Reciprocal genebank visit

Report from trio Romania, Georgia,Czech Republic

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Romania, Suceava, 9 – 11 April 2025

Suceava Genebank (SVGB) – Banca de Resurse Genetice Vegetale „Mihai Cristea”

- under the “Gheorghe Ionescu-Șișești” Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, Bucharest
- Over 25,000 accessions; 19,037 distinct genotypes across 597 taxa, 454 species, 234 genera, and 44 families. Includes: 5,754 maize, 2,731 common bean, 2,550 common wheat
- Long- and medium-term conservation of seed-propagated plant species important to Romanian agriculture; includes cereals, legumes, vegetables, industrial, forage, medicinal, aromatic, and ornamental crops
- ~55% of the collection consists of traditional landraces ("peasant seeds"); material is distributed under SMTA incl. non-Annex I crops; National Focal Point for ITPGRFA; ISO 9001:2015 and SR 13572:2016 certified; established in 1990; acts under national laws and governmental mandate


Cod depozit
CR1A05p8
Genul
Zea
Specia
mays
Număr intrare
SVGB-1457


SVGB-825
SVGB-841
SVGB-853
SVGB-878
SVGB-895
SVGB-911
SVGB-922
SVGB-933
SVGB-821
SVGB-839
SVGB-850
SVGB-866
SVGB-885
SVGB-876
SVGB-910
SVGB-921
SVGB-931
SVGB-838
SVGB-849
SVGB-864
SVGB-875
SVGB-893
SVGB-909
SVGB-920
SVGB-930
SVGB-837
SVGB-848
SVGB-863
SVGB-874
SVGB-889
SVGB-929

Romanian Genebank recommendations

1. Develop a long-term financial strategy to ensure sustainable funding and reduce reliance on short-term projects.
2. Broaden safety duplication through formal agreements with regional and international genebanks beyond Svalbard.
3. Improve regeneration plans for open-pollinated crops.
4. Clarify seed request limits based on purpose and availability.
5. Publish the distribution policy online, listing all conserved PGRFA.

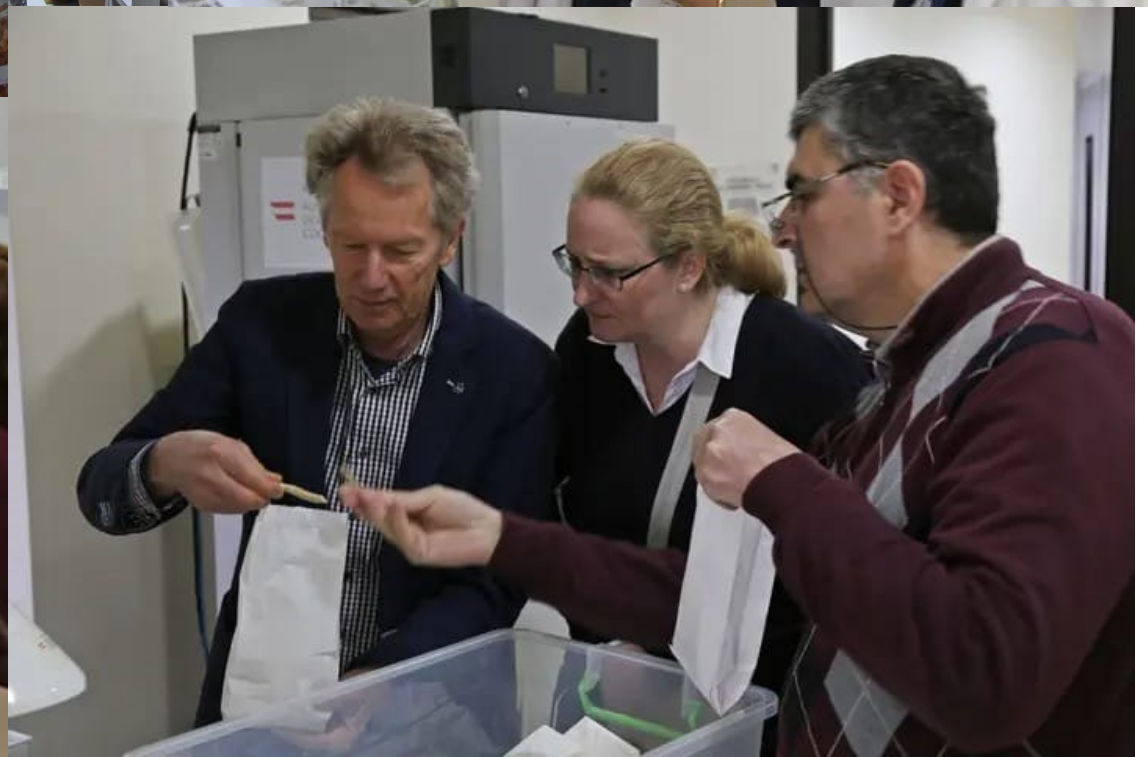
Tsilkani, Tbilisi, Georgia 28 – 30 April 2025

LEPL Scientific Research Center of Agriculture (SRCA)

- Tbilisi, Georgia (main office); Genebank in Tsilkani (30 km from Tbilisi)
- 846 wheat, 1,473 bean, 486 maize accessions
- Collection, conservation, documentation, and distribution of plant genetic resources; focus on landraces and endemic species
- *In vitro* lab for potato and grapevine conservation; safety duplication at Svalbard; collaboration with Tbilisi Botanical Garden


Tr. aestivum L.
ID 578
s - 90
Tr. aestivum L.
ID 723
s - 205
Tr. aestivum L.


2024



Georgian Genebank recommendations

1. Establish a financial strategy that addresses inflation, project gaps, and ensures long-term sustainability.
2. Develop a formal contingency plan to maintain operations during emergencies.
3. Create a national PGRFA programme to define priorities, roles, secure funding, and meet international commitments.
4. Prioritise collection of key crops (e.g. wheat, maize, beans), especially local landraces, but conserve all crops before they are lost; store and later regenerate them.

Georgian Genebank recommendations

5. Ensure critical accessions are duplicated in a second genebank and adopt a formal safety duplication policy.

6. Implement seed viability protocols with clear thresholds, SOPs, and invest in drying and storage capacity.

7. Invest in emergency backup systems (e.g. generator, compressors) to secure storage during power outages.

8. Set a minimum seed quantity per accession to conserve diversity, as per international standards.

Georgian Genebank recommendations

9. Define seed distribution limits for both minimum and maximum quantities per request.

10. Test seed viability regularly and design a system to flag accessions that require regeneration.

11. Improve documentation systems by digitising vegetative collections, publishing data to EURISCO, standardising procedures, and considering GRIN-Global or similar platforms.

Czechia, Prague, 19 May 2025

Czech Agrifood Research Center

- Under Ministry of Agriculture
- National programme on PGRFA, central storage
- Long-term conservation, -18°C
- Capacity 187,000 containers, more than 43,000 acc.
- MLS, SMTA

Czech genebank recommendations

1. Secure stable long-term funding to manage large collections and complex operations, reducing project dependence.
2. Use vacuum-sealed aluminium bags for base and safety duplicate storage.
3. Fully implement the barcode system for active use.
4. Strengthen viability testing by investing in staff training and facility upgrades.

Conclusion