

New Online Resource for Collecting Plant Diversity

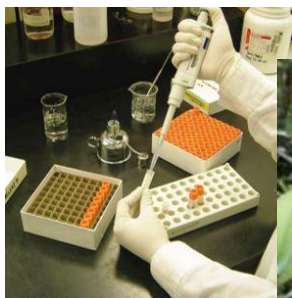
Thanks to the efforts of a team of more than 40 experts around the world, a new resource is now available on how to collect plant diversity to conserve biodiversity, ensure future food security, and restore ecosystems. This online resource provides practical guidance on how to sample and preserve a wealth of plant genetic resources—from crop plants to wild species, from symbiotic bacteria and fungi to DNA, from fruit trees to pollen. This resource also gives advice on related topics such as ecogeographic surveys, the use of GIS and other data management tools, data recording and taxonomic identification. A chapter focuses on the legal issues involved in plant germplasm collecting. In addition to synthesizing new knowledge, each chapter provides references—many of them available online—and complementary internet resources.

This resource updates the 1995 classic reference "Collecting Plant Genetic Diversity Technical Guidelines" edited by L. Guarino, V. Ramanatha Rao and R. Reid, produced by Bioversity International, in association with FAO, IUCN, and UNEP and published by CABI. CABI has generously given permission for the chapters from the original publication to be accessed online alongside the updates. Two of the original editors, L. Guarino and V. Ramanatha Rao, have led this updating activity in collaboration with Bioversity and a team of international experts.

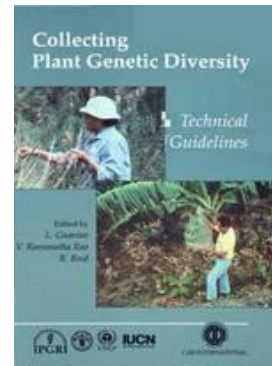
There is no better home for these updates than the new web portal **Crop Genebank Knowledge Base (CGKB)**, a compilation of good practices on genebank management developed by the CGIAR International Agricultural Research centers, together with partners, that aims to strengthen the scientific management of genebanks.

How to participate?

The editors welcome your comments, references, photos, or new procedures by using the Comments feature at the bottom of each page or the "Add new content" feature on the home page.



Photos by: (l-r) C. Tovar, M. Briggs, Y. Morimoto



The 1995 Collecting Manual

Topics featured are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal issues in plant germplasm collecting Assessing the threat of genetic erosion Sample size for collecting and regenerating genetic resources of plant species Strategies for the collecting of wild species Classifications of infraspecific variation in crop plants Sources of information on existing germplasm collections Published sources of information on wild plant species Aids to taxonomic identification Published information resources for plant germplasm collectors Ecogeographic surveys Mapping the ecogeographic distribution of biodiversity and GIS tools for plant germplasm collectors Plant health and germplasm collectors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collecting plant genetic resources and documenting associated indigenous knowledge in the field: a participatory approach Collecting and recording data in the field: media for data recording Collecting and handling seeds in the field Collecting vegetatively propagated crops (especially roots and tubers) Collecting vegetative material of forage grasses and legumes Collecting in vitro for genetic resources conservation Collecting pollen for genetic resources conservation Collecting symbiotic bacteria and fungi Collecting herbarium vouchers Collecting DNA for conservation Collecting fruit tree diversity Gap analysis: a tool for genetic conservation |
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Available online at: <http://cropgenebank.sgrp.cgiar.org/> (Procedures > Collecting)

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