

Other Activities

Characterization and Evaluation

Characterization includes the recording of highly inheritable characteristics which are expressed under all environmental conditions. The characterization of crop genetic resources is the responsibility of the PGRP. This is done in accordance with the IBPGR crop descriptions. About 60 per cent of the genetic stock of cereals, food legumes, and oil seed crops have been characterized at the National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad.

Detailed evaluations for specific characteristics is usually done by the crop commodity expert. The PGRP collaborates with the Crop Commodity Coordinated Research Programmes of the PARC for detailed evaluation. In collaboration with a Coordinated Research Programme on food legumes and pulses, at NARC, the chickpea and lentil germplasm collection has already been evaluated for screening against the *Aschochyta* blights and for other agronomic characterizations. The barley and oat germplasms are being evaluated for fodder yield potential. The *Aegilops* collection has been supplied to the Cereal Diseases' Research Institute, NARC, to identify the resistant gene sources in the material.

Germplasm Exchange

To fulfill the role of a service facility to breeders, the PGRP has distributed about 8000 accessions of different crop species to the provincial and federal research institutions in the country and international institutions abroad, for experimentation and utilization in crop improvement programmes. Crop germplasms were also obtained in exchange from other genebanks and international research institutions. More than 5000 accessions of chickpeas,

soyabeans, vegetables, wheat, millets were obtained in accordance with the demand of national scientists for utilization in the country.