



# A NEW WORKING GROUP ON CRYOPRESERVATION

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# Proposal for Cryopreservation WG

- Submitted in October 2021 by Nicolas Roux & Bart Panis (Bioversity International), Manuela Nagel (IPK) and Stephane Dussert (INRAE)
- Cryo as safe, long-term complementary conservation method, low maintenance cost, for recalcitrant seeds and clonal crops – Expertise in Europe, but limited coordination
- ECPGR WG objectives:
  - Gather information on status of cryopreservation in Europe
  - Promote Cryopreservation research
  - Ensure access to cryopreservation technologies for safety back-up
  - Increase collaboration to establish European Cryo-hub
  - Create European cryopreservation back-up facilities
  - Develop new technologies and data management system

# Establishment of Cryopreservation WG

- Proposal accepted by SC in February 2022
- Opened nominations of Working Group members: 24 members from 13 countries
- Appointment of WG Chair is pending. One expression of interest received
- Proponents plan to organize the first meeting of the WG in 2022/23

# Some considerations

- International Expert Panel on Cryopreservation in June 2021 discussed the opportunity of developing and sustaining **a global initiative for cryopreservation**, in the framework of the International Treaty
- As cryopreservation is an important item in the implementation of the Treaty, **FAO-Treaty Secretariat** expressed interest to collaborate with ECPGR
- A 2017 independent expert feasibility study commissioned by Bioversity International, CIP and the Crop Trust recommended the establishment of **regionally-based specialized hubs**
- In 2019, the FAO Treaty Governing Body welcomed the **proposal from the Government of Belgium** proposed to host a safety backup cryopreservation facility in KUL (Catholic University of Leuven) - Bioversity International Genebank to safeguard plant materials that organizations want safely backed-up for the long term, as part of an overarching strategy for long-term conservation of clonal crops and recalcitrant seeds

# Issues for discussion

- Collaboration with international staff as members / supporters of the Working Group
- Selection and mandate of a Chair
- Proposal from the Government of Belgium for back-up of clonal material in Europe