

What is the challenge for genebank staff?

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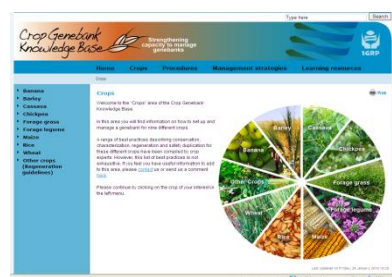
Photo: IIRI

One of the greatest challenges for genebank managers is to find crop specific guidelines and protocols to help them conserve and manage their specific crops in their genebanks. Up till now guidelines on genebank management for different crops were hard to find. Many are scattered and not readily accessible while others have not been compiled into any manuals or published guidelines. The Crop Genebank Knowledge Base has been developed to fill this gap.

How can the Crop Genebank Knowledge Base (CGKB) help genebank staff?

The CGKB provides guidelines on crop specific genebank activities for 9 crops (banana, barley, cassava, chickpea, forage grasses and legumes, maize, rice, wheat), from registration through to distribution, including protocols, guidelines, manuals; and regeneration guidelines for additional 12 crops.

It provides information on management strategies such as decision support, maintenance of genetic identity, performance indicators, quality and risk management, safe transfer of germplasm, specialized collections.



What is special about this Crop Genebank Knowledge Base website?

Knowledge

The CGKB contains dynamic, up to date information on best practices validated by genebank managers of different leading research institutes.

Resources

The CGKB contains multimedia (photos and video) to support and document the content. It also contains many interactive items such as flipbooks (series of clickable pictures), presentations, tutorials, a forum, a blog, e-learning materials and many links to other relevant sites and can also be used as a training tool.

Participation

The CGKB is built using the open source Joomla content management system (CMS). This CMS allows users of this website to register and participate in developing or updating content. Users can join the Wiki or Blog, upload a best practice for comments, share a video, photo, or other materials from their own genebank or field visits.



What are the next steps?

The whole site is currently being translated into Spanish!

We aim to regularly update the information through collaboration mechanisms with curators of genebanks, and to add best practices for other crops. The site will be expanded linking other practices and guidelines for genebank management. User feedback will help to improve the site further.

For further information please contact: croptgenebankknowledgebase@gmail.com

The CGKB site is an initiative of the International Agricultural Research Centers (IARC) working together through the System-wide Genetic Resources Program (SGRP) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), financed by the World Bank.