

## **Conservation**

Germplasm collection is of little use unless it is properly documented and preserved for future utilization in crop improvement programmes. Conservation is for the purpose of genetic totality in such a way that loss of certain genotypes is minimized. The storage of germplasm under controlled temperature conditions has been recommended by the IBPGR.

The PGRP of the PARC was introduced in 1977, but the PGR Laboratory, which includes facilities such as seed processing, packing, drying, and storing (Genebank), was established in 1980. Almost all the necessary equipment for the laboratory and the cooling units of the Genebank were provided by the IBPGR. The germplasms of different crops are processed, packed, and preserved in the Genebank which operates at 0°C for medium-term storage. The conserved genetic stock is tested for seed viability after every three years. Sequential germination tests are conducted, using batches of 40 seeds, to monitor the seed viability. Screw cap tins and laminated foliar bags are used to preserve germplasms in the Genebank.