no other way to access this information (that I am aware of).
- Looked useful for my project
- We were speakers
- interested and the webinars were specific to our needs and progression
- i'm always keen to expand my tree growing knowledge
- Getting information and networking always useful

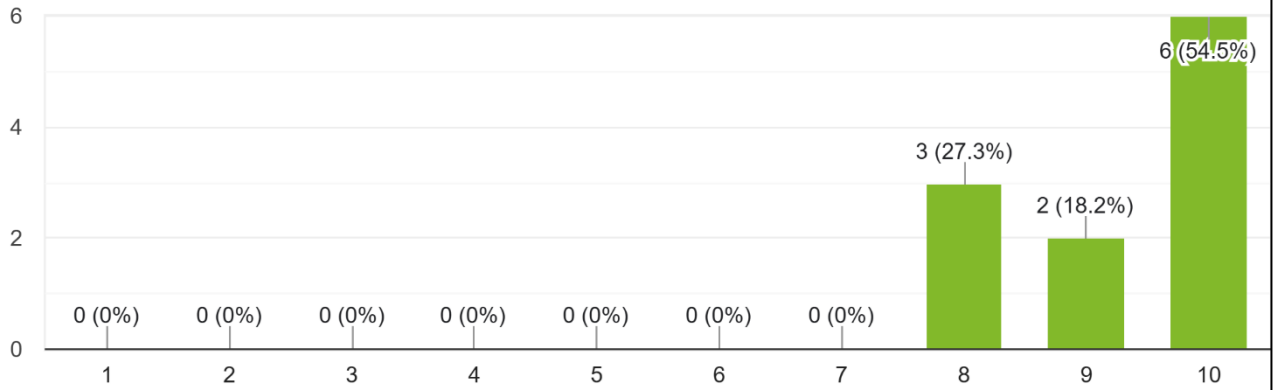
### How satisfied were you with the organisation of and the information received prior to the webinars?

11 responses



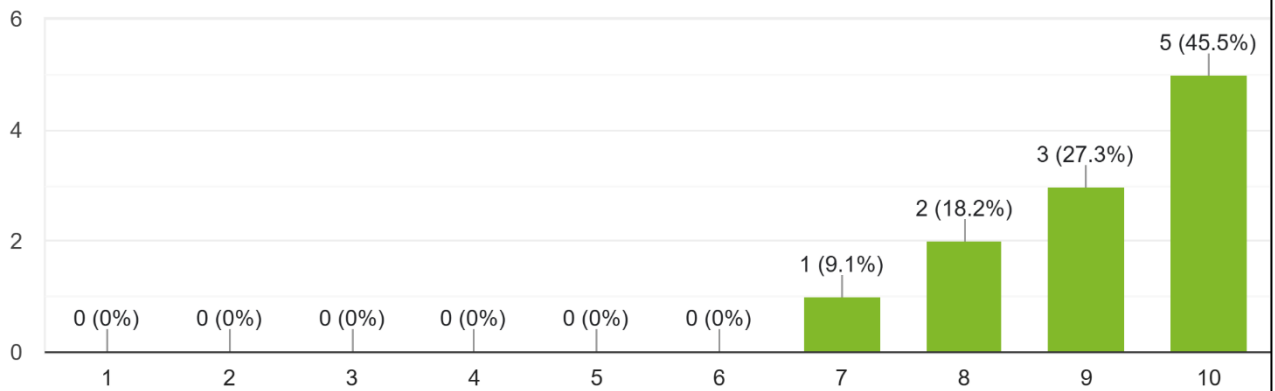
### How satisfied were you with the format of the webinar?

11 responses



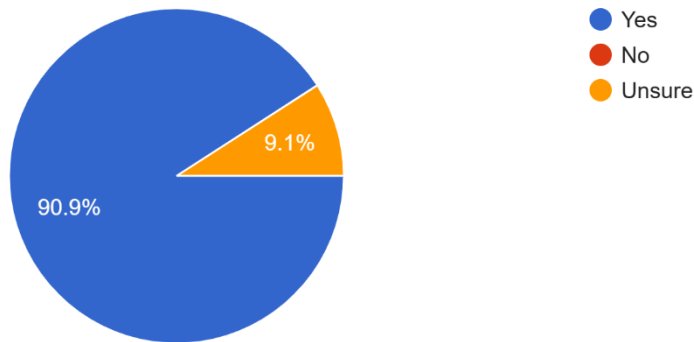
### How satisfied were you with the webinar content?

11 responses



### Would you recommend attending a webinar to others?

11 responses



### Has the webinar(s) led to any positive changes at the nursery?

9 responses

not really

Gave us the confidence to apply for UKISG

Still struggling with some elements of biosecurity, setting up the systems that they have learnt about

Yes, we have implemented techniques and practices mentioned in the webinars such as biochar and biosecurity.

Preping to implement more biosecurity measures this year.

More people aware of what we do

Absolutely. They have been extremely valuable for increasing knowledge, sharing expertise and are an ongoing resource via the recordings and online videos

yes, a lot of fine tuning nursery practice

yes, started new tree database, and tree nursery setup

Are there any changes to the format of the webinars that could improve them in the future?

8 responses

-

No

had trouble joining, so make how to join really obvious (help guide)

Particularly likes the open format (CTNC) as can ask any questions

some technical difficulties joining through Eventbrite - easier to get the link direct then it works

For me personally, having them during working hours is better than evenings but I realise this is not the case for most people.

Background music for slideshows?

Then are ideal as they are

no

Are there any other webinar topics that you would find useful?

8 responses

Seed germination (and advise on compost)

useful to do the same topics too as the conversations/q and a really helpful

interest in growing street trees (often none native) - e.g. Tree Musketeers and about container growing, air pots etc.

More about biosecurity, compost, and plant health certifications?

ongoing support with Tree Health & Disease. Bio-security. New ideas for growing and the challenges of chaotic climate. Pest control. Seed saving, germination issues & new techniques.

Volunteering good practice, recruitment etc.

anything on germination

Lifting and storing trees



## Hosted a seed collection event

### What motivated you to host a seed collection event?

3 responses

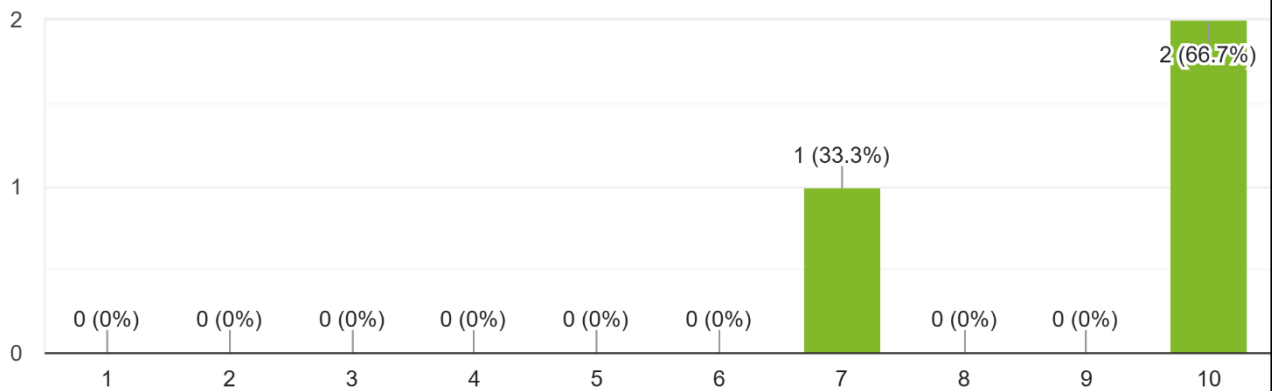
wanted to help and take up the opportunity to have the experience.

keen to share what we are doing and to support other CTN's

We were asked to!

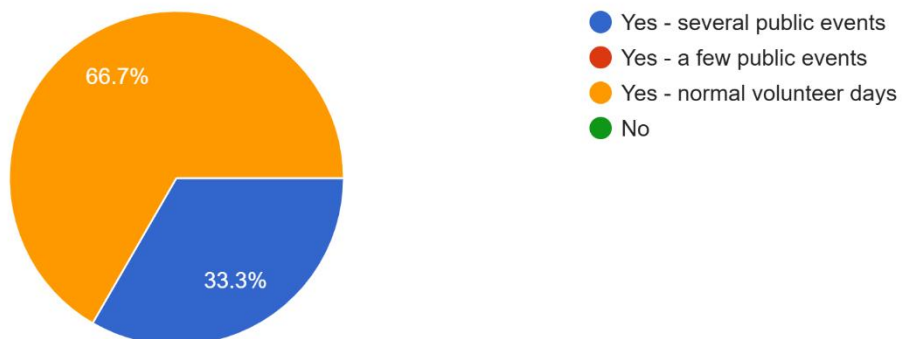
### Overall, how was your experience of working with the Growing Diversity team to deliver the seed collection event?

3 responses



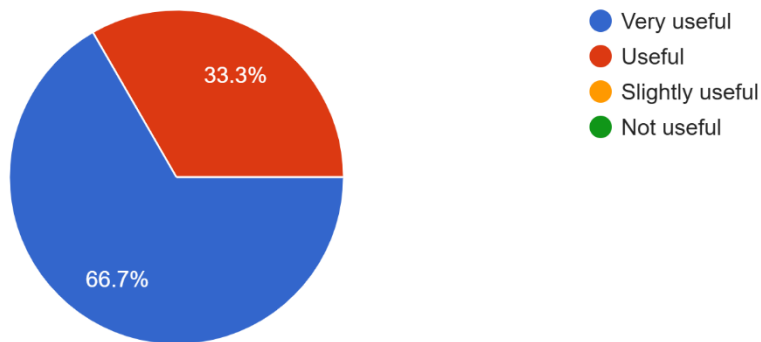
### Have you run seed collecting events before?

3 responses



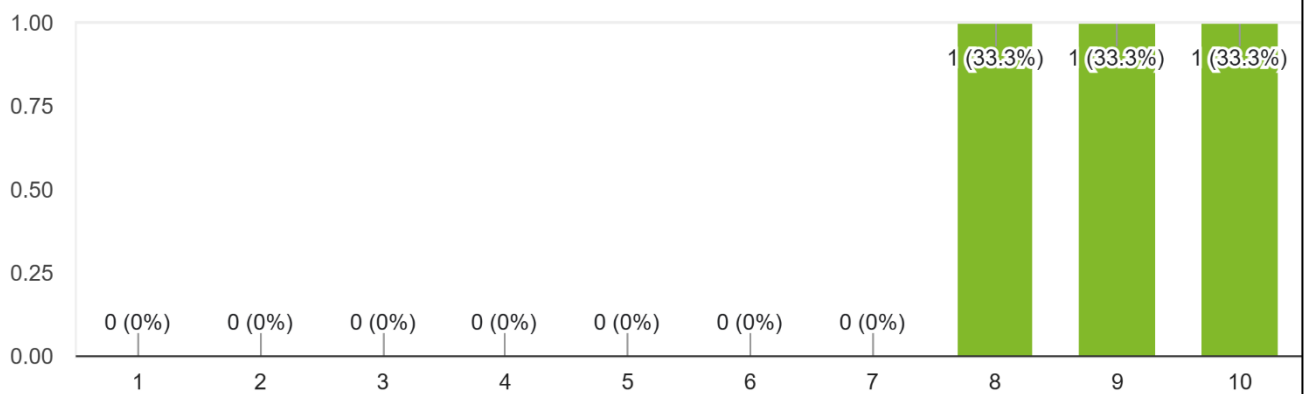
### How useful was the logistical support from Growing Diversity to help prepare you for running the event?

3 responses



### How did the event go?

3 responses



### More information on the event: challenges

3 responses

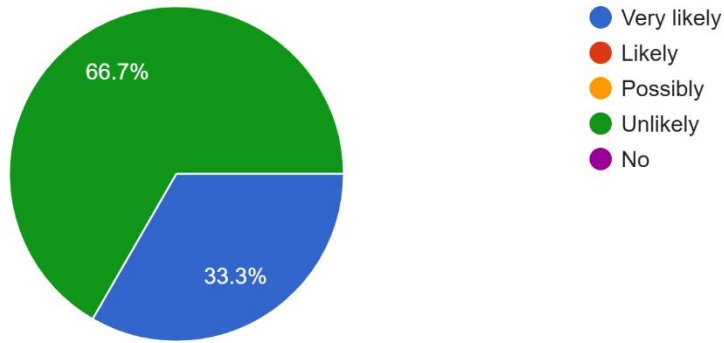
Only issue was finding all the seeds for the priority species for the course (visited a Woodland Trust site but didn't have any of the priority species), in the end found a large local park.

Walking out on the site when lots for the group to see - difficult to keep the group together

It would be good to be more involved in the planning and brief for the events. We felt this needs to be more collaborative to ensure the content is right and timings, additional material. The volunteers who attended were booked through the woodland trust and the majority were from a corporate group who didn't have interest in the training aspect of the day. It would be better for the event to be more about the training, with more time spent looking at permissions, FRM, SSSI's, biosecurity and seed storage.

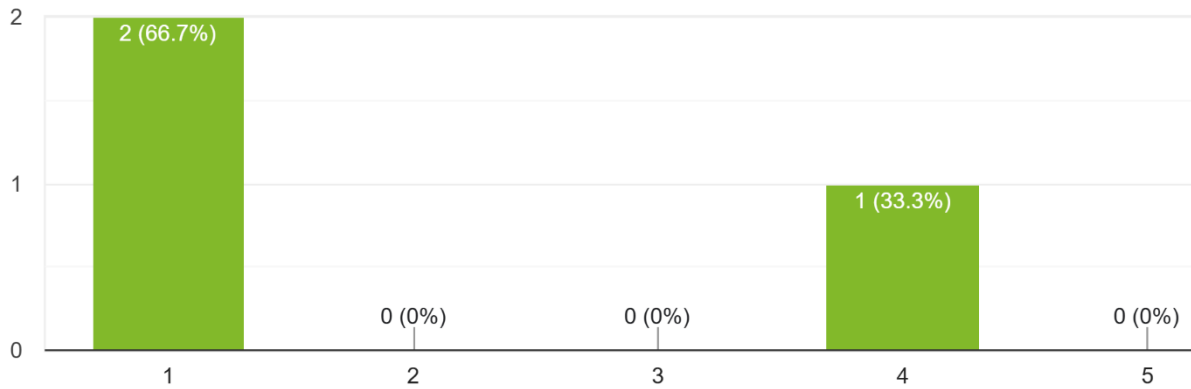
Would you still have run a seed gathering event without the support of the Growing Diversity team?

3 responses



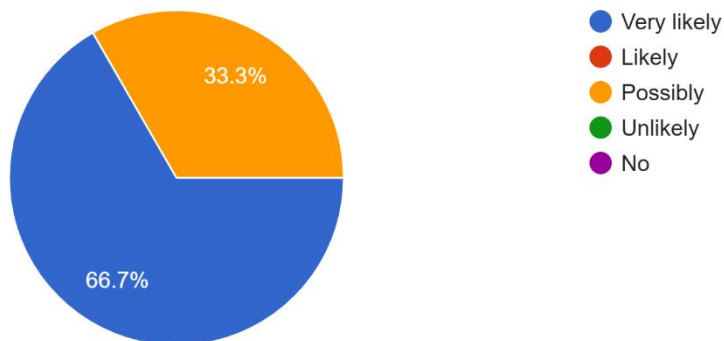
How useful was the seed gathering equipment you purchased?

3 responses



Will you run more seed collecting events in the future?

3 responses



### Are there any changes you would make for future events to improve them?

3 responses

Find a site with all the priority species

Share out the presentation and delegate to the volunteers who support us. Probably ask for presentation tips/training

No, we have been running seed collecting events regularly for many years.

### Hosted an onsite training event

#### What motivated you to host an onsite training event?

4 responses

It was a useful topic relevant to our nursery and it was good to connect with other nursery representatives in the area.

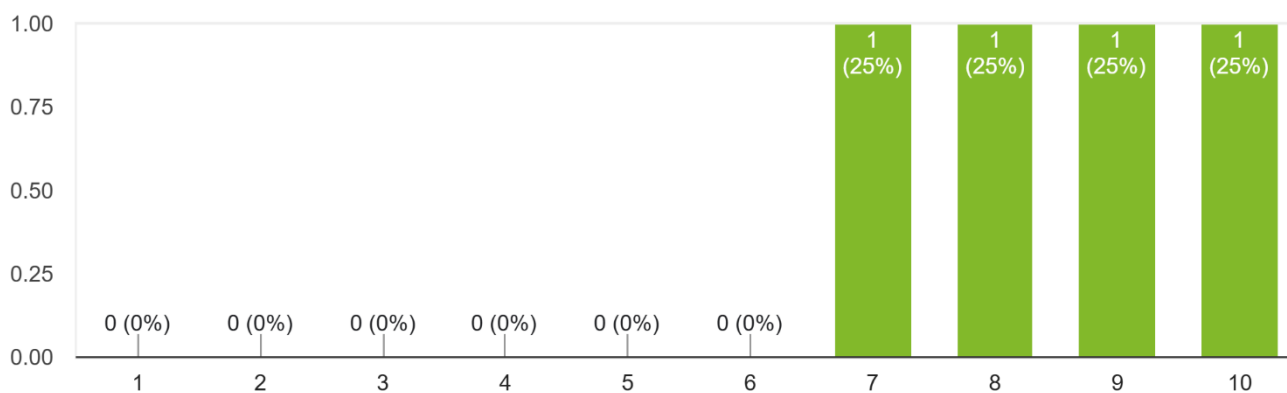
Felt we had a unique angle in this world; nature connection practices and ancestral skills are central to how we engage families and children with the tree nursery.

We were asked to and it gave us the opportunity to launch/trial our course

We have been part of the PlantHealthy group scheme pilot so we are able to feedback some of our learnings from this process to make the biosecurity relevant to CTN's

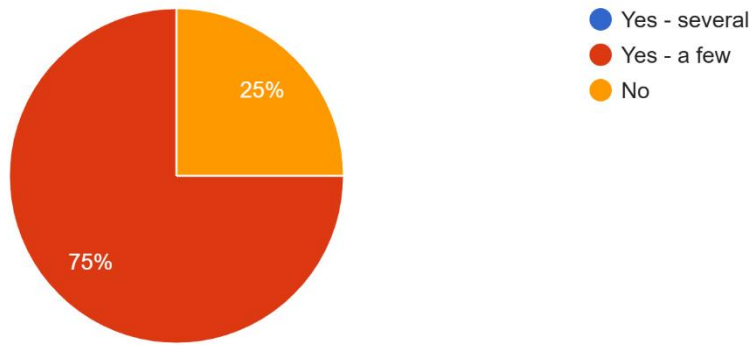
#### Overall, how was your experience of working with the Growing Diversity team to deliver the training event?

4 responses



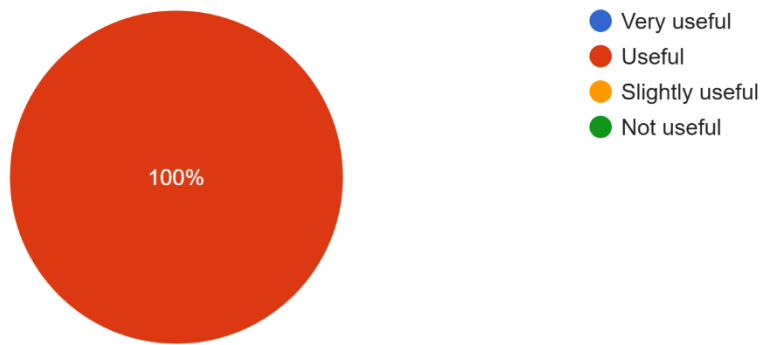
### Have you run this or a similar training day before?

4 responses



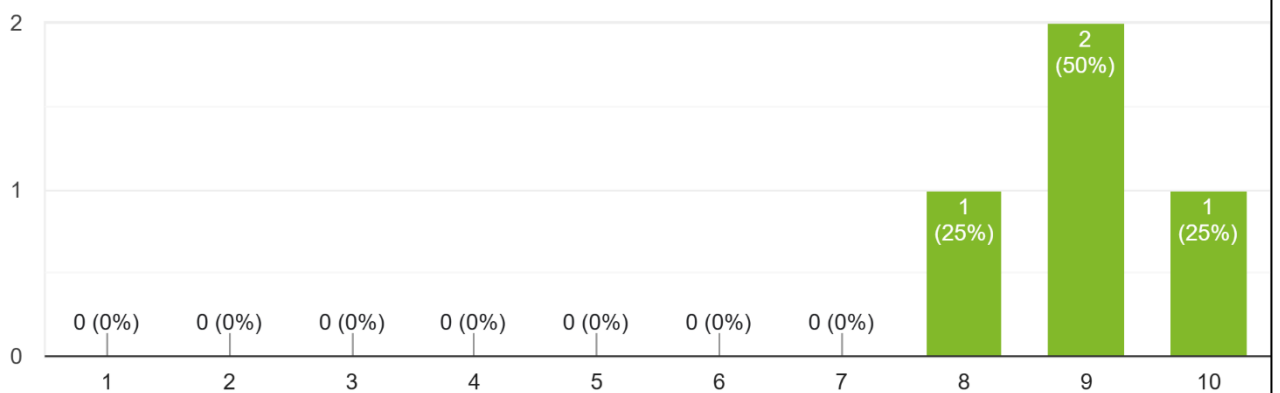
### How useful was the logistical support from Growing Diversity to help prepare you for running the event?

4 responses



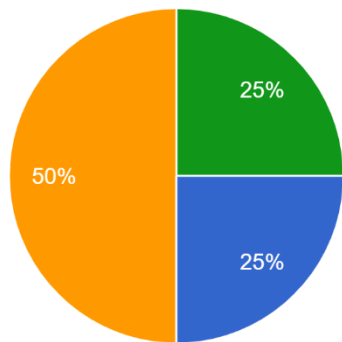
### How did the event go?

4 responses



Would you still have run this training event without the support of the Growing Diversity team?

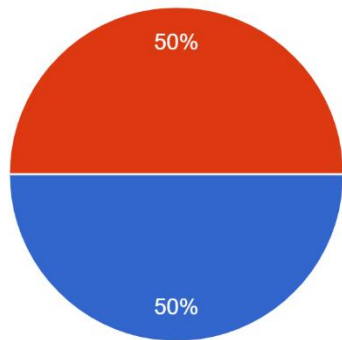
4 responses



- Very likely
- Likely
- Possibly
- Unlikely
- No

Will you run more CTN training events in the future?

4 responses



- Very likely
- Likely
- Possibly
- Unlikely
- No

## Received a Equipment and Materials Grant

Where did you hear about the grant and what motivated you to apply?

8 responses

via the community tree nursery collaborative facebook group and emails

Woodland Trust approached them, after agreeing to host the event

email

I heard about it through the Fellowship of the Trees email communications.

Via CTNC I think. I applied because I could see it meeting a need we had.

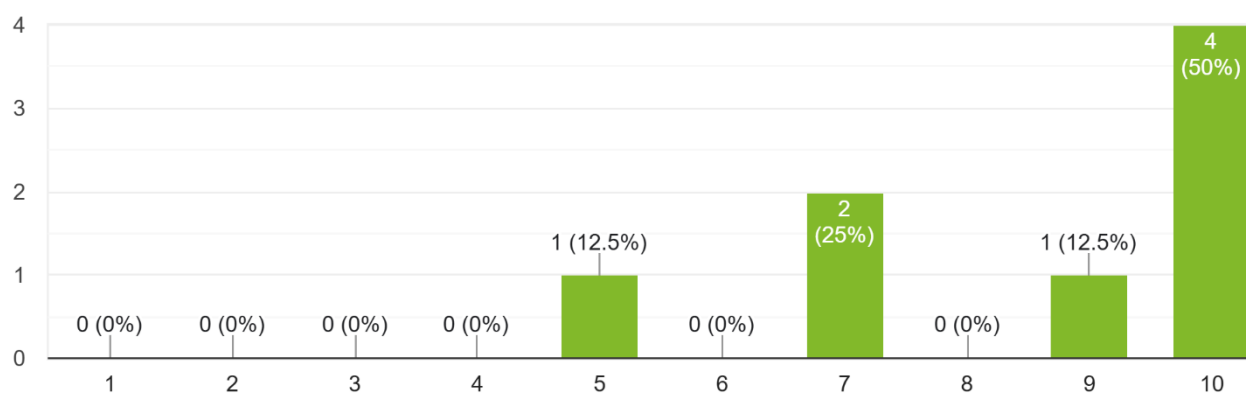
We are always looking out for grant funding opportunities

i'm a member of FFOT CTNC we urgently needed some equipment

emailed from GD then reminder spurred on to apply

Did the grant allow you to improve the performance of the CTN?

8 responses





### How did you find the process of applying for the grant?

8 responses

very time consuming

Pretty normal

quite traumatic, wouldn't apply again - too much admin, and back and forth with errors. At first looked easy but wasn't as easy as expected.

Very straightforward.

Fairly simple but the form was a bit tricky to fill in.

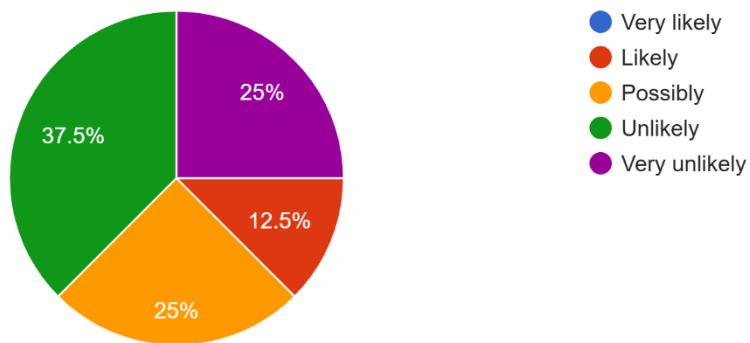
It was ok.

ok

good timeframes

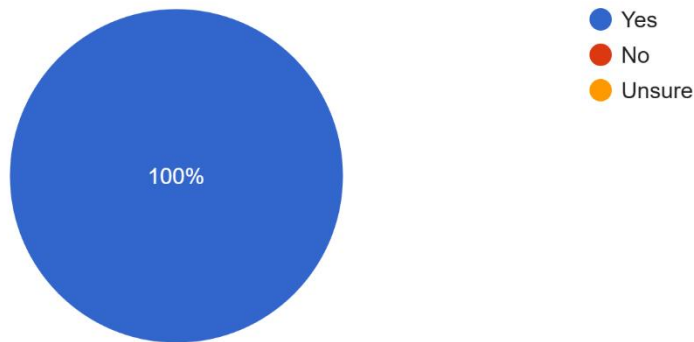
### If the grant was not available, would you still have been able to purchase the same materials and/or equipment?

8 responses



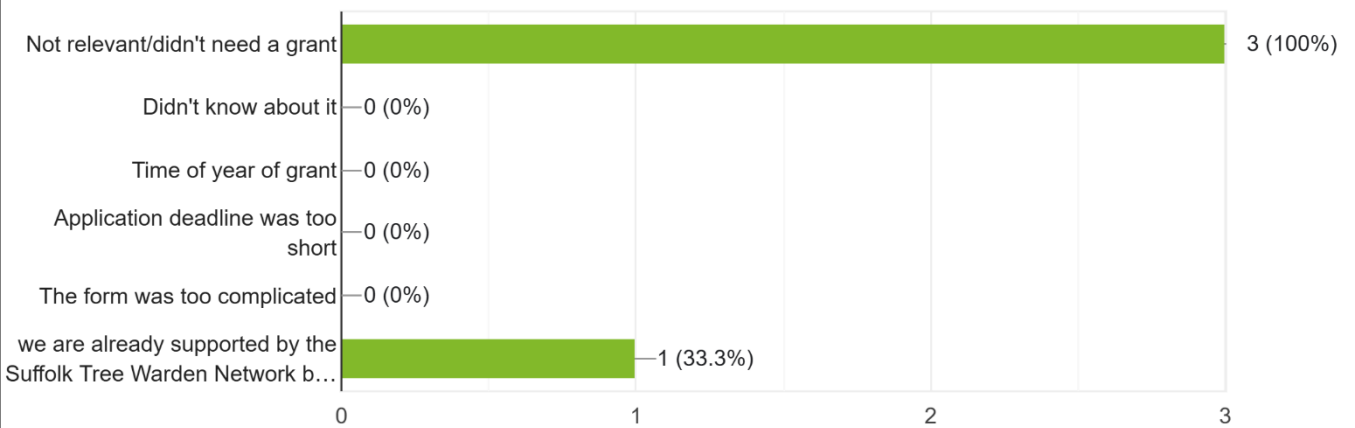
### Would you recommend the grant (or similar) to other CTNs?

8 responses

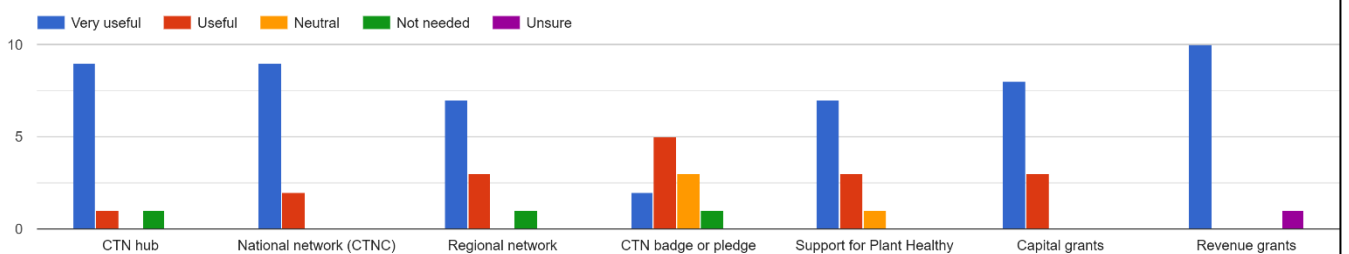


### Why didn't you apply for the Equipment and Materials grant?

3 responses



Below is a range of mechanisms and resources to support CTNs. Please rate how useful these resources would be to your CTN. CTN hub: Development of a website/application dedicated to hosting all resources useful to CTNs, including ...venue grants: Grants for CTNs to help pay for staff time and other ongoing costs.



## More information on the options above, such as their uses and how they could work

7 responses

larger grants for SMALL ctns as compost costs and equipment costs use up the funds and there isnt much left for other equipment or consumables/maintenance especially with the weather and floods. funding to cover volunteers and admin expenses.

CTNC really useful to share info and not feel alone

Not sure if there are many CTNs in their region

Not sure (add for CTN badge)

Doing the SOPRA was very hard, and the link to pests and diseases had 1000's so very hard, was a distraction

Funding for a member of staff would be really useful. Currently part-time staff funded from donations but mostly voluntary

She is already well connected, but if she left much more support would be useful. So networks are key.

Worried that pursuit of PH would make things too formal and put off some volunteers

Scottish Small Tree Nursery Network gets quicker/better responses to questions

CTN hub where different CTNs can talk but also talk to tree buyers

Not sure how many CTNs are in the area

CTN Hub continuation really vital to keep momentum in tree production by local volunteers

regional networks to aid local network links

CTN badge to raise profile of good tree production

Plant Healthy important going forward and improving chances for trees

Capital grants to assist new CTN's and to increase profile locally, in schools and involving volunteers  
revenue grants - be great to get some income stream to ensure continuity and to sustain the development of CTN's

It would be great to have one CTN hub for information, access to webinars, shared peer to peer learning opportunities and relevant industry information. There is little learning or training opportunity within the community tree nursery sector and it is hard to find information for people who are new to it. I think a central hub with regional groups would be a fantastic way of passing on knowledge. It could also be a valuable tool for combining or passing on tree sales. Having established CTN's acting as mentors for newer or startups would be great for knowledge sharing, PlantHealthy mentoring. It would also be a more powerful voice in promoting the use of local provenance trees and the role of CTN's within the industry.

Having a network gives a voice to go to government

A pledge would need to mean something, but be balanced against not being too much work. Can also help to find new volunteers.

## Are there any other ways in which CTNs can be supported?

7 responses

funding is the priority - continuation and survival of ctns depends on this especially when in the first few years. volunteers give so much - but also they dont have set hours- funding for wages for admin would be great.

Encouraging CTNs to organise seed collection events, had a really good mix of volunteers and is a really inclusive activity

Need around £500-£1,000 to run, £600 of which is insurance (through NFU for wider farm, they weren't happy with having a tree nursery on site)

Opportunity to ask advice is really valued (so knowing where to go)

Tree Growers Guide really useful

Not had any major pest issues but if they did would really want expert advice

this has been an excellent piece of work which shows how far some CTN's have come and it needs to continue and grow. Keep giving us the support from the collaborative and the fellowship please

Funding is always going to be a big challenge. Volunteering numbers and attracting new volunteers is necessary. If there was a more joint up network of CTN's then perhaps this would be a good way to promote volunteering opportunities on a national scale, such as green prescribing, ex offenders and national companies who may be able to offer corporate support. A larger network may be able to attract larger corporate donations which can be disseminated through the network.

we should try the above ideas first, then make improvements

Having tree nurseries included in general forestry courses

## Appendix B – Which trees CTNs grow

The data for the following table comes from a survey launched at the start of the Growing Diversity project (26 respondents in total). The table is sorted by number of CTNs growing each tree species.

Tree Name	No. of CTNs growing	No. of CTNs who find it hard to grow	%
Willow	26	1	4%
Lime	18	3	17%
Small Leaved Lime	16	3	19%
Silver Birch	13	4	31%
Elm	11	3	27%
Dog Rose	10	4	40%
Birch	10	1	10%
Wych Elm	10	3	30%
Sycamore	10	1	10%
Rowan	8	0	0%
Field Maple	8	1	13%
Crab Apple	8	1	13%
Maple	7	0	0%
Hazel	7	2	29%
Hawthorn	7	0	0%
Holly	6	3	50%
Beech	6	1	17%
Alder	6	1	17%
Guelder Rose	5	0	0%
Blackthorn	4	3	75%
Elder	4	2	50%
Oak	3	1	33%
Spindle	3	1	33%
Hornbeam	3	2	67%
Sweet Chestnut	3	0	0%
English Oak	3	0	0%
Sessile Oak	2	0	0%
Dogwood	2	0	0%
Alder Buckthorn	2	0	0%
Wild Apple	2	0	0%
Black Poplar	2	1	50%
Purging Buckthorn	2	2	100%
Horse Chestnut	1	0	0%
Wild Cherry	1	0	0%
White Willow	1	0	0%
Pine	1	0	0%
Oak. Hawthorn	1	0	0%
Wild Rose	1	0	0%
Downy Or Silver Birch	1	0	0%
Ash	1	0	0%
Wild Privet	1	0	0%
Cherry Plum	1	0	0%

Wild Apple	1	0	0%
Pedunculate Oak	1	0	0%
Dog Rose	1	0	0%
Local Apples	1	0	0%
Local Mulberry	1	0	0%
Gorse	1	0	0%
Common Alder	1	0	0%
Sessile Oak	1	0	0%
Downey Birch	1	0	0%
Wayfaring Tree.	1	0	0%
European Spindle	1	0	0%
Hawthorne	1	0	0%
Guelder Rose	1	0	0%
Sea Buckthorn	1	0	0%
Common Buckthorn	1	0	0%
Heritage Fruit Trees	1	0	0%