

Future Plans

Exploration

Although some of the major cereals, food legumes, and fruits have already been collected from different areas, other crops are yet to be collected. Future plans include the collection of valuable genetic resources of different crop species (listed below) to widen the gene pool diversity.

- Barley and oat germplasm from Baluchistan and the Northern mountains.
- Wild species of chickpeas and lentils from the Northern Mountains, in collaboration with ICARDA/IBPGR.
- Pearl millet from the dry regions of the Punjab, the NWFP, and Sind, in collaboration with ICRISAT.
- Sorghum from the Punjab, Sind, and the NWFP.
- Kenaf and other fiber crops from Sind, the Punjab, and the NWFP, in collaboration with the International Jute Organization (IJO).
- Minor cereals from Azad Kashmir, in collaboration with Kyoto University, Japan.
- Fava beans and lentils from Baluchistan, in collaboration with ICARDA.
- Fodder and forage germplasm from the Punjab, Sind, and the Northern Mountains, in collaboration with ICARDA/IBPGR.
- *Lathyrus*, Buckwheat, and other small grain crops from Sind and the Northern Mountains, in collaboration with IDRC.

- Temperate fruits from Baluchistan.
- Maize from the NWFP and the Northern Areas.

Conservation

A new genebank with adequate space is essential, as the existing Genebank is too small and is overloaded with genetic stock. Similarly, the PGR Laboratory has only limited space for working samples. Therefore, a new laboratory and genebank are being planned. New facilities will be established with the financial assistance of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

Detailed Evaluation

The germplasm collections from different crops will be further evaluated for stress factors, disease, and pest resistance in collaboration with provincial and federal research institutions as well as with the coordinated research programmes of PARC.

The temperate fruit collection, particularly apples, will be screened for insect pests and diseases to identify the resistant gene sources in the local genetic stock.