

Challenges for Day 3: future role and responsibilities of the CGIAR genebanks in a changing world

Some key issues discussed over the past 2 days include:

1. Genebanks need to conserve and deliver the right physical and digital resources and in a way most helpful to those who need them. The resources needed and delivery mechanisms are evolving rapidly and the CGIAR has to meet the needs of multiple – and changing - client groups.
2. Pressure is likely to grow for the CGIAR to get involved with a wider range of crops, how it should respond requires considerable discussion.

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3. Modern technologies and management methods have the potential to contribute greatly to increasing the cost-efficiency and effectiveness of genebanks' operations.
4. No genebank needs to do everything; opportunities abound for strengthened partnerships and collaboration at all levels, including PPP.
5. Genebanks could play an greater role in uncovering and creating novel genetic diversity (including pre-breeding), of value to their clients.

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6. There are still many areas of conservation and distribution that would benefit from further research including crypreservation, seed longevity (for seeds of crop wild relatives, multipurpose trees and forages), *in situ* conservation and germplasm health, especially for diseases of quarantine concern.
7. Growing social instability and an increasing frequency of natural disasters increases the importance of safety duplication of collections in multiple locations, in addition to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

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8. If the trend away from multilateralism continues in favour of regional and national interests, the CGIAR's ability to conserve and distribute genetic resources in fulfilment of its legal obligations under the International Treaty may be compromised.

Questions for today's discussions:

1. Given the situation discussed over the past 2 days, what should the CGIAR Genebanks be doing more of and/or less of?
2. Within the context of One CGIAR, what organizational and structural changes should be considered in trying to optimize the CGIAR's ability to conserve and distribute genetic resources safely and efficiently?
3. Given the key importance of partnerships in any global effort to conserve, distribute and use plant genetic resources, how will the answers to questions 1. and 2. above impact on the CGIAR's partnerships?