

Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands (CGN)



a short introduction

Welcome at a special occasion



- welcome in one of the international agricultural research centres
- CGN is proud to host 2011 European Plant Genetic Resources Conference
- at the occasion of 25th anniversary of CGN



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CGN's history

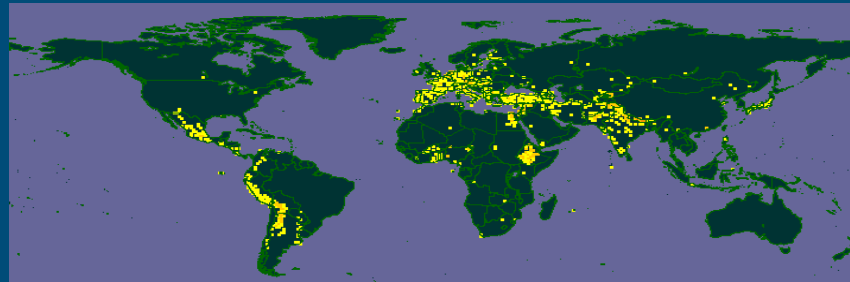
- 1986
 - established to adopt and curate (Wageningen-based) PGR working collections
 - collections originating from Wageningen University, government research institutions and the private sector
 - CGN part of Wageningen University and Research Centre
- 2000
 - merger with animal genetic resources activities
- 2004
 - addition of activities in forest genetic resources



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Some figures about CGN

- annual budget
 - € 3 million total, € 1.6 million PGR
- staff PGR cluster
 - 12 permanent positions, incl. 6 curators
 - additional greenhouse staff and researchers/consultants
- collection size 24,000 accessions of 25 crops



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CGN's position and partners

- CGN is an independent entity within Wageningen UR
 - reporting directly to ministry of agriculture
- CGN benefits from its position in the university
 - scientific environment
 - international network
 - major providers and users of germplasm
- CGN operates in country with major breeding industry
 - substantial collaboration with private seed industry



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CGN's perspectives

■ “mantra”

- no conservation without utilization
- no utilization without information

■ scope

- collection management only one component of PGR management
- policy support, support for *in situ* management additional core functions



CGN's perspectives

- traits, not origin, determine value of accessions
 - limited number of collections but with wide geographic coverage
- PGR management needs continuous innovation
 - improving effectiveness (reaching the user)
 - increasing accession-level information
 - decreasing duplication of efforts
- CGN part of global system
 - how to determine optimal contribution?



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CGN's strategy

- investing in quality over volume
 - well curated and documented collections of moderate size
- private sector cooperation
 - major contributions in-kind for regeneration and evaluation
- informing PGR and seed system policy makers
 - essential for effective genebank community functioning



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A recent strategic decision

- CGN to focus on vegetable crops
 - strengthening existing vegetable crop collections
 - in particular moderate climate zone vegetables
 - gap analysis, collecting missions
 - developing new collections of neglected and underutilized vegetable crops
 - providing crop portals to vegetable genetic resources information
 - disinvesting in well-represented arable staple crops



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Leading questions

- To serve and conserve
 - what to conserve?
 - limited financial means
 - how to promote use?
 - how to best respond to user needs?
 - how to effectively collaborate?
 - reducing duplication of efforts
 - building an effective global system

