



Plant Genetic Resources (ISSN: 2141-5455) Vol. 11(2) pp. 01-02,
November, 2020
Available online @ <https://www.interestjournals.org/plant-science.html>
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14303/irjps.2020.009>
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Editorial

Plant Genetic Resources

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The brochure that has just inherited your hands, called "Plant genetic resources and healthy diet" is interesting in two respects. Its aim is to tell not only about the richness of genetic resources of agricultural crops, that are nowadays kept and utilised within specific institutes across the European nation, but also, especially, about how this information is connected to the field of the food industry and currently the topical issue of healthy diet and life style generally. The aim of plant genetic resources collections and gene banks is that the rescue and permanent preservation of agricultural crop genetic biodiversity, extension of this agro-biodiversity with new genetic changing environment and temperature change, increment, and pressure of recent diseases and pests. The nice type of plant genetic resources within the European nation currently contains over 52,000 items and it's been continuously replenished. There's little doubt that health and human life quality is predicated on a healthy diet. Nowadays,

consumers have more and more specialised requirements and there's a rise within the demand for unusual kinds of crops and particularly those of prime quality and of domestic origin. Nutritional value, that accustomed be ignored, is often the identical because the value of commonly used commercial crops, often even higher. All the Crops mentioned within the brochure are represented within the variety of genetic resources in our gene banks and that they aren't there just to be preserved future but also to be employed in research for further usage in

breeding, the food industry, pharmacy and other fields of human action.

Plant genetic resources are plant genetic materials of actual or potential value. They describe the variability within plants that comes from human and survival over millennia. Their intrinsic value mainly concerns agricultural crops.

According to the 1983 revised International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), plant genetic resources are defined because the entire generative and vegetative reproductive material of species with economical and/or social value, especially for the agriculture of this and therefore the future, with special emphasis on nutritional plants.

In the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (1998) the FAO defined Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) because the diversity of genetic material contained in traditional varieties and modern cultivars similarly as crop wild relatives and other wild plant species that may be used now or within the future for food and agriculture.

Plant genetic resources are the foremost valuable and essential basic raw materials to satisfy this and future needs of crop improvement programmes. During this process, a large array of crop variability got generated by natural means and thru both conscious and unconscious selection.

Plant genetic resource conservation has become increasingly important as more plants became threatened or rare. At the identical time, an exploding world population and rapid temperature change have led humans to hunt new resilient and nutritious crops. Plant conservation strategies generally combine elements of conservation on farm (as a part of the crop production cycle, where it continues to evolve and support farmer needs), ex situ (for example in gene banks or field collections as seed or tissue samples) or in place (where they grow within the wild or protected areas). Most in place conservation concerns crop wild relatives, a vital source of genetic variation to crop breeding programs.

Plant genetic resources that are conserved by any of those methods are often mentioned as germplasm, which may be a shorthand term meaning "any genetic materials". The term originates from plasm, August Weismann's theory that heritable information is transmitted only by germ cells, and which has been superseded by modern insights on inheritance, including epigenetic and non-nuclear DNA. Within the 1960s and 1970s, more focus was placed on the gathering and conservation of plant genetic resources in face of genetic erosion by organizations like the Rockefeller Foundation and also the European Society of Breeding Research.