

## A Knowledge Base for best practices of genebank management

Thormann I<sup>1</sup>, Dulloo ME<sup>1</sup>, Jorge MA<sup>2</sup>, Hanson J<sup>2</sup>, Williams D<sup>1</sup>, Goldberg E<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup> Bioversity International <sup>2</sup> International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

### Achieving effective germplasm management

Our goal is to ensure that seeds and plants are effectively and efficiently conserved and made available for future use. To achieve this, genebank managers and genebank staff need guidelines, best practices and management strategies.

### A comprehensive online Knowledge Base

Until now guidelines on genebank management for different crops were hard to find. Published and unpublished information on crop-specific germplasm management, scattered among different research institutions was collected, standardized and edited into clear and well-structured webpages. These crop best practices, together with general conservation procedures, germplasm management strategies and a vast selection of publications, guidebooks and training manuals, make the website the most comprehensive and up-to-date reference resource for genebanks.

### A website as a training tool

The Crop Genebank Knowledge Base is regularly used as a training tool in genebank management courses. Images and videos enhance the content and potential for learning. It also contains many interactive items such as flipbooks, presentations, tutorials, a blog, a wiki and e-learning material.



### Easy maintenance and updates

This website is built using the free Joomla content management system (CMS). This CMS allows users of this website to register and participate in developing or updating content or make comments. This important feature makes it easy to add information on new genebank management practices and new crops. Tutorials that explain how to do this are included on the website.

### Key success factors

- Effective collaboration between key crop experts and national and international genebanks.
- Champions motivated others to contribute.
- The use of visual content and a clear structure make the website very user-friendly.
- Regular updates and voluntary contributions make the website a dynamic and up-to-date reference resource.

### Further developments

- Translation of the entire website into Spanish.
- New best practices for other crops.
- Addition of new modules, such as germplasm collecting guidelines, procedures for core collection development and best practices in genebank documentation.

The development of the Crop Genebank Knowledge Base (CGKB) was coordinated by the System-wide Genetic Resources Programme (SGRP) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and financed by the World Bank.