

# PGRFA in Italy

## National Programme on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization



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The Italian National Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of PGRFA was launched in 1996, in response to the GPA. Activities are carried out under the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

### 1<sup>st</sup> PHASE: 1996-2003: Assessment of PGR conserved *ex situ* in Italy and of associated information

In order to systematically approach the identification and catalogization of PGRFA conserved *ex situ* in Italy, the MAF financed two Network (NW) activities, coordinated by ISF Rome, involving 15 Research Institutes belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture (IRSA), 3 Research Institutes of the National Research Council (CNR), 14 Universities and 3 Regional Experimental Institutions:



*Ornategus pinnatifida*

#### 1999- 2001: (NW 1):

##### Assessment of PGR conserved in 15 IRSA

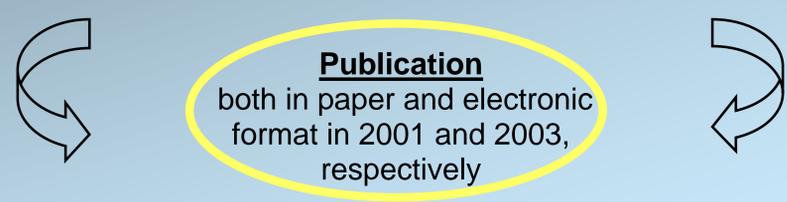
21.843 accessions belonging to 366 species within 70 genera, listed and described according to general descriptors.



#### 2001- 2003: (NW 2):

##### Assessment of Fruit PGR conserved in Italy

7.418 accessions belonging to 42 species within 18 genera, listed and described according to general descriptors as well as according to internationally agreed species-specific descriptors.



In 2004, the MAF widened the objectives of the Research Programmes in accordance with the ratified FAO International Treaty on PGRFA.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> PHASE: 2004-200? : Implementation of the FAO International Treaty on PGRFA

#### Strategic steps:

- integrated approach to the exploration, collection, conservation, characterization, evaluation and documentation of PGRFA as well as facilitated access to this material (Artt. 5, 6, 9, 11 and 12 of the Treaty);
- triennial working projects targeted at the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of PGRFA, especially autochthonous material
- involvement, through the Council for Research in Agriculture (C.R.A.), of 16 ex-IRSA and 1 Institute of the CNR, coordinated by C.R.A.– ISF Roma;
- development of the working programmes on a large scale, not only covering crops included in Annex I of the Treaty but also those which are economically and culturally essential for Italian agriculture;
- strengthening of regional involvement through the Interregional Project “Biodiversity” (all 20 Italian regions);
- international collaboration.

#### Involved Research Institutes

Agronomy	Grapevine
Agricultural Zoology	Industrial crops
Cereals	Olive Oil Technology
Citrus	Olive growing
Floriculture	Poplar Culture
Forage crops	Silviculture
Forest and Range Management	Tobacco
Fruit Trees	Vegetables
	Plant Genetics (CNR)

### 2004-2006: Collection, characterization and utilization of PGR

So far, Institutions and Regions collected and characterized accessions of 65 crops, 26 of which are included\* in Annex I of the Treaty:

CEREALS	<i>Avena</i> *, Maize*, <i>Hordeum</i> *, Rice*, Rye*, Sorghum*, <i>Triticale</i> *, <i>Triticum</i> *
VEGETABLES	Artichoke, <i>Asparagus</i> *, Bean*, <i>Borago</i> , <i>Brassica</i> *, Eggplant*, <i>Eruca</i> *, Faba Bean*, Lentil*, Pea*, Peppers, Potato*, Radish*, Tomato
FORAGE CROPS	Chickpea*, <i>Hedysarum</i> *, <i>Lupinus</i> *, <i>Medicago</i> *, <i>Trifolium</i> *, <i>Lolium</i> *
FRUITS	Apple*, Apricot, Berries, Cherry, <i>Citrus</i> *, Fig, Grapevine, Kiwi, Nashi, Peach, Pear, Plum, Strawberry*
NUTS	Almond, Chestnut, Hazelnut, Pistacia, Walnut
AROMATIC PLANTS	<i>Achillea</i> , <i>Chamomilla</i> , <i>Gentiana</i> , <i>Hypericum</i> , <i>Salvia</i> , <i>Thymus</i>
FOREST SPECIES	<i>Abies</i> , <i>Populus</i> , <i>Pinus</i> , <i>Pseudotsuga</i>
OTHER CROPS	<i>Aegilops</i> , <i>Cannabis</i> , <i>Fagopyrum</i> , <i>Olea</i> , <i>Limonium</i> , <i>Linum</i> , <i>Morus</i> , <i>Nicotiana</i>

**National Inventory online**  
[www.rgv-politicheagricole-cra.it](http://www.rgv-politicheagricole-cra.it)  
 -currently contains data on 25.852 accessions;  
 -constant updating



Collection of *Salvia officinalis*: C.R.A.-Institute of Forest and Range Management

#### Other activities:

- raising public awareness on PGR;
- promotion of the use of the sMTA;
- collaboration in international fora;
- involvement of regions and local communities.

#### Target scientific activities:

- recovery and safeguard
- focus on autochthonous material;
- characterization and molecular analysis;
- evaluation (climatic conditions, disease resistance);
- availability for exchange for research and breeding.

Facilitated access

International documentation systems



Collecting seeds of *Limonium mazarae* in Sicily–C.R.A.- Institute of Floriculture; *Trifolium pratense*– natural populations from Latium (left), Sardinia (centre) and a farm ecotype from Piedmont–C.R.A.-Institute for Forage Crops; Autochthonous fruit germplasm collected in Latium, C.R.A.-Institute for Fruit Tree Research



\*Notiziario Risorsse Genetiche Vegetali”: the trimestral Bulletin on PGRFA, edited by C.R.A.-ISF– Rome

### 2007– 2009: Characterization, utilization and evaluation of PGRFA and their products

#### Target scientific activities:

- evaluation of the material for agronomical, qualitative, technological and ornamental characteristics;
- development of methodologies for sustainable cultivation systems;
- promotion of on-farm conservation of PGRFA;
- strengthening of local farmers/ communities by re-introducing old autochthonous varieties to the markets and promoting local products.
- safeguard local traditions and habits.



*Vitis vinifera*: local variety “Uva pellegrina” growing in a courtyard nearby Rome



Old cherry tree, variety “Ravenna”

#### Other activities:

- raising public awareness on PGR ;
- promotion of the use of the sMTA;
- collaboration in international fora;
- promotion of evaluation by creating an information network of involved stakeholders;
- utilization of the exchanged data as a basis for policy decisions on future evaluation processes.



\*Pepper from Senise” (Basilicata); different local products: C.R.A.-Institute of Vegetable Cultivation

The subsequent Phase of the National Programme will be determined in accordance with the new EU Programme on Rural Development (2007-2013)