



Evaluation of CGIAR Genebank Platform: Results from Online Survey

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Cover image: Most frequent Words used to describe the Genebank Platform's Mandate. Elaborated through MAXQDA software / ©2020 IAES CGIAR

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The evaluation team is extremely grateful to all participants in the online survey and to those involved in facilitating its spread. Everyone's contribution was essential to the success of the survey, and its contribution to the evaluation of the Genebank Platform.

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Table of Acronyms

CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CIP	International Potato Center
CoP	Community of Practice
CRPs	CGIAR Research Programs
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GOAL	Genebank Operations and Advanced Learning
IAES	Independent Advisory and Evaluation Services (of CGIAR)
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICRAF	World Agroforestry
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organization
ORT	Online Reporting Tool
PGR	Plant Genetic Resources
PGRFA	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
SNA	Social Network Analysis
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure

Introduction

The online survey is one of the data collection methods conducted by the evaluation team as part of the [2023 evaluation of the Genebank Platform](#). The purpose of the evaluation is to support the institutional learning of CGIAR and Crop Trust and provide evidence regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of the Genebank Platform (from 2017–21). The evaluation exercise aims to also identify good practices and lessons for the Genebanks Initiative and Genetic Innovation Science Group and CGIAR at large.

The evaluation approach and data collection followed a mixed methods design, leveraging both qualitative and quantitative data from primary and secondary sources to answer evaluation questions, understand operating environments and track contextual and programmatic assumptions. Eight key evaluation questions are framed along the five evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and added-value, and sustainability and learning for impact (see CGIAR-wide [Evaluation Policy](#)). For more information about the evaluation's overall methodology, see the evaluation [Terms of Reference](#) and [Inception Report](#).

The online survey was released on 5 September and closed on 18 September 2023. The survey was designed in such a way that respondents were directed to a set of specific questions based on their respective types of engagement with the Platform. Two versions of the survey were released, one in English and one in Spanish (34 out of 223 responded in Spanish) and both versions were distributed through Survey Monkey. Respondents' identities were kept anonymous to comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) privacy requirements. The survey was sent to the following groups:

- Managers of CGIAR Genebanks, who were asked to share the survey with their staff members and 2017–21 germplasm users.
- Leaders of Germplasm Health Units (GHUs), who were asked to share the survey with their staff members.
- Leaders of Genebank Platform Communities of Practice, who were asked to share the survey with Community of Practice (CoP) members and participants of Genebank Operations and Advanced Learning (GOAL) workshops.¹

The evaluation team included questions regarding respondents' profiles and their type of engagement with the Platform, as well as their opinions regarding the level of satisfaction with the Platform's products and about its relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability. A module regarding partnerships and interactions with the Platform was added to collect valuable information for the Social Network Analysis.

For several questions, a six-point Likert scale was used. Respondents could use a range from (1) strongly disagree, to (6) strongly agree, to express their opinion regarding a specific statement. All questions were compulsory, requiring an answer to be able to continue, except for open questions that were optional. For most questions, the evaluation team allowed respondents to answer "not applicable" to maximize survey completion. The number of respondents per question changes given the different type of engagement respondents had with the Platform. A descriptive analysis was conducted by the evaluation team for all

¹ Genebank Operations and Advanced Learning workshops. These workshops were part of the efforts to support capacity building for Quality Management System (QMS) for scientists and research managers from both CGIAR centers and national agricultural research programs.

quantitative questions, using STATA and Excel. For some open-ended questions, MAXQDA² was used to identify the most frequent words and synthesize the main findings. For other questions, a similar process was conducted manually by the team, who identified key words and synthesized responses.

Section 2 of this report contains information on data cleaning and response rate; section 3 contains the main results; section 4 reports respondents' opinions about the transition to the Genebanks Initiative; and section 5 mentions the main limitations of the survey. Results reported are aggregated and, in some cases, divided by type of stakeholder (internal or external to CGIAR). Some comparisons by gender and age groups were conducted using a Survey Monkey tool that automatically calculates the differences between groups and runs tests to assess statistical significance. It was not possible to detect any statistically significant differences. These results were confirmed by running parametric (t-test) and non-parametric (Kruskal-Wallis) tests through STATA. Due to lack of statistically significant differences among groups, more disaggregated results are not reported in this document.

2. Response Rate and Data Cleaning

In total, it is estimated that 947 people received the survey, including the following groups of people:

- 17 staff members of GHUs
- 80 Genebank staff members
- 75 CoP members
- 136 participants of GOAL workshops
- 639 germplasm users from International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Bioversity, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and World Agroforestry (ICRAF)³. Germplasm users could include scientists, researchers, breeders, farmers, and external partners.

The exact numbers of recipients may differ from the estimation of 947 given that the evaluation team did not have access to complete lists for privacy and data protection reasons, and thus was not able to fully track the recipients of the survey.

66 participants left the survey before completion and did not answer questions related to their background (age, gender, nationality, education level). Of the 66 participants, 34 responses were excluded mainly for the following reasons:

1. They left the survey at the beginning and too few questions were answered, so it was not relevant to include them in the analysis.
2. The answers they had provided showed that they had not truly interacted with the Platform and that might have been the main reason for leaving the survey.
3. It was unclear whether they were referring to the Platform period (from 2017–21) or the Initiative period.

32 incomplete observations were kept for the following reasons:

² MAXQDA is a software application designed for qualitative and mixed methods research. It is used to manage, analyze and interpret qualitative data.

³160 ICRAF users received the survey only on the last day, 18 September, hence the response rate for that group was lower. The evaluation team did not receive confirmation from the other centers about the spread of surveys with their germplasm users.

1. They answered most of the questionnaire.
2. They answered at least the questions related to knowledge of the Platform and/or Social Network Analysis and such that we found that their inputs could still be of value for part of the analysis.

We also deleted two other responses of participants who had completed the questionnaire, but whose answers revealed that they were most likely referring to the Initiative period, since they were not part of any CGIAR centers/genebanks/platforms/programs between 2017 and 2021. Similarly, nine respondents answered “none” to the question “Which years (if any) did you work for CGIAR or any of its centers/program/platform?” but claimed to be part of a CGIAR Center/Initiative/Platform/Genebank/Breeding program. Two of them were kept in the sample as they declared that they had requested genebank accessions at the time of the Platform, hence, their input as users was valuable. Another respondent with a similar situation was excluded from the sample because they had left most questions unanswered. The remaining respondents with similar cases were kept in the sample as they belonged to a CoP or had attended some of the Platform’s capacity building activities at the time of the Platform and had knowledge of the Platform throughout 2017–21. After data cleaning, a sample of 186 responses remained for analysis, of which 155 were complete and 31 were incomplete.

3. Main Results

3.1 Respondents’ Profile

This section provides results of questions regarding the respondents’ profile. Figure 1(a) and 1(b) display the gender and age distributions of the survey participants. Most respondents (65%) are males, while a smaller part (35%) are females. Significant proportions of respondents are between 35 and 54 years old (68%, Figure 1b), have a PhD (48%, Figure 3), and are a scientist or researcher (75%, Figure 4).

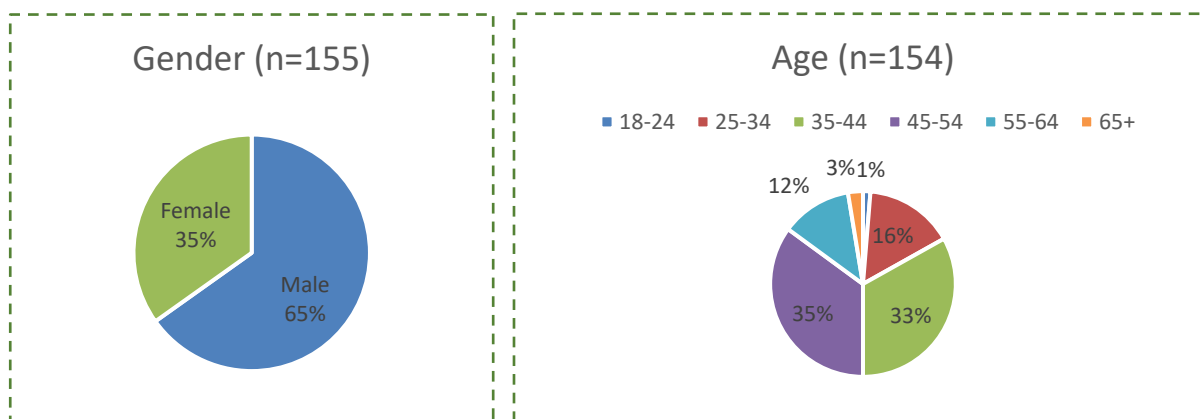


Figure 1(a) and 1(b): Gender and Age Distribution of Respondents

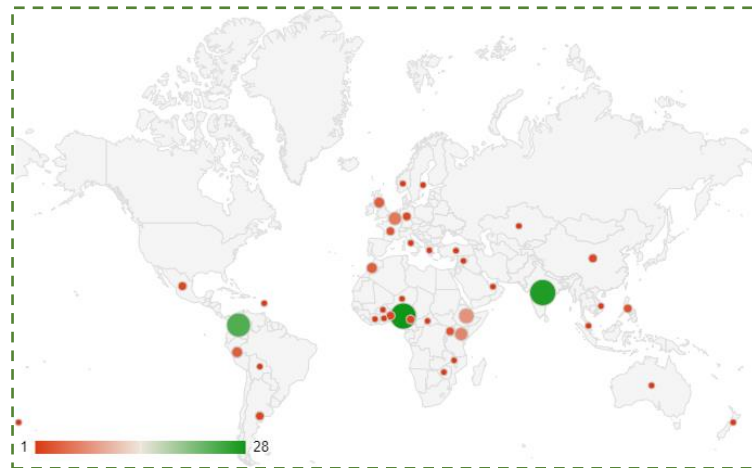


Figure 2: First Nationality of Respondents (n=155)

Table 1: First Nationality of Respondents (n=155)

No	Nationality	Number of Respondents	No	Nationality	Number of Respondents
1	Nigeria	28	21	Burkina Faso	1
2	India	27	22	Central African Republic	1
3	Colombia	24	23	Cote d'Ivoire	1
4	Ethiopia	8	24	Dominica	1
5	Kenya	7	25	Ghana	1
6	Belgium	6	26	Greece	1
7	Morocco	4	27	Italy	1
8	Peru	4	28	Kazakhstan	1
9	United Kingdom	4	29	Malawi	1
10	France	3	30	Malaysia	1
11	Philippines	3	31	New Zealand	1
12	Uganda	3	32	Niger	1
13	Argentina	2	33	Norway	1
14	Benin	2	34	Sweden	1
15	Cameroon	2	35	Syria	1
16	China	2	36	Turkey	1
17	Germany	2	37	United Arab Emirates	1
18	Mexico	2	38	Vatican City (Holy See)	1
19	Australia	1	39	Vietnam	1
20	Bolivia	1	40	Zimbabwe	1

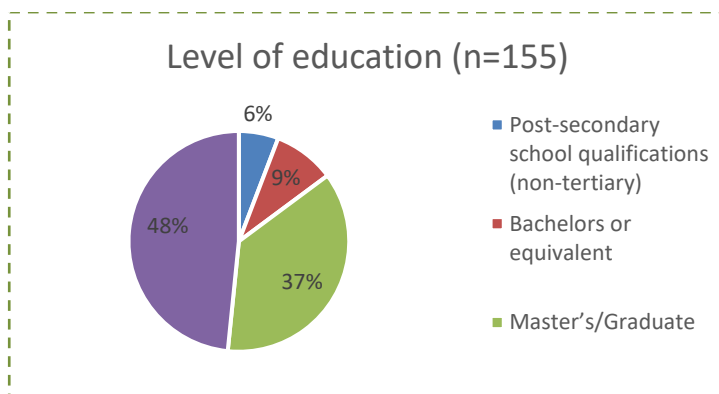


Figure 3: Distribution of Respondents by Level of Education of Respondents

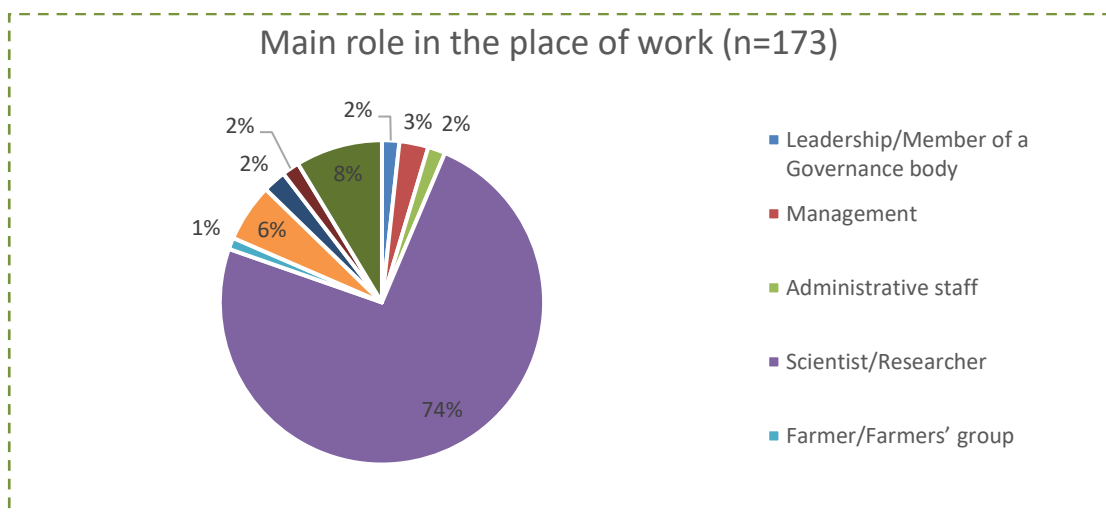


Figure 4: Distribution of Respondents by main Role in their Place of Work

3.2 Respondents' Relation to the Genebank Platform

This section covers the answers regarding the relationship of respondents to the Platform, and how and when they engaged with it. The main question was "How would you most closely identify your role with respect to CGIAR Genebank Platform (2017–21)?" Figure 5 reports the answers to this question. Respondents had the option to choose multiple categories (e.g., external partner and user) and were guided to detailed questions based on their choices.

Most internal stakeholders were employed by a CGIAR research Center/Initiative/Platform and were staff of a center's genebank (Figure 6). In 42 cases, respondents had not identified themselves as "users of germplasm accessions" but then they declared that had requested accessions at least once between 2017 and 2021, hence we included those respondents among users of accessions.

Forty-nine (49) respondents identified themselves as staff members of CGIAR breeding programs, genebanks or GHUs but had not answered the questions as being "staff members of a CGIAR Center/Initiative/Platform". For simplicity of analysis, we considered those respondents as part of this category. Ninety-four (94) participants declared that they have requested germplasm from one or more CGIAR centers between 2017 and 2021. However, only 64 of them identified themselves as users of the

Platform (that includes also “requestors of accessions”). In this analysis we considered everyone who has requested accessions at least once, as a “user of Genebank Platform Services”. Other people that did not request accessions may still be users of other Platform services.

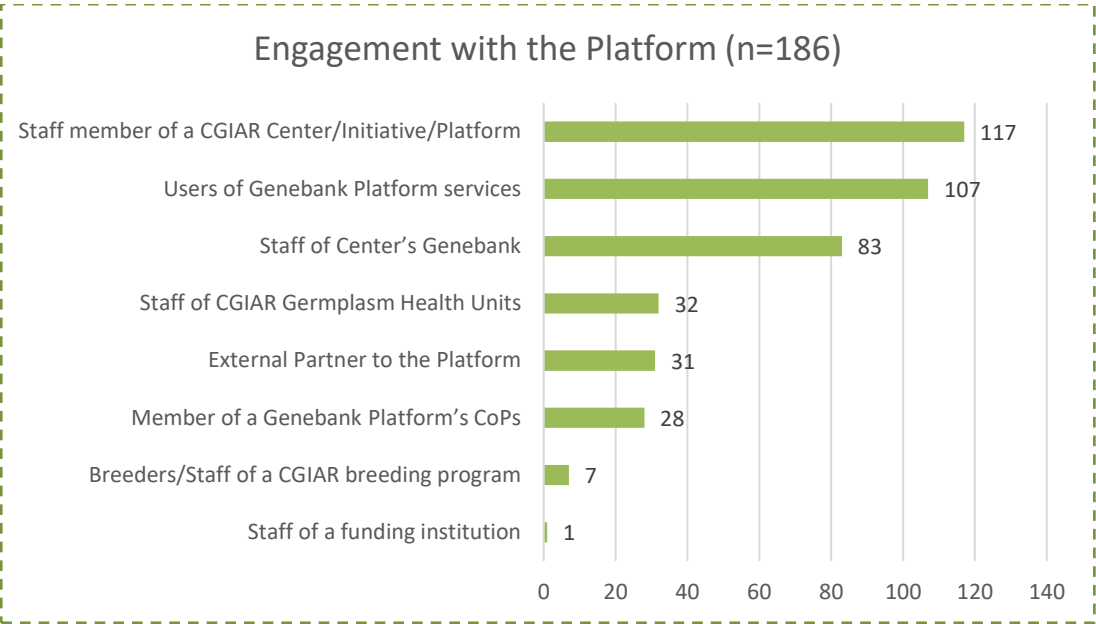


Figure 5: Distribution of Respondents by Type of Engagement with the Platform⁴

Based on these answers, we divided respondents into two categories: internal and external to CGIAR. Figure 6 shows that 63% of respondents were from CGIAR, while the remaining 37% were external to CGIAR at the time of the Platform.

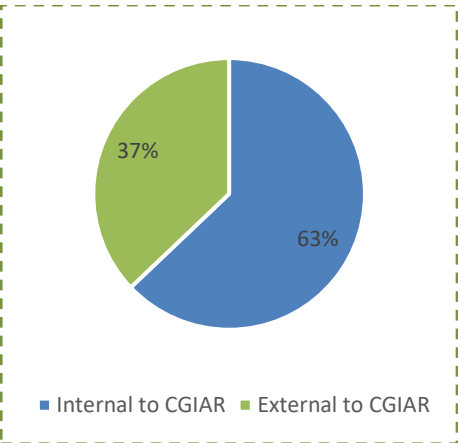


Figure 6: Distribution of Respondents by Stakeholders' Group (n=186)

⁴ Respondents could select more than one option. Data labels are in absolute numbers.

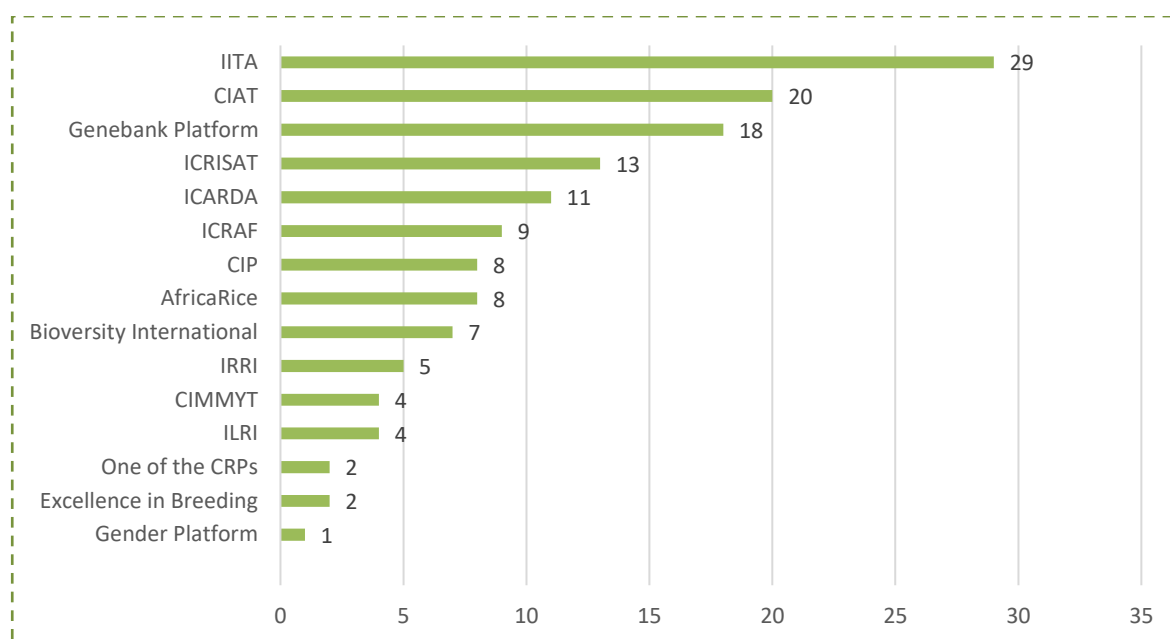


Figure 7: Distribution of CGIAR Respondents employed in CGIAR Research Centers (n=117)⁵

Figure 7 shows that most of the respondents employed in CGIAR research centers were part of International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and CIAT. Also in this case, respondents could select more than one option, to allow for the possibility that some workers might have moved from one center to another. Out of the 117 respondents who were part of CGIAR from 2017 to 2021, 108 are still working at CGIAR. 108 out of 117 people who were internal to CGIAR between 2017 and 2021, still work at CGIAR, of which 87% work under the Genebanks Initiative. Three respondents work for the Accelerated Breeding Initiative, four for the Plant Health Initiative and the remaining seven are distributed among other Initiatives (Table 2).

Table 2: Responses to the Question "In which CGIAR Initiative do you mainly work?" (n=108)

Initiative	Abs. Frequency	%
Genebanks	95	88,0%
Accelerated Breeding	3	2,8%
Plant Health	4	3,7%
Mixed Farming Systems	1	0,9%
Market Intelligence	1	0,9%

⁵ <https://www.cgiar.org/research/research-centers/>. At the time of the Platform there were 11 Genebanks in 12 locations (ICARDA has two genebanks, one in Morocco and one in Lebanon). Only centers that have signed the CGIAR Integration Framework Agreement receive funding under the Genebank Initiative (2022-24), so the number of locations has decreased from 12 to 10. In 2019, CIAT and Bioversity International joined forces to create the [Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT](#) but there remain two genebanks, one in Belgium (Bioversity) and one in Colombia (CIAT).

West and Central African Food Systems		
Transformation	1	0,9%
Excellence in Agronomy	1	0,9%
Sustainable Animal Productivity	1	0,9%
Foresight	1	0,9%

Non-CGIAR respondents (Figure 8), mostly come from academia or governmental and public institutions.

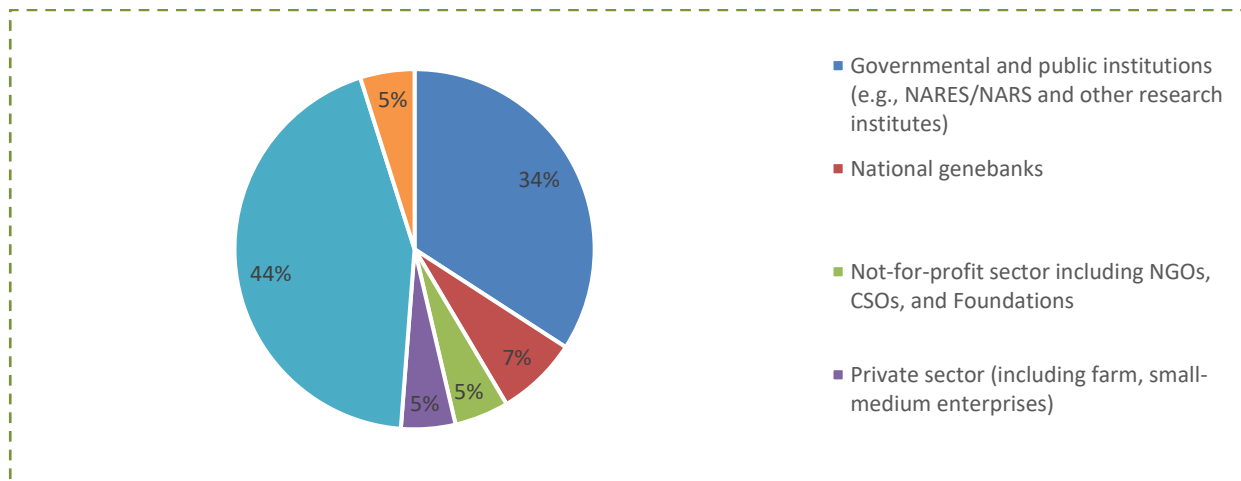


Figure 8: Distribution of non-CGIAR Respondents by Type of Organization, N=41

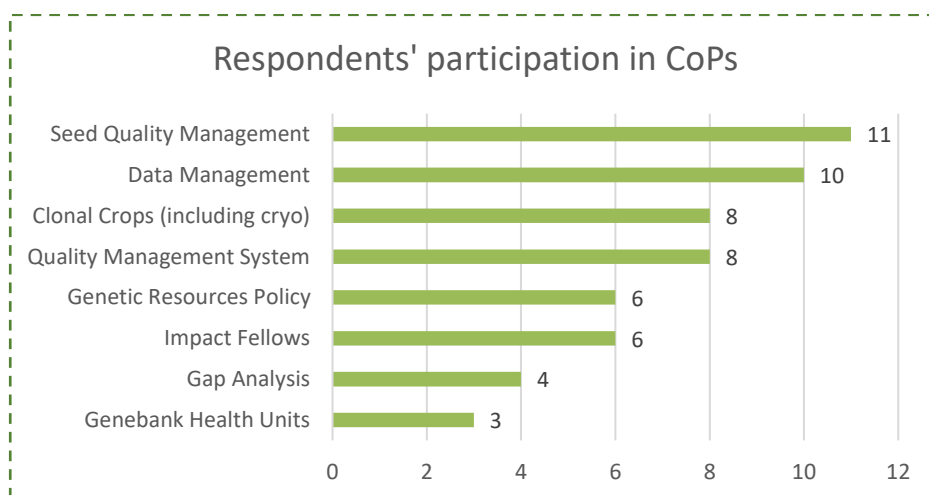


Figure 9: Respondents' Participation in the Genebank Platform CoP (n=27)

Figure 9 shows participation of respondents in the CoPs under the Genebank Platform. Out of the 28 respondents who declared to be part of at least one CoP, 27 responded to more specific questions regarding their engagement. As per previous questions, respondents could select more than one option.

3.2.1 Contribution to the Platform

The evaluation team asked participants to which output(s) they contributed through their work with the Platform and/or participation to the CoPs. All respondents who were internal to CGIAR were asked this

question and could select more than one option. The majority contributed to the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), distribution of Plant Genetic Resources (PGRs), conservation of PGRs and publication of journal articles (Figure 11). Out of 122 respondents, 54% contributed to uploading information on the Online Reporting Tool (ORT) (Figure 10).

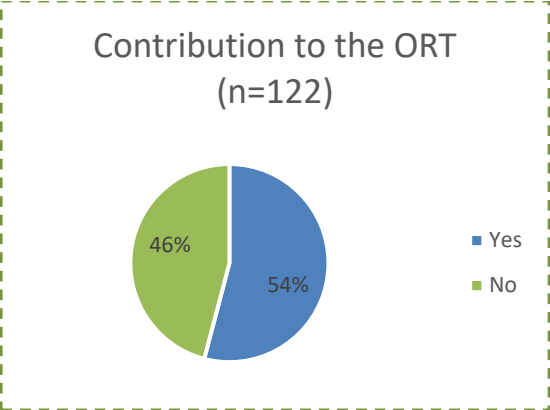


Figure 10: Respondents' Contribution to the Platform ORT⁶

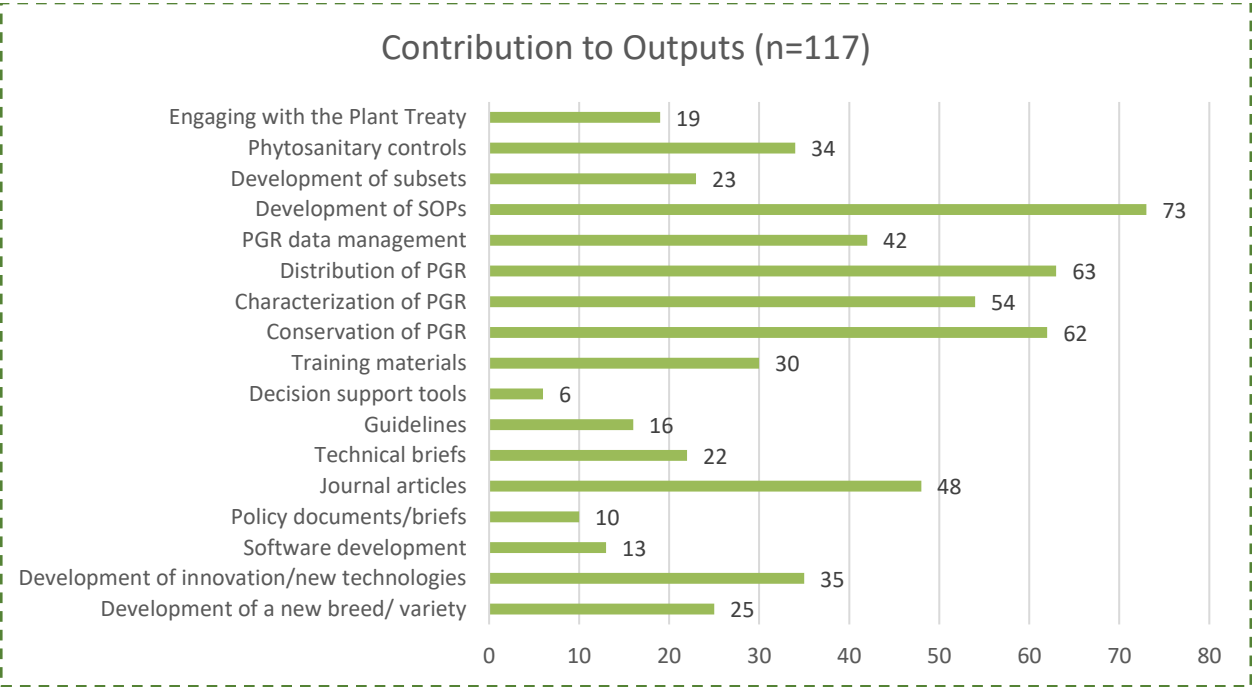


Figure 11: Respondents' Contribution to Platform's Outputs

3.3 Knowledge of the Platform

In the second section of the survey, the evaluation team asked about respondents' knowledge of the Platform. Fifty-four percent (54%) of the respondents learned about the Platform at the time of its

⁶ Respondents could select more than one option. Data labels are in absolute numbers.

inception, 15% were not sure, and the remaining 31% learned about the Platform between 2018 and 2021 (Figure 12).

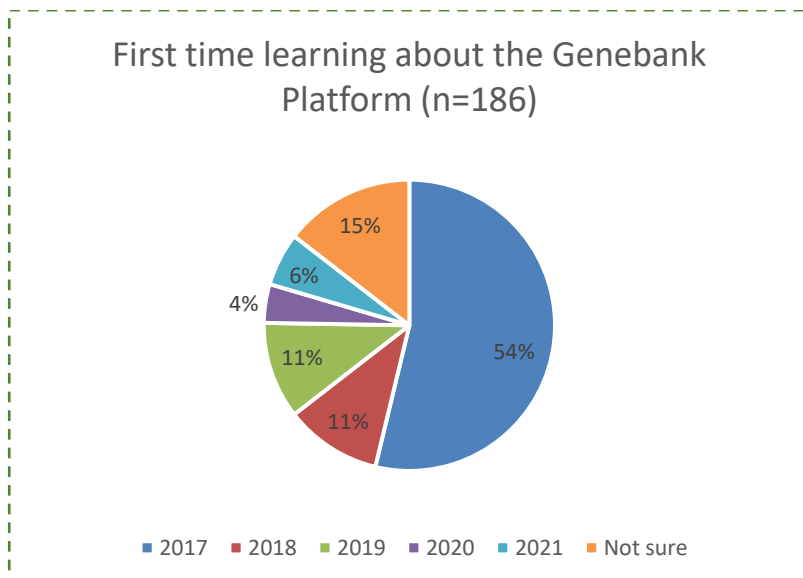


Figure 12: Distribution of Respondents by the Time they learned about the Platform

Figure 13 shows that 88% of respondents used Genebank Platform's online resources at least once, such as the website and ORT, 31% used it occasionally, 25% used it at least once per year, and 12% never used it.

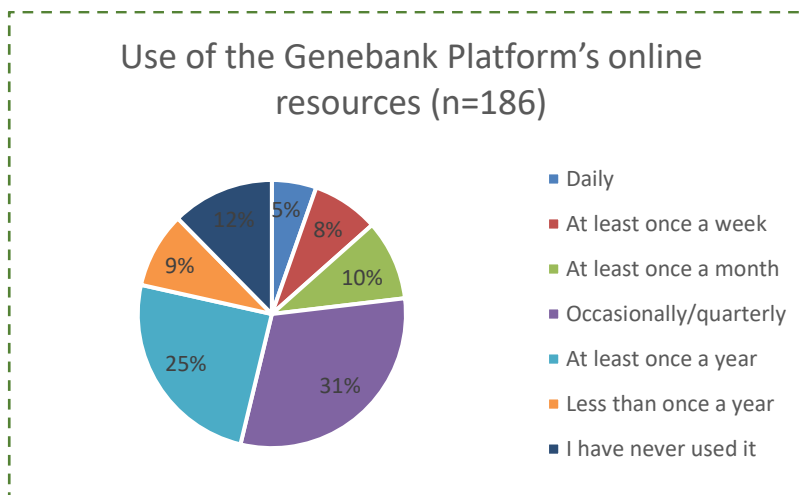


Figure 13: Respondents' use of the Platform's Online Resources (e.g., website, ORT)

The survey also included respondents' self-evaluation regarding their knowledge of the Platform's mandate. Figure 14 reports results for all respondents and is disaggregated by respondents internal and external to CGIAR. Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "I have good knowledge of the Platform's mandate". 13% of respondents from outside CGIAR did not respond to this question, while only 6% of respondents internal to CGIAR answered "not applicable".

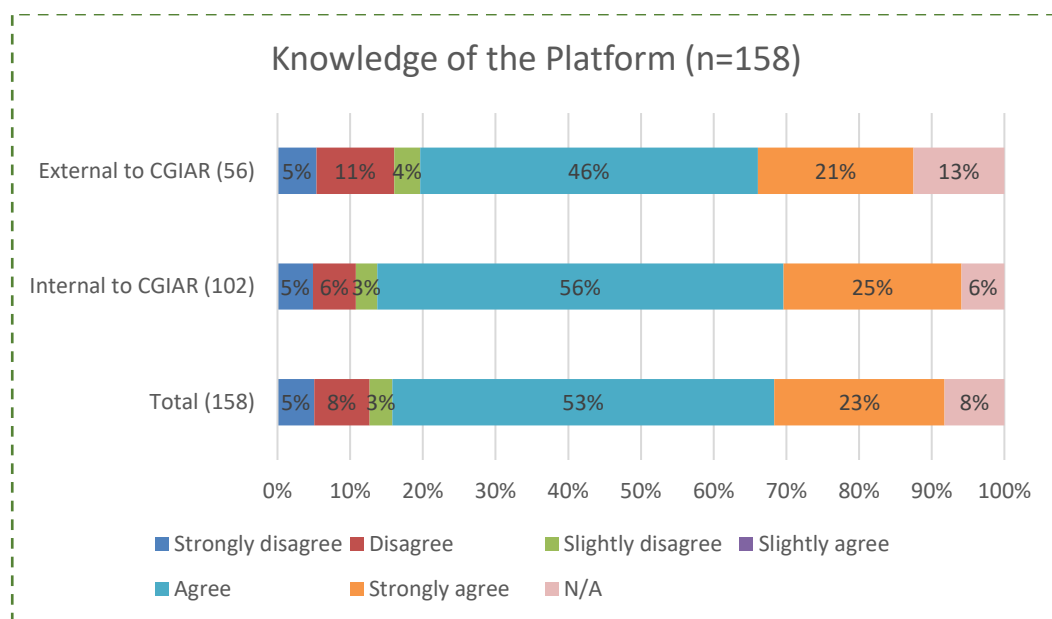


Figure 14: Respondents' Self-Evaluation of their knowledge of the Platform's Mandate–Total Respondents and disaggregated by internal and external Stakeholders

The question “To the best of your knowledge, what was the main purpose of the Genebank Platform?” was analyzed and re-elaborated using MAXQDA. Responses included:

Table 3: Respondents' Knowledge of the Platform's Mandate. Synthesis and re-elaboration of Answers

Description	
1.	The purpose of the Genebanks Platform is to conserve and distribute plant genetic resources for food security and sustainable agriculture.
2.	The Platform aims to coordinate the activities of international genebanks, support their efficient management and distribution of germplasm, and provide knowledge and information resources for research purposes.
3.	The Platform also facilitates the exchange of information and genetic material and promotes collaboration among genebanks.
4.	Its main objectives include conserving and making available accessions of crops and trees, providing diverse germplasm and breeding material, and improving genotypes that directly influence food production.
5.	The Platform also supports the CGIAR genebanks in fulfilling their legal obligation to conserve and make available accessions of crops and trees on behalf of the global community.
6.	Overall, the Genebanks Platform aims to safeguard biodiversity, promote sustainable agriculture, and ensure the availability of plant genetic resources for future generations.

Figure 15 below depicts the words that most frequently appeared in the descriptions provided by respondents. As depicted in the Figure, most frequent words are: “genebanks” (79 times), “germplasm” (44 times), “conservation” and “conserve” (43 and 42 times respectively), “resources” (38 times), “distribution” (29 times), and “use” (28 times). Figure 15 shows words that appeared at least five times in respondents' answers. Of the 38 respondents, eight (8) either did not provide a definition or showed a misunderstanding of the Platform's work. The other 30 respondents demonstrated an understanding of the Platforms' operations or the individual genebanks in their definitions, using terms like “network”, “germplasm”, “seeds”, “support” and “sharing knowledge”.



Figure 15: Most frequent Words used to describe the Genebank Platform

3.4 Respondents' Opinion about Relevance and Effectiveness of the Platform

The following sub-paragraphs report answers questions related to relevance and effectiveness of the Platform. Module-specific questions related to these criteria are discussed in sections 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9.

3.4.1 Relevance

The survey included questions regarding the relevance of the Platform for respondents. This section included Lickert scale questions. Participants needed to respond to what degree they agreed with the statements presented in Figure 16. The first three statements were addressed to all respondents, except for members of funding organizations. The last question was addressed only to respondents internal to CGIAR. For all four questions, more than 80% of respondents slightly agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed with the statements.

Relevance of the Genebank Platform

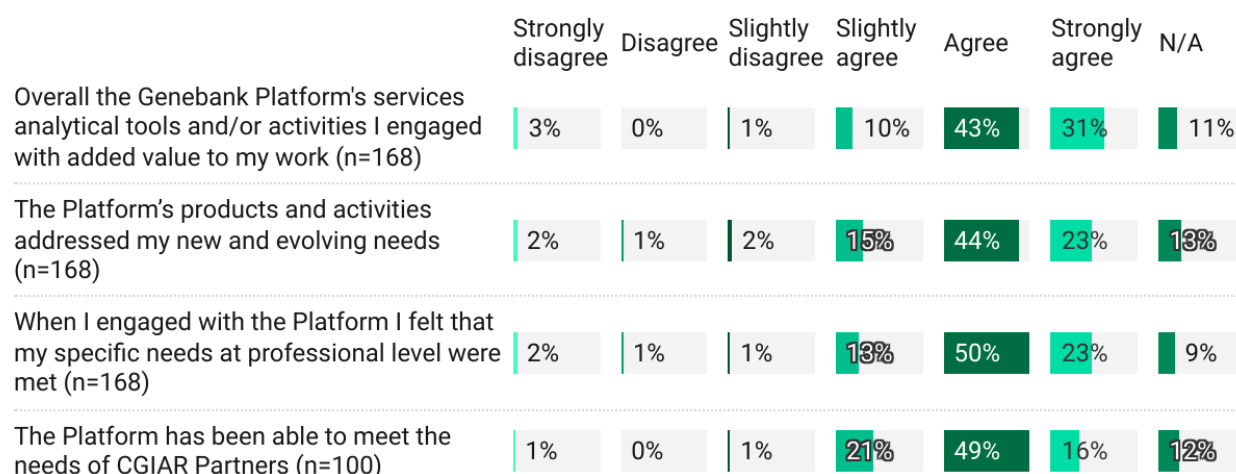


Figure 16: Relevance of the Platform's Products and Activities

3.4.2 Effectiveness

Figure 17 below reports answers to statements related to Platform's effectiveness. For both statements, more than 80% of participants slightly agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed. Twenty-three (23) respondents used a comment box to expand on their answer to the statement "Overall the Genebank Platform's services analytical tools and/or activities I engaged with added value to my work". They mentioned the value of GOAL workshops, the workshops on GRIN-Global, the development of strong relationships with the Genebanks community, the possibility to share knowledge and experience among genebanks, participate in conferences and conduct trainings and workshops with NARS. A respondent internal to CGIAR that strongly disagreed with the first statement felt that opportunities for trainings were not enough. An external partner and user of ICRAF, IITA and Bioversity International germplasm felt that under the Platform, time needed to sign the STMA and receive the seeds decreased.

Effectiveness of the Platform

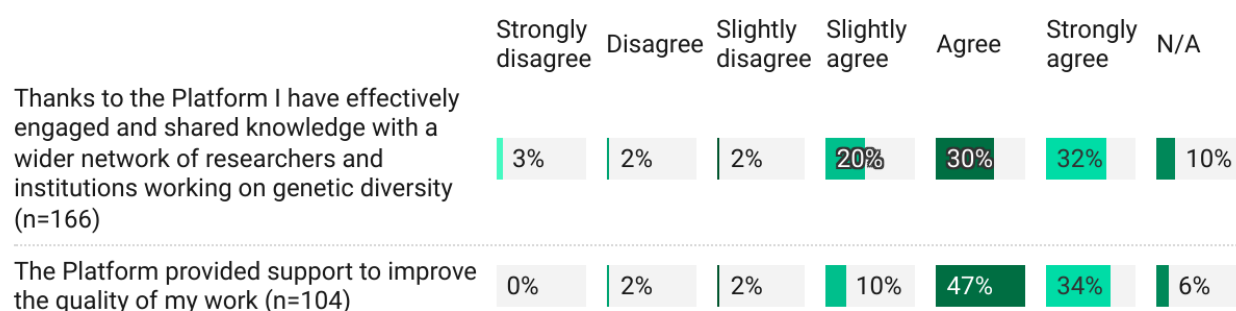


Figure 17: Respondents' Opinion on the effectiveness of the Platform to support Quality of Work and Knowledge sharing

3.5 Respondents' opinion about Leadership, Management and Process

In the survey section "Process and Results", the evaluation team addressed questions regarding leadership and management of the Platform, as well as transparency of the process. Figure 18 shows the amount of time that internal CGIAR respondents dedicated to Genebank Platform activities.

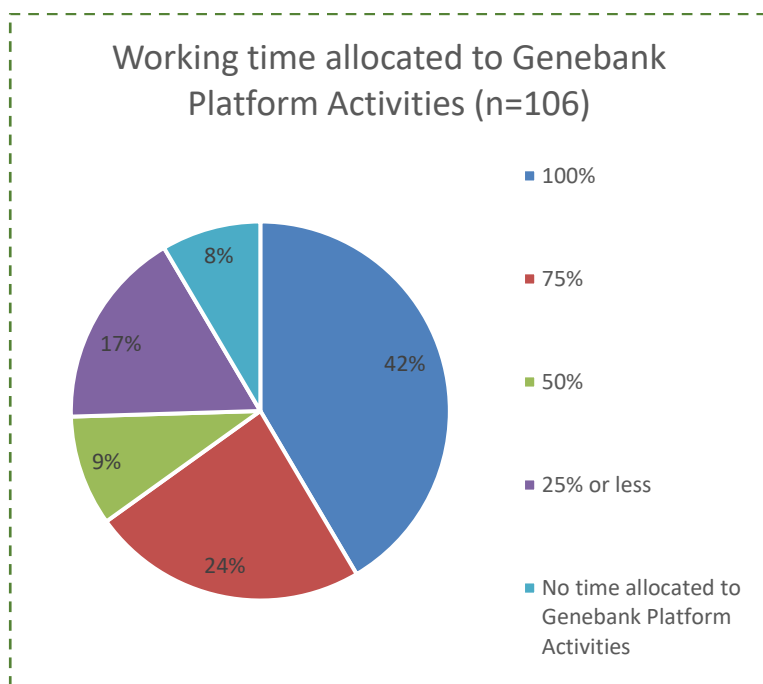


Figure 18: Responses to "Approximately, what percentage of your working time is allocated to the Genebank Platform?"

Forty-two percent (42%) of participants had 100% of their time allocated to Genebank Platform activities. If respondents had at least a small percentage of their time allocated to the Platform, they were redirected to questions related to time management, leadership, and Platform processes. Sixty-two percent (62%) of participants felt they had enough time to complete tasks related to the Platform, 24% felt that with more time, results could have been better, while 11% felt that time was not enough (Figure 19). Comparing responses to the question in (Table 4), it seems that there is not a statistically significant difference in perception between respondents that had more time allocated to the Genebank Platform activities and those who had less time.

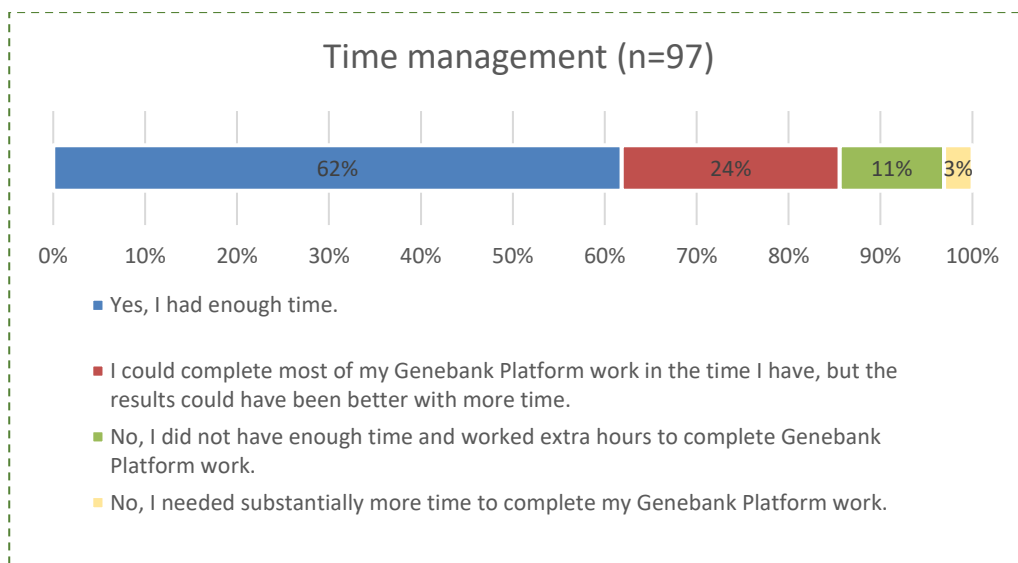


Figure 19: Responses to "Did you have enough time to do your Genebank Platform work?"

Table 4: Cross-sectional Table-Time allocated to the Platform and Respondents' Perception of the Workload

	100%	75%	50%	25% or less	Total
Yes, I had enough time	34	16	4	6	60
I could complete most of my Genebank Platform work in the time I have, but the results could have been better with more time.	5	6	4	8	23
No, I did not have enough time and worked extra hours to complete Genebank Platform work.	5	2	2	2	11
No, I needed substantially more time to complete my Genebank Platform work.	0	1	0	2	3
Total	44	25	10	18	97

Figure 20 shows that 47% of respondents did not feel involved in decision-making, while 46% felt that their perspectives were valued by the Platform's leadership. The remaining 6% stated that they shared their perspectives but felt those were not valued and incorporated into final decisions.

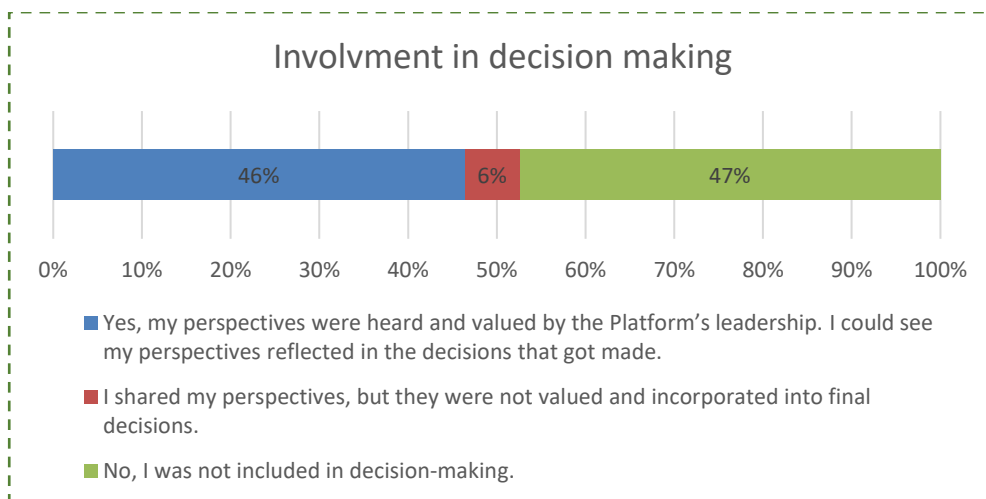


Figure 20: Responses to "Did you feel sufficiently included in the decision-making of the Genebank Platform?"

Finally, Figure 21 reports respondents' responses to four statements about processes and results. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of respondents slightly agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed with the statement "The way in which the Platform sets priorities for research and development is transparent". Seventy-nine percent (79%) slightly agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed that the platform set priorities for research and development in a timely manner. Eighty percent (80%) slightly agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed with the statement "The Platform developed policy positions in a participatory and transparent manner". Eighty-nine percent (89%) slightly agreed, agreed, or strongly agreed that the Platform followed research ethics and good practices.

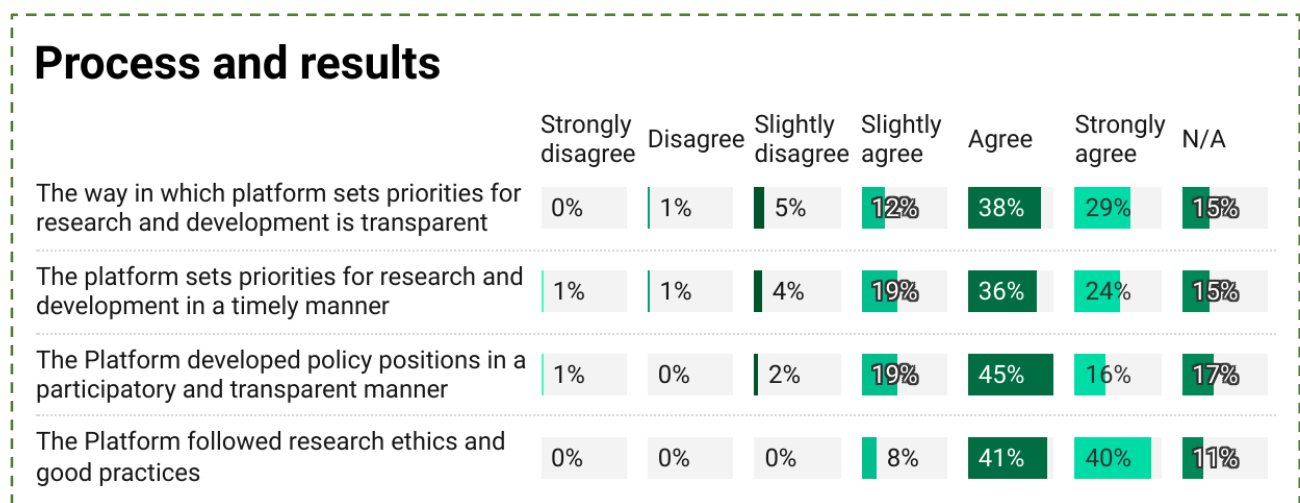


Figure 21: Respondents' Opinion on Transparency, Ethics and Time of the Platform (n=100)

3.6 Capacity Building and Participation in the Communities of Practice

The survey included a specific section dedicated to capacity building and participation in CoPs, since capacity development underpins all modules and is fundamental to the efficiency and effectiveness of

genebank operations.⁷ Seventy-one (71%) of the total respondents participated in at least one of the Platform capacity building activities listed in the survey.

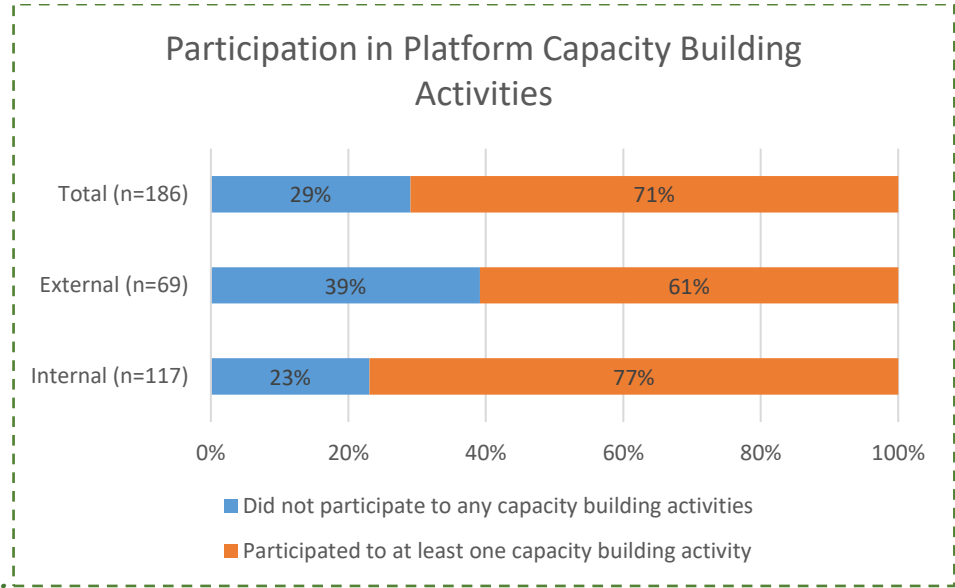


Figure 22: Respondents' Participation to at least one Platform Capacity Building Activities, disaggregated per external and internal Stakeholders

Figure 23 shows that most respondents participated in trainings and workshops: 65 contributed to technical reports and publications, 44 followed GROW webinars, 42 participated in QMS events, 34 went to GOAL workshops, 35 followed Genetic Resources Policy courses, 24 attended the annual AGM and 19 participated in a farmers' open day. Respondents who selected "other" highlighted their participation to CoP monthly meetings, participation in scientist day, participation in genebank field days, participation in events of Seed Quality Management CoP and in events of the Regional Plant Protection Organization.

⁷ See Platform Proposal: [Genebanks Platform Full Proposal 2017-2022 \(cgiar.org\)](https://cgiar.org)

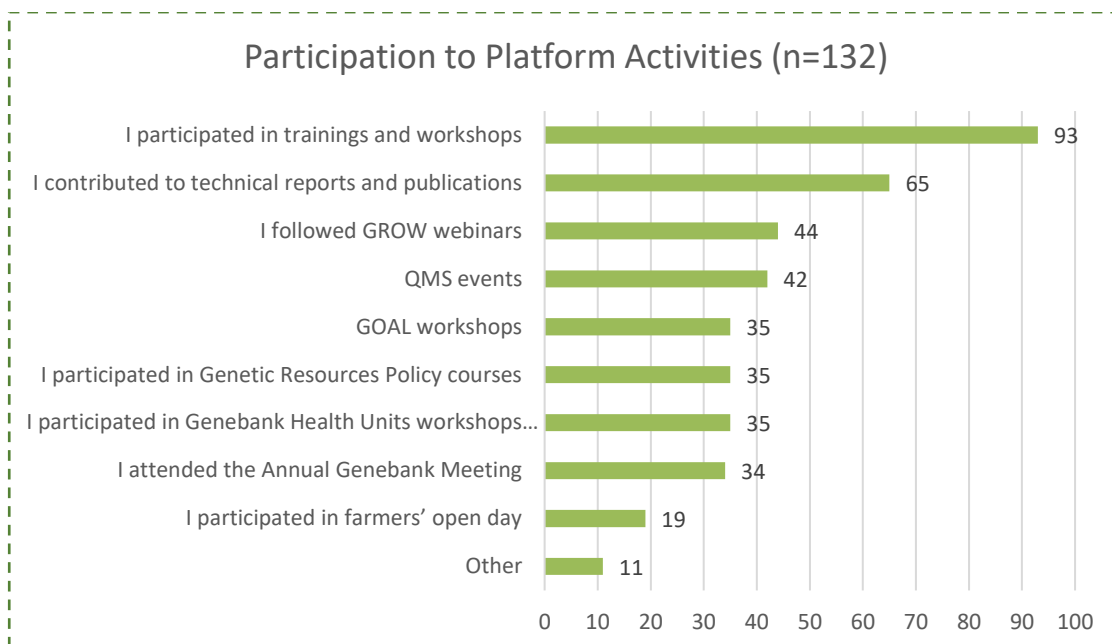


Figure 23: Responses to "To which of the following Capacity Building activities of the Platform did you engage with (if any)?"

3.6.1 Participation in the CoPs

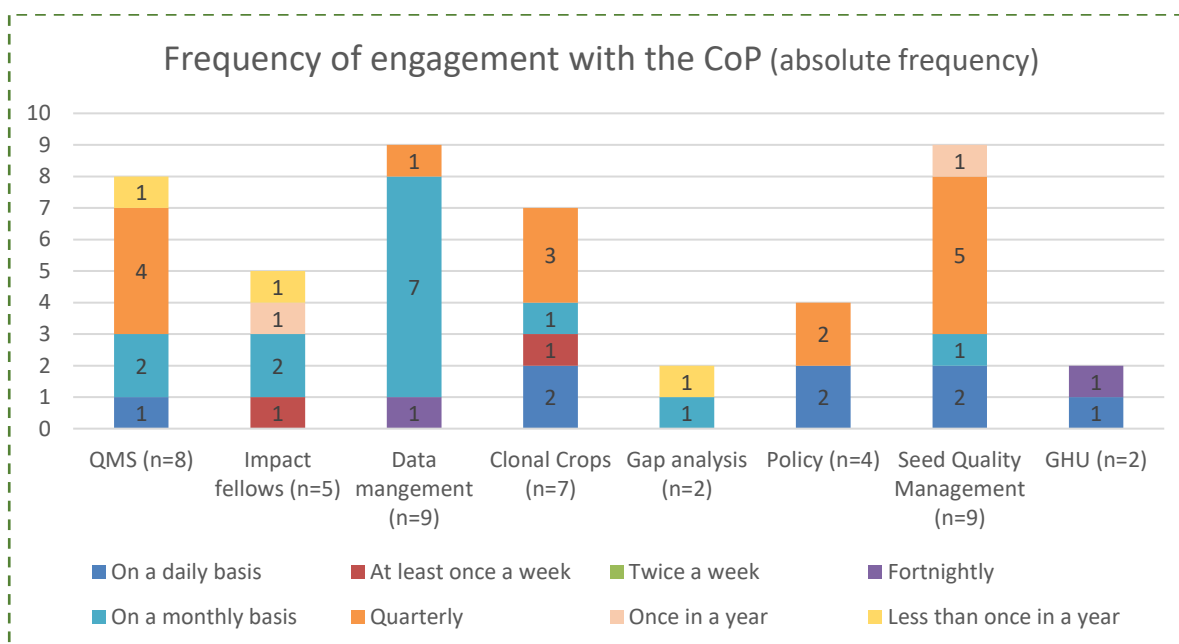


Figure 24: Participants' Frequency of Engagement with the CoP, disaggregated per CoP (n=26)

Figure 9 in section 3.2, reported respondents' participation in CoPs. Twenty-six (26) out of the 28 participants to CoPs provided more details about their engagement with the specific CoP. Respondents could be part of one or more CoPs. Twelve (12) respondents engaged with only one CoP, nine were associated with two CoPs, four participants with three CoPs and one person with four CoPs. Respondents answered the same questions per each CoP they had engaged with. For the Impact Fellows CoP, the question regarding CoP ability to

harmonize procedures within CGIAR centers was not included, since it did not apply to that specific group. For most CoPs, respondents stated that their engagement was either monthly or quarterly (Figure 24).

Figures 25 to 28 report respondents’ agreement to four different statements for each CoP. The majority of respondents felt that their expectations were met with their engagement in the CoPs.

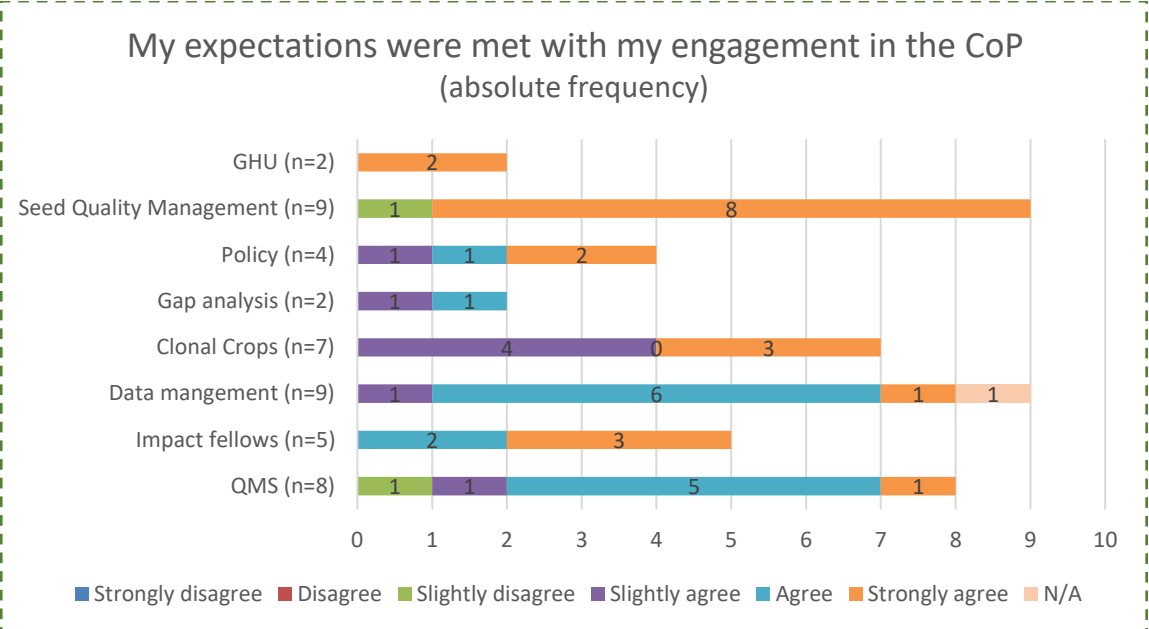


Figure 25: Responses to “My expectations were met with my engagement in the CoPs”, disaggregated per CoP

Most respondents also agreed that CoP efforts strengthened members’ capacity, helped build relationships with external partners and helped harmonize operating procedures across CGIAR. A participant to the QMS CoP stated that “CoPs have been essential to learn from each other and share our work”, while a SQM and GHU CoP participant stated “The SQM CoP provided an excellent platform for research and knowledge sharing on improving methods of seed quality management across CGIAR genebanks”. To the question “Please state 2–3 examples of CoP helping the platform to make progress on conservation, use or policy”, the team did not receive many responses. A QMS participant mentioned that a valid help for conservation was the development of SOPs and the analysis of seeds longevity to know when an accession needs monitoring.

CoP efforts helped strengthen members' capacities (absolute frequency)

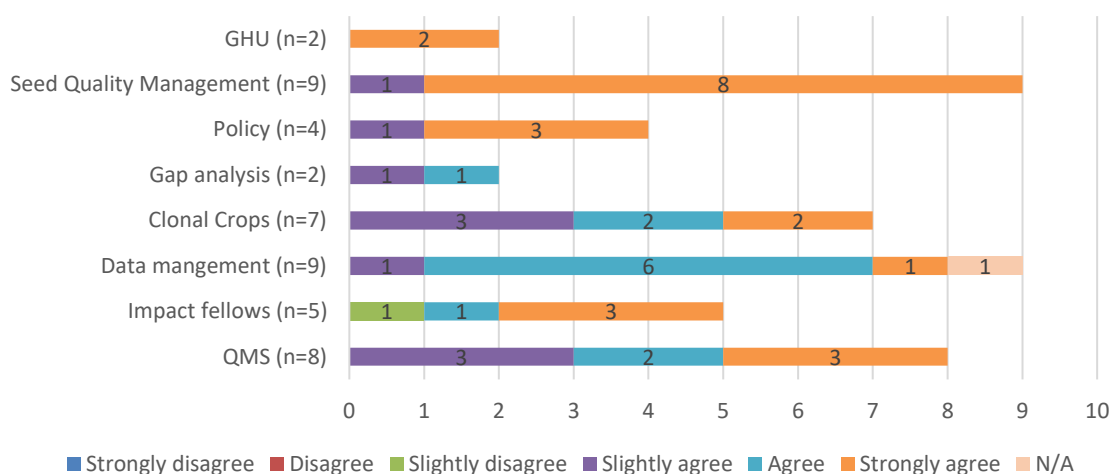


Figure 26: Responses to "CoP Efforts helped strengthen Members' Capacities", disaggregated per CoP

CoP helped build relationships with external partners (absolute frequency)

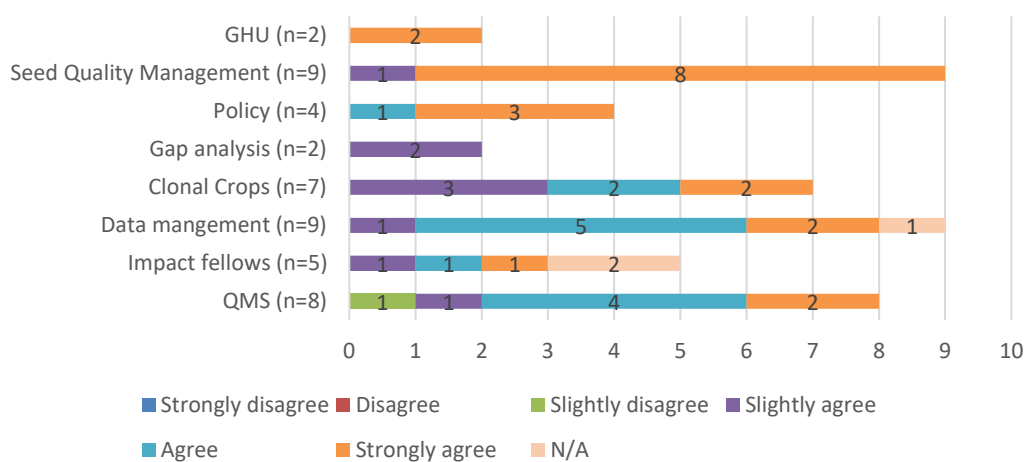


Figure 27: Responses to "CoPs helped Build relationships with external Partners", disaggregated per CoP

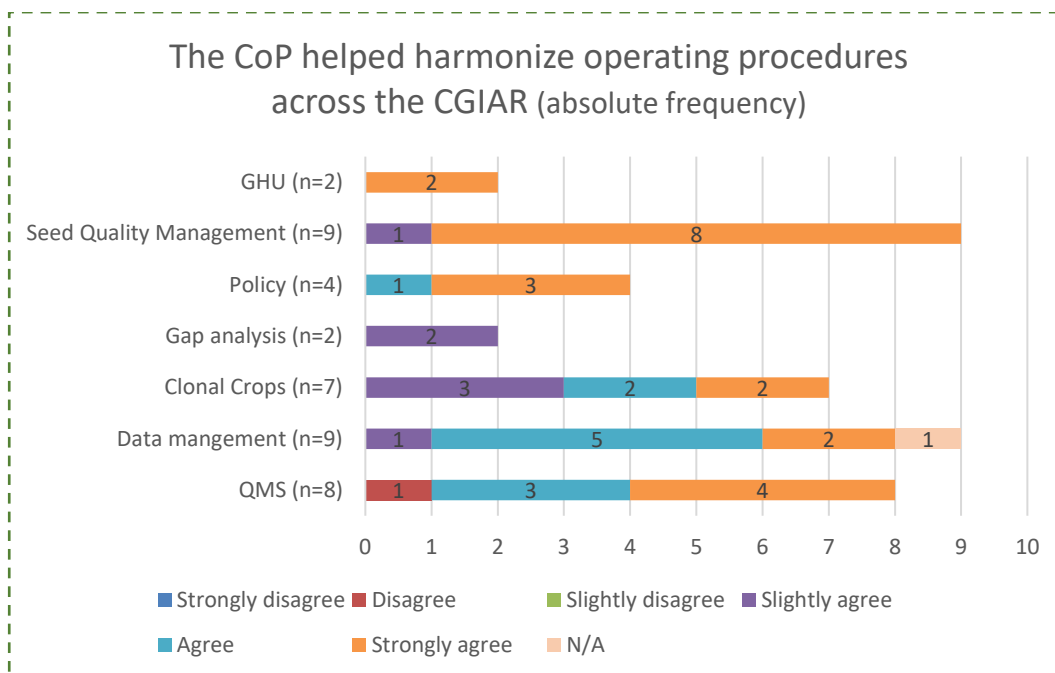


Figure 28: Responses to "CoP helped harmonize Operating Procedures across CGIAR"

3.7 'Conservation' Module

This section focuses on questions related to the Conservation Module of the Genebank Platform. As Figure 29 illustrates, more than 80% of respondents agreed with the role of the Platform in accelerating CGIAR's progress towards increased conservation and use of genetic resources, support the development of diverse methods for improved conservation and health of accessions, and strengthened capacity in germplasm management and conservation.

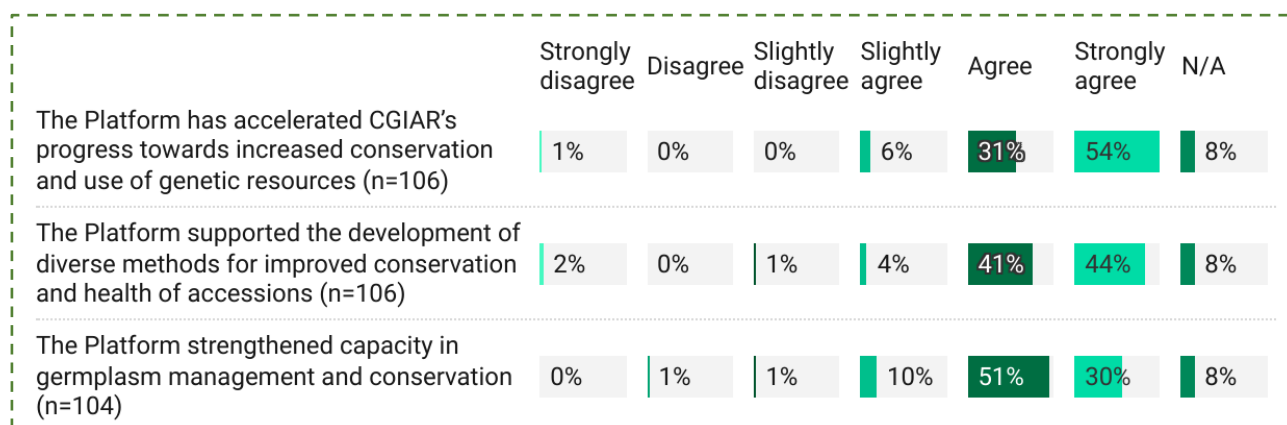


Figure 29: Effectiveness-Respondents' Opinion on the ability of the Platform to Foster Progress on Conservation, Use and Health of Accessions and Strengthen Capacity in Germplasm Management and Conservation

Respondents also answered questions related to capacity building in germplasm health management and germplasm health testing. Figure 30 below shows that 93% of respondents agreed with Platform's ability to facilitate improved knowledge and practice of germplasm health testing. Figure 30 also shows respondents' level of agreement with the Platform's ability to strengthen capacity in germplasm health

management and to strengthen interactions with National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs). These questions received 31 responses as they were uniquely addressed to staff of GHUs.

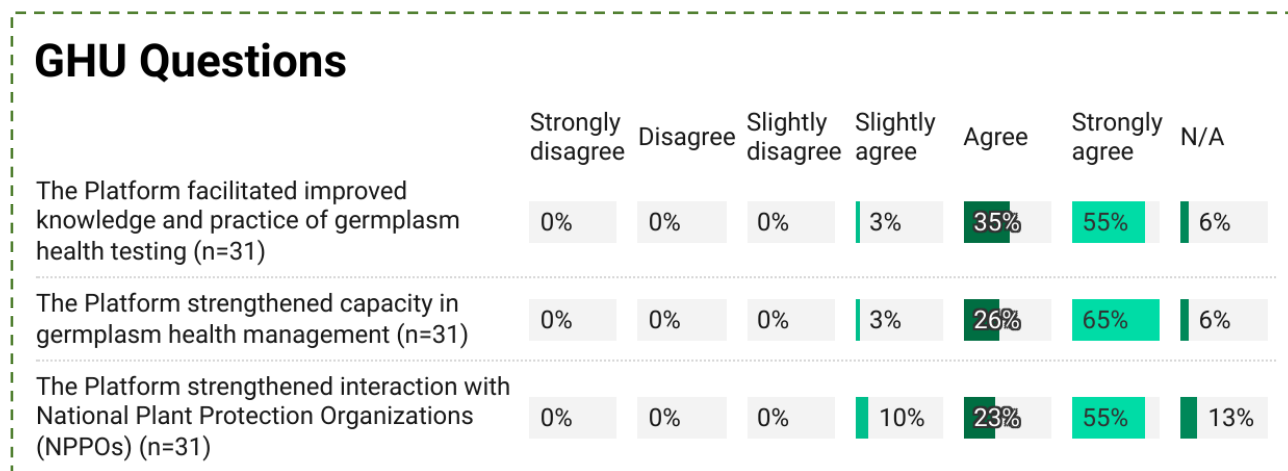


Figure 30: Responses to Statements related to GHUs, Capacity Building and Relation with NPPOs

3.8 'Use' Module

For the Use Module, according to more than 80% of the respondents, the Platform was successful at strengthening the linkages between conservation and use of genetic materials and serving users whose focus is to enhance the conservation and use of genetic diversity in situ (Figure 31).

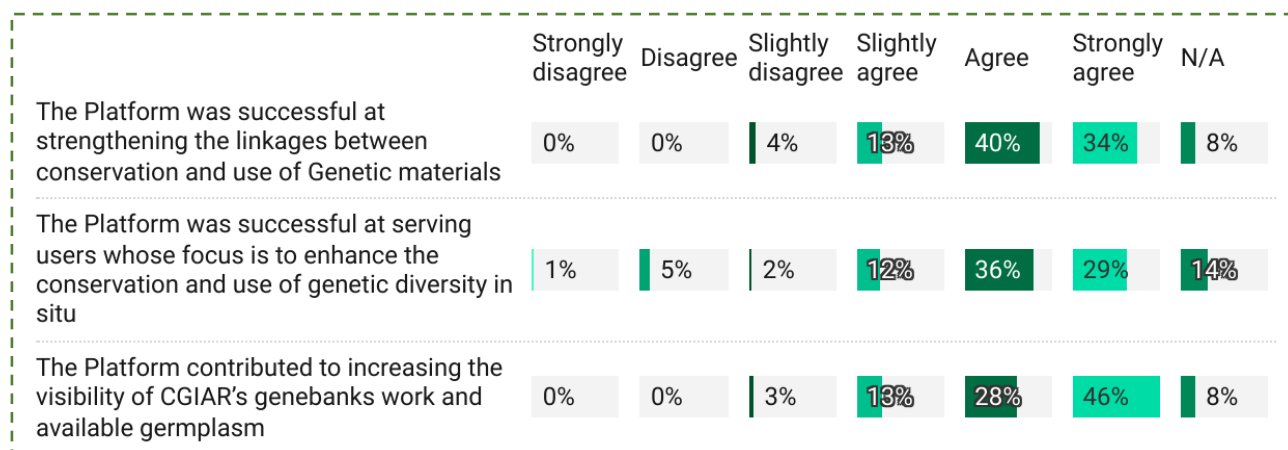


Figure 31: Effectiveness-Respondents' Opinion on the ability of the Platform to serve Users and increase CGIAR Genebanks' Visibility (n=106)

A majority of the respondents also agreed that the Platform contributed to greater visibility of CGIAR's genebanks work and of available germplasm. In an open-ended question, a participant stated that more effort could be made on linking conservation and use (e.g., through the promotion of pre-breeding activities). They stated that the ties between conservation and crop improvement (breeders) remains rather weak. Respondents also mentioned that greater efforts need to be made on raising awareness of how PGRFA⁸ ties into breeding efforts and lessens the burden of breeders, thus contributing to increased uptake.

⁸ Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Regarding visibility, a respondent believed that one of the main contributions of the Platform was to increase visibility of the CGIAR genebanks.

3.8.1 Request for Accessions from CGIAR Genebanks

Nine-three (93) respondents requested accessions at least once between 2017-21 from at least one of CGIAR genebanks. 59% of them are external to CGIAR, and 41% are internal to CGIAR (Figure 32).

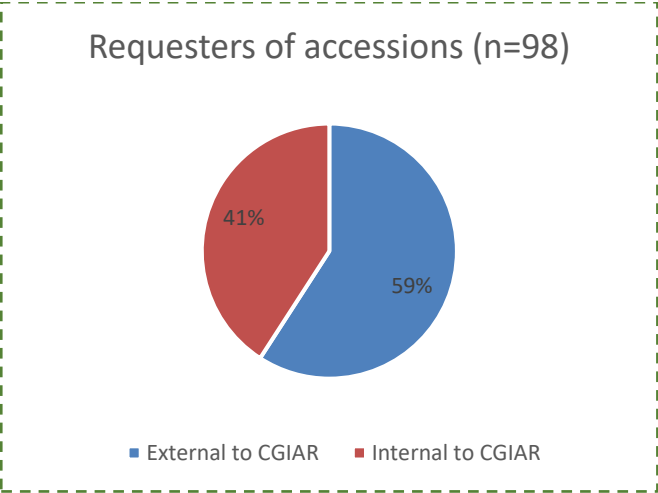


Figure 32: Distribution of Respondents who requested Accessions from CGIAR Genebanks at least once between 2017 and 2021

The main crops requested by respondents at the time of the Platform were: banana, bean, forage, groundnut, cowpea, millet and yam. Figure 33 shows the frequency of all crops that were mentioned by the respondents. Figure 34 shows that most users who participated in the survey requested germplasm from ICRISAT, IITA, CIAT and Bioversity International.

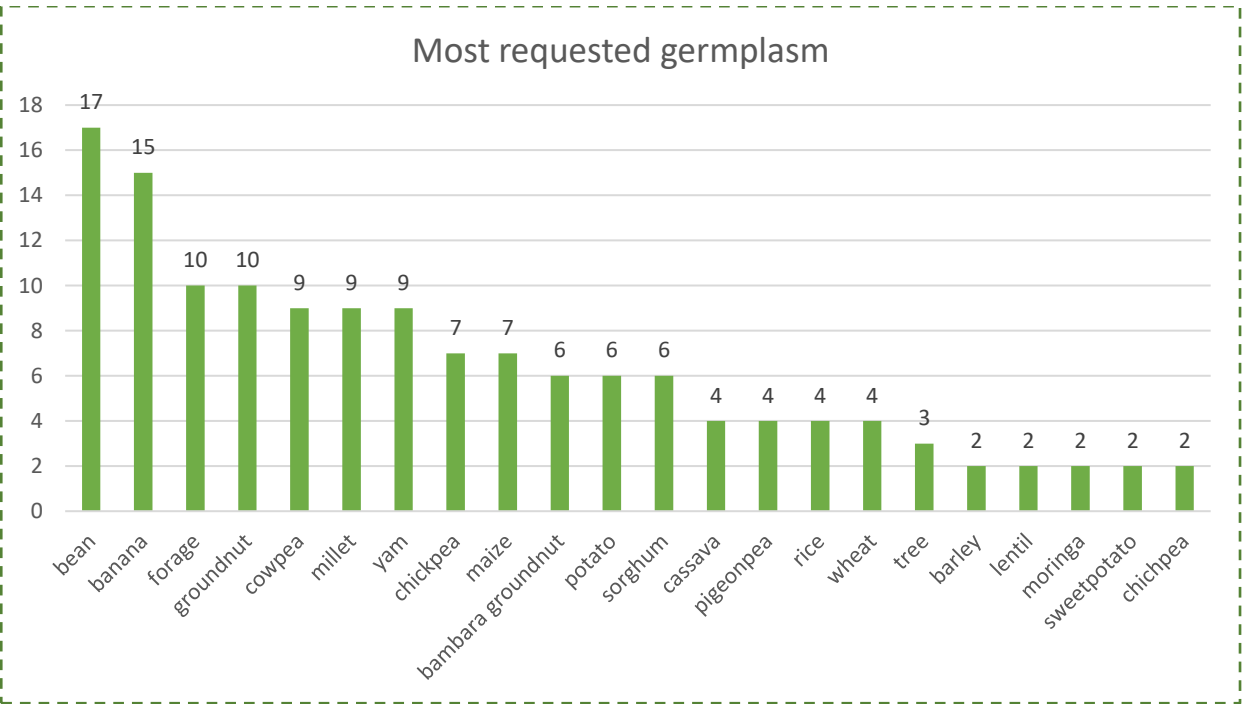


Figure 33: Frequency of Type of Crops requested by Respondents⁹

Figure 34 demonstrates that the majority of respondents who requested germplasm did so from the following Genebanks: ICRISAT, IITA, CIAT, and Bioversity International.

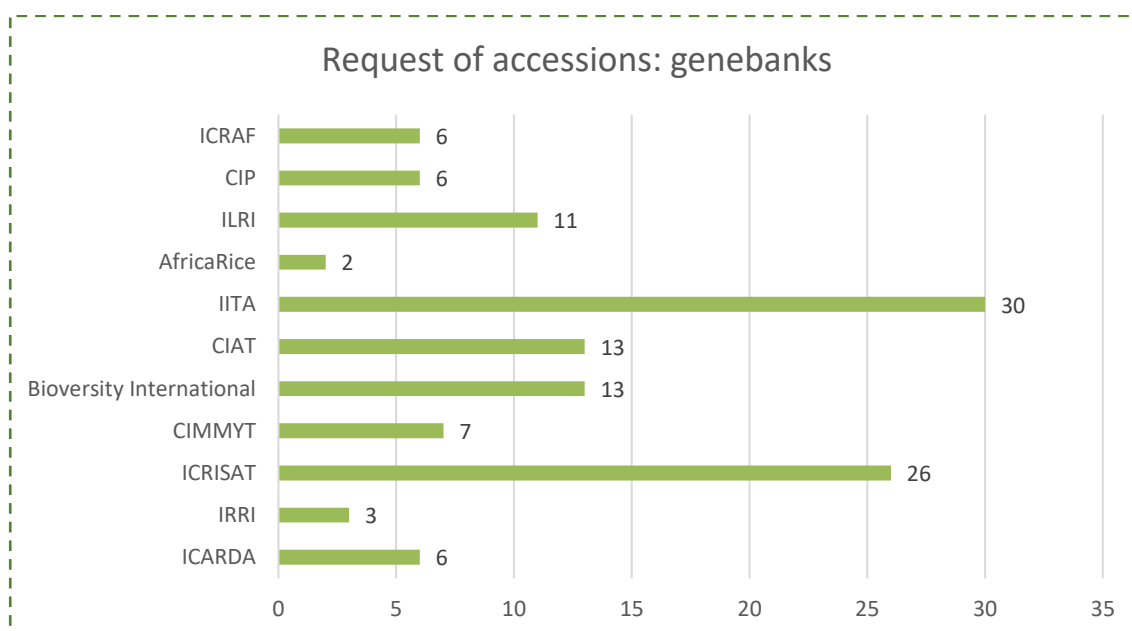
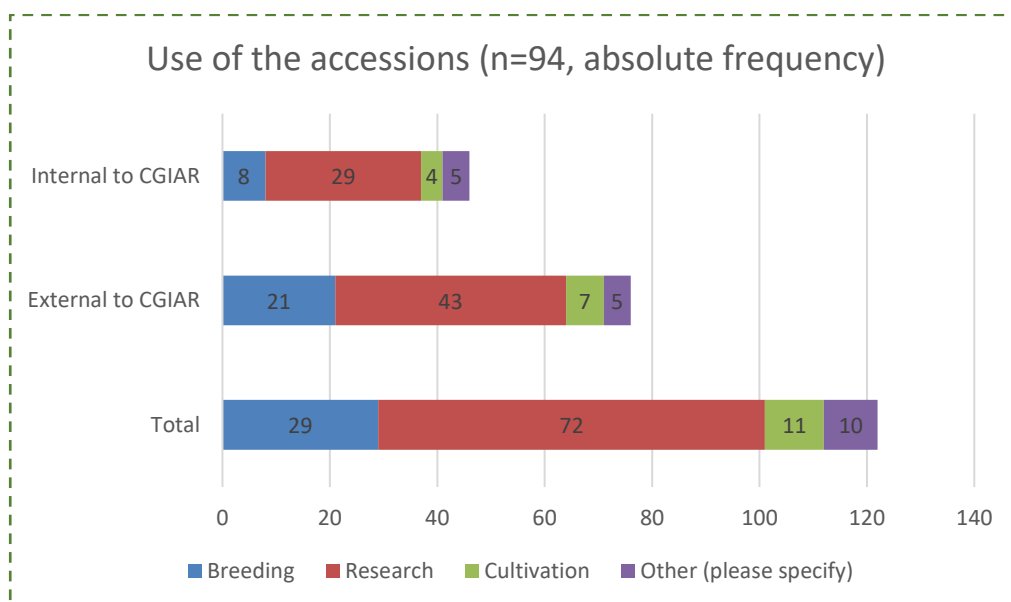


Figure 34: Responses to "From which Genebank(s) did you request Accessions?"¹⁰

According to the survey results, 69 respondents requested seeds, 24 in-vitro accessions and six requested both. Accessions were used mainly for research purposes or for breeding (Figure 35).



⁹ Respondents could provide more than one answer.

¹⁰ Respondents could select more than one center.

Figure 35: Responses to "What use(s) did you make of the Accessions obtained from CGIAR Genebank?", disaggregated per internal and external Stakeholders

Figure 36 indicates that 21% of the respondents received the requested material within two weeks of making their request, 23% received material within 2–4 weeks, 27% within one to two months, and the remaining respondents received material after two months. Notably, 1% of respondents never received the requested material. Most respondents selected accessions through the Genebank's database, 32 using previous research studies, 19 received personal recommendations from Genebanks employees, 17 received a recommendation from colleagues, while 14 used Genesys (Figure 37).

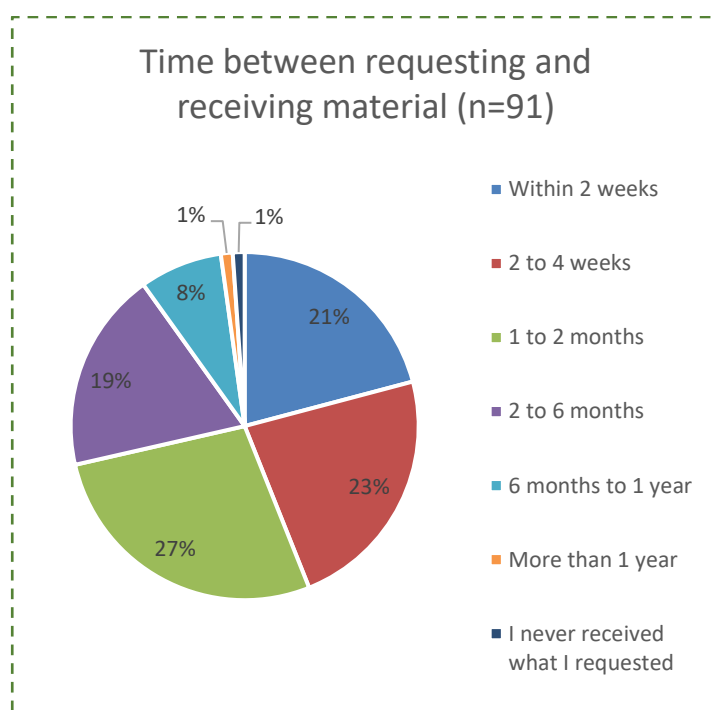


Figure 36: Responses to "What has been the Average time between requesting and receiving Materials?"

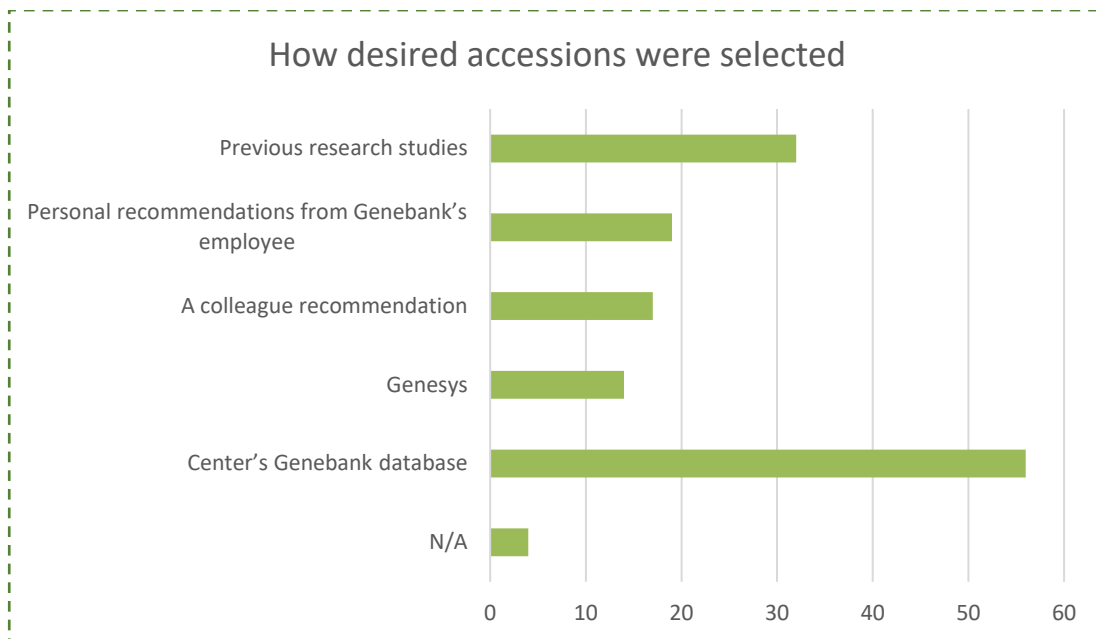


Figure 37: Responses to "Which of the following were used to select for desired Accessions?"

Figure 38 shows that 30% of the germplasm users found it very easy to access necessary information regarding the desired accessions, 24% found it relatively easy, 43% satisfactory and a small percentage found it very difficult or could not find any information. Figure 39 shows that most outputs resulted from the requested germplasm were diversity or evolution (39), phenotype/phenomics (44), genomics or functional genomics (32), taxonomy (12) and others (15).

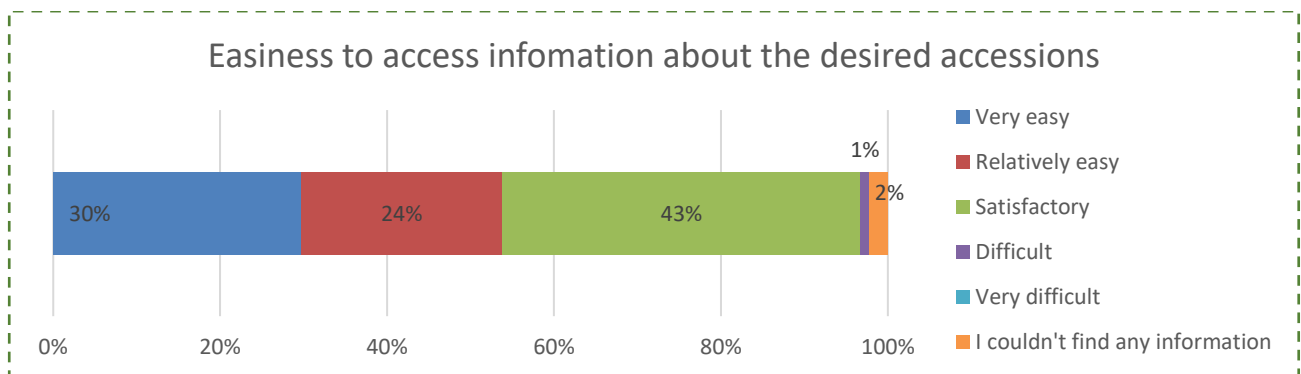


Figure 38: Responses to "How easy was it to access Information on the desired Traits?"

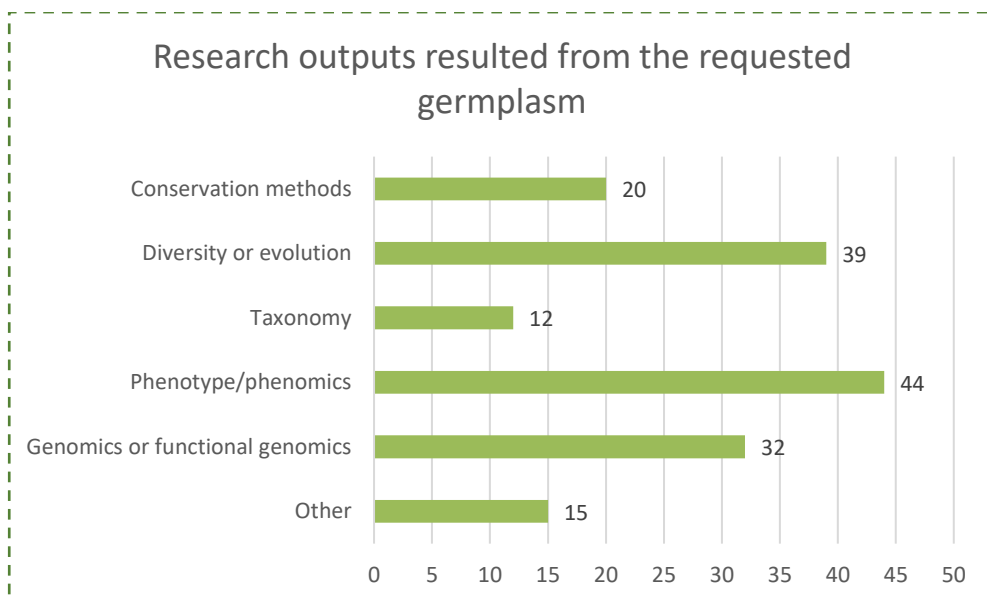


Figure 39: Responses to "Please describe the Type of Research Outputs that have resulted from the requested Germplasm"

Figure 40 shows that research outputs were used for varietal development in 30% of the cases, for educational purposes in 26% of the cases, and were forwarded to other projects in 25% of the cases. The remaining 19% used the outputs for other purposes were not specified. Out of 91 respondents, 54% claimed that they would not have been able to find an alternative resource of germplasm in the absence of CGIAR genebanks (Figure 41) and 40% think that the outcome might have been altered in absence of that specific germplasm (Figure 42).

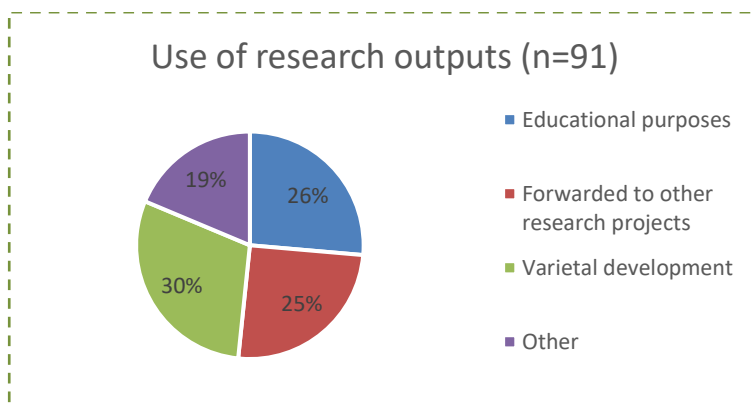


Figure 40: Responses to "How have these Research Outputs been used?"

Possibility to find an alternative source of germplasm in the absence of the CGIAR genebank (n=91)

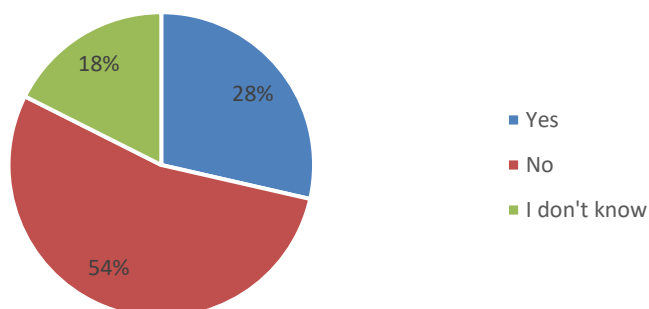


Figure 41: Responses to "In the absence of CGIAR Genebank, would you have had Access to an alternative Source of Germplasm for your Project?"

Some of the respondents who felt they could have found another source of germplasm (Figure 42), mentioned the following alternatives: KFS Seed Centers, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, IPK, NARS, local collections in Benin and Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa cowpea consortium, NPGR, USDA, ICAR, National Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology in Nigeria, AGG, TNAU, ANGRAU, GKVK, other centers that report on Genesys.

Project outcome would have been altered without access to CGIAR Genebank germplasm (n=91)

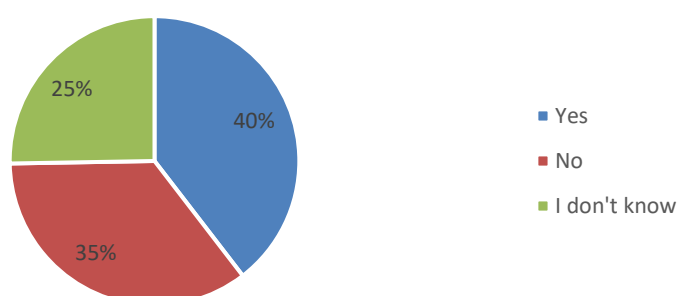


Figure 42: Responses to "Without access to this Germplasm, would you anticipate an altered Outcome to your Project?"

From Figure 43, it appears that most users were satisfied with the material received. 11% of users were dissatisfied with the time between request and reception of material. 64% of respondents provided feedback to the genebank on the quality of the received accessions (Figure 44).

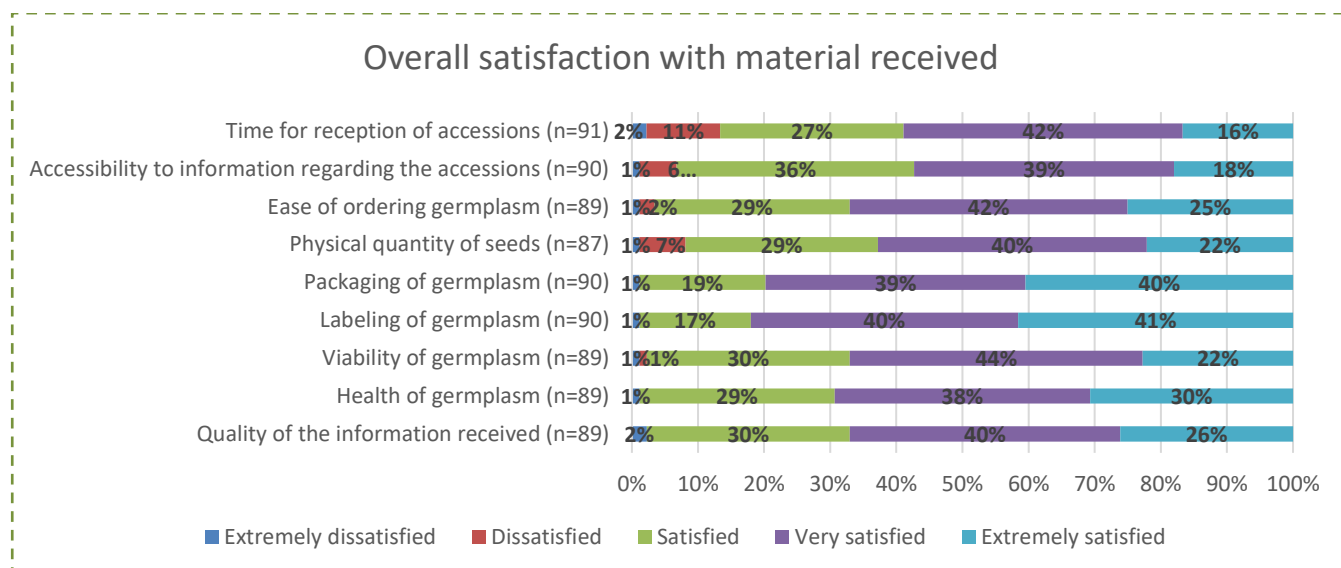


Figure 43: Overall Satisfaction of Users with Material received, disaggregated per several Characteristics.

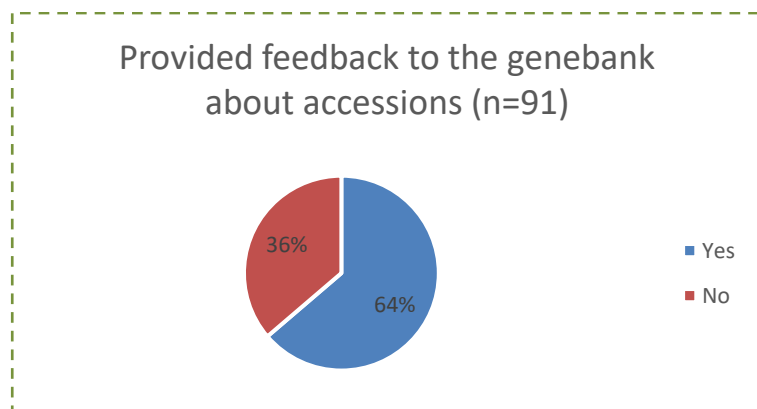


Figure 44: Responses to "Did you provide Feedback to the Genebank on the Quality of the Accessions?"

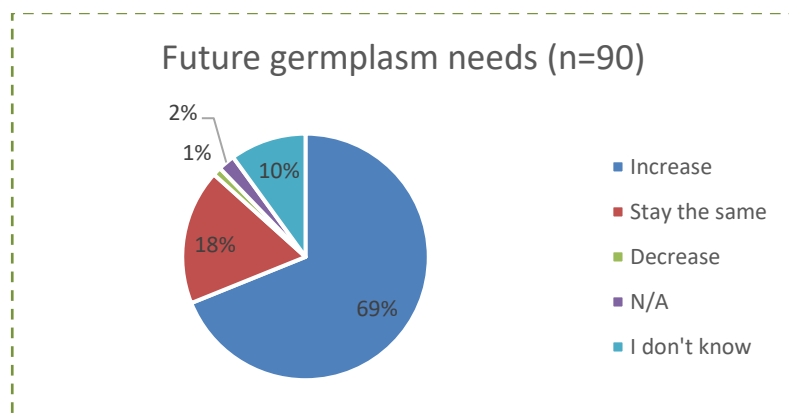


Figure 45: Responses to "Over the next 10 years, do you expect your Needs for CGIAR Germplasm and Genebanks' Services to change?"

According to Figure 45, future germplasm needs for 69% of users will increase, while 18% think that their needs will remain the same. Only 1% think that needs will decrease, while 2% did not answer.

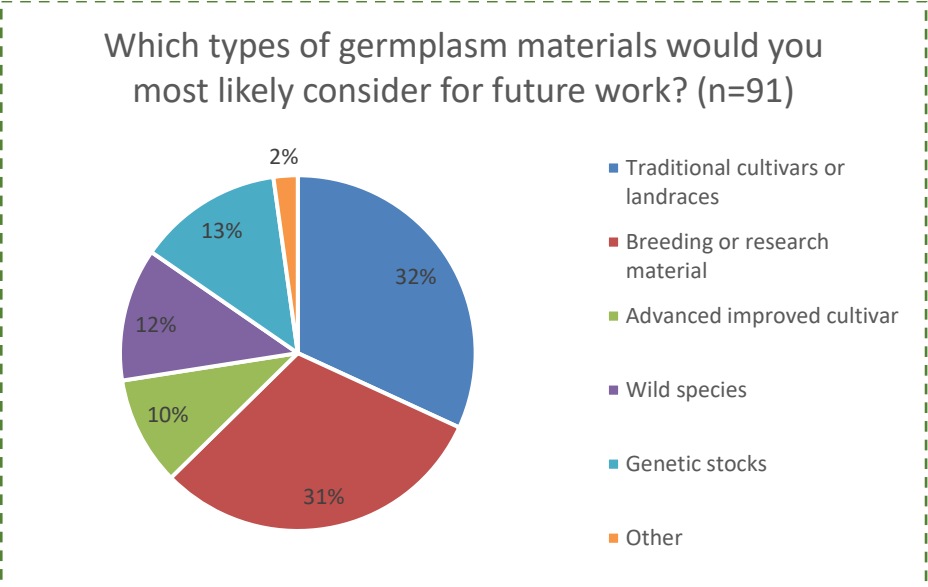


Figure 46: Responses to “Which Types of Germplasm Materials would you most likely consider for Future Work?”

In the future, 32% of the 91 respondents will most likely consider requesting traditional cultivars or landraces, while 31% envision to request mostly breeding or research material. 10% will most likely request advanced improved cultivars, 12% wild species, 13% genetic stocks and 2% other (Figure 46).

3.8.2 Use of Genesys

The last part of the survey section was dedicated to germplasm users. The evaluation team asked specific questions on the use of Genesys. Fourteen (14) respondents selected to have used Genesys, among others, as instrument to find information regarding the desired germplasm. Figure 47 shows that 12 users used Genesys for passport data, ten for characterization and evaluation datasets, nine for crop descriptors lists and ten for characterization and evaluation datasets.

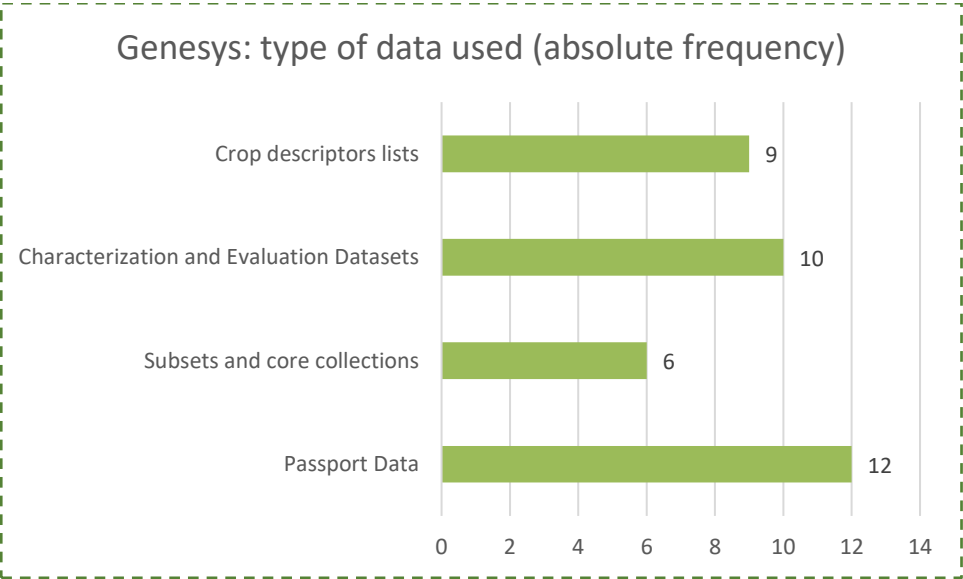


Figure 47: Responses to "Genesys provides Access to 4 Categories of Data. Which ones did you use?"

Thirteen (13) Genesys users out of 14 considered Genesys more convenient and faster than searching accessions data through the genebanks' websites or databases. Twelve (12) respondents out of 14 could easily find information on germplasm that met their needs, and 12 out of 14 think that research and breeding schemes can be better designed thanks to Genesys (Figure 48).

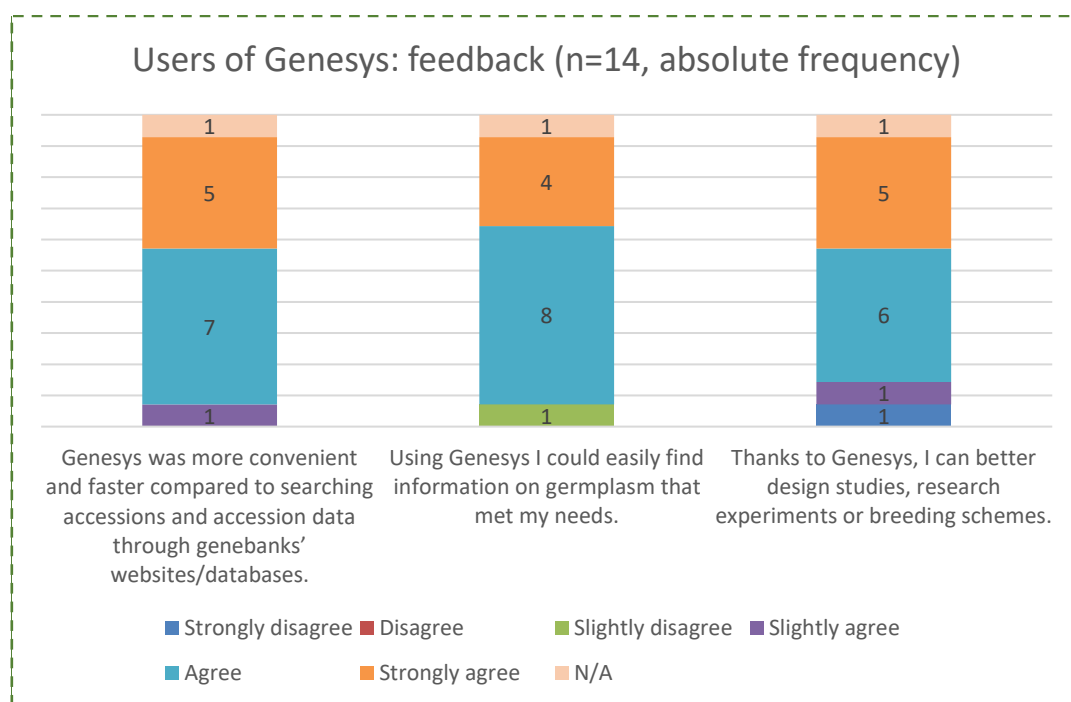


Figure 48: Respondents' Feedback on the use of Genesys, its Convenience, Speed and Ease of use

3.9 Policy Module

This section reports questions related to the Policy Module. According to Figure 49, there is agreement among respondents on the Platform's importance for the development of CGIAR genetic resources policy and for CGIAR contribution to international genetic resources policy debates. In terms of capacity building, 86% of respondents think that the Platform strengthened CGIAR's capacity to implement and influence international policy, 73% think that the Platform strengthened the capacity of national partners to implement and influence international policies and laws, and 92% think that the Platform strengthened capacity in complying with international policies on germplasm exchange. The respondents who slightly disagreed with the statements presented in Figure 49 did not leave any additional comment to explain their answers (Figure 50).

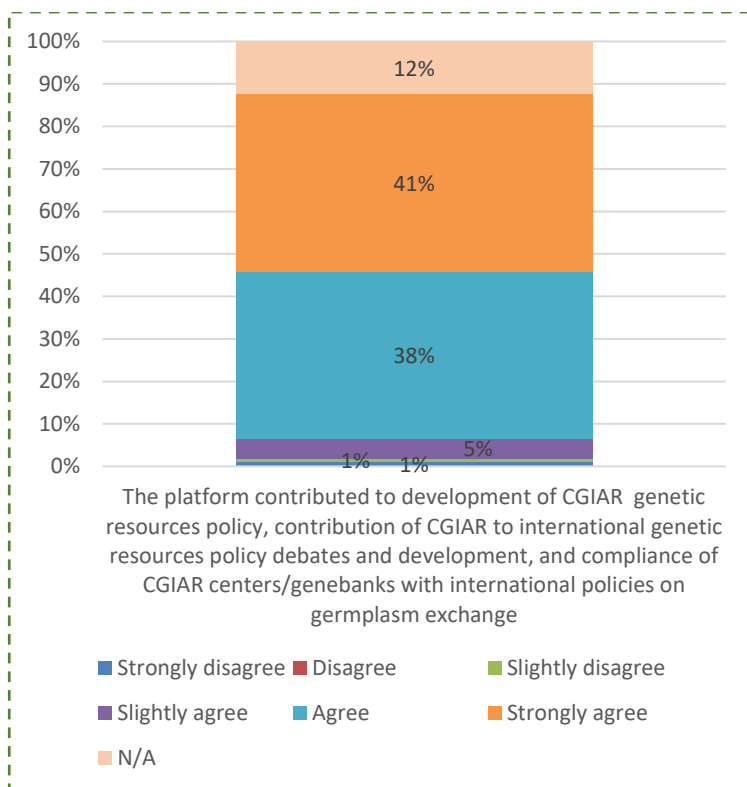


Figure 49: Effectiveness-Respondents' Opinion on the Ability of the Platform to contribute to Policy Debates and Development (n=107)

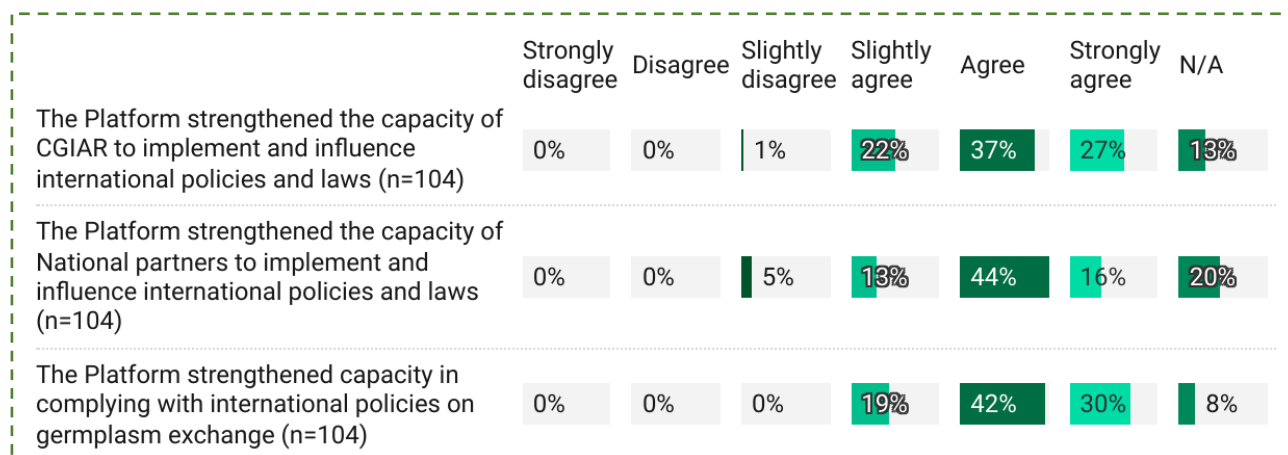


Figure 50: Respondents' Opinion about Capacity Building for Policy

4. Looking Forward

The last section of the survey focused on respondents' understanding of the transition from Genebank Platform to Initiative and on their idea of success. Out of the 90 people that answered the question corresponding to Figure 51, only 36% fully understood the transition, 46% understood the transition partly, 13% did not understand it, and 5% were not aware of any changes. The 85 respondents who were aware of changes were asked how they worked with Genebank leadership to adjust their role to the transition. Forty-seven percent (47%) have collaboratively adjusted their role and responsibilities with the management, 5%

were unsure of whether there had been changes in responsibilities, 3% mentioned that roles and responsibilities were changed without being consulted, and 45% mentioned that their roles and responsibilities did not change (Figure 52).

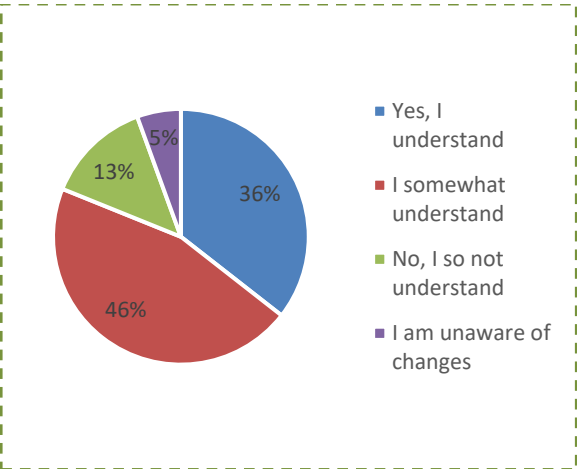


Figure 51: Responses to “Do you understand why the Genebank Platform transitioned to the Genebanks Initiative”, N=90

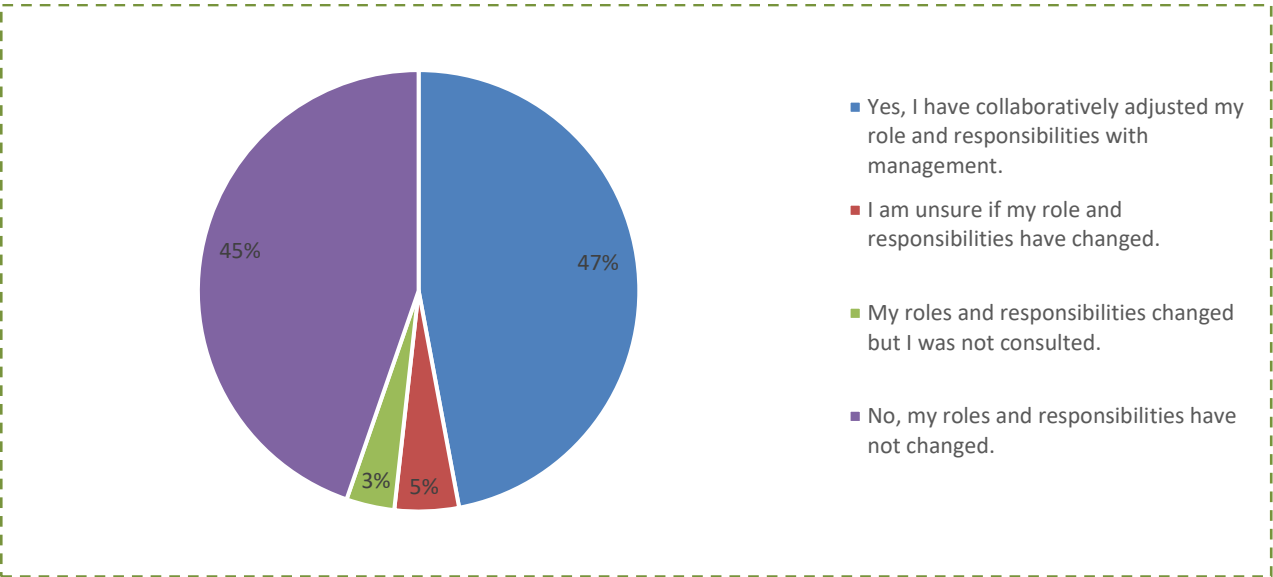


Figure 52: Responses to “Have you worked with Genebank Leadership and/or your Manager to adjust your Role/Responsibilities during Transition to the Genebanks Initiative?” N=85

Lastly, answers from the survey’s four open-ended questions are summarized below:

a) *How would you like to see the Genebanks Initiative support your work and objectives?*

Eighty-nine (89) people responded to this question.

Table 5: Synthesis of Responses to the Question “How would you like to see the Genebanks Initiative support your Work and Objectives?”

Topic	Main Suggestions
Conservation	Suggestions for improvement included standardizing data management, supporting molecular characterization of germplasm, and providing more opportunities for collaborative research.
Use	Initiative should provide greater access to germplasm and collaboration between CGIAR and national research organizations.
	The Initiative should contribute to a simplification of the process to request germplasm, provide information about available germplasm, and offer viable seeds, guides, materials, and tools for duplication.
	The Initiative should give greater emphasis to the use of germplasm collections and develop clear and coordinated strategies among all banks.
Capacity building and collaborations	The Initiative should prioritize training and capacity building.
	Other areas in which the Initiative could be of support included funding, training, capacity building, and exchanges between CGIAR centers.
Funding	Challenges to address include resource constraints and the need for stable fundings.

b) What, if anything, should the Initiative do differently to enable it to meet its objectives for germplasm conservation and use?

Sixty-six (66) people responded to this question.

Table 6: Synthesis and Analysis of Respondents' Suggestions for the Genebanks Initiative

Topic	Main Suggestions
Conservation	To meet its objectives, enough funds and equipment for germplasm conservation should be provided.
	Equipment should be upgraded.
	Use modern methods of germplasm characterization.
	Empower and motivate staff.
	Focus in on situ conservation.
	Improve reporting and research quality.
	Increase investment for data management.
Use	Be more responsive to germplasm users and providing more information to the public about germplasm conservation and use.
	Improve the information system.
	The Initiative should focus on pre-breeding, make it easier to work with multiple genebanks through a single portal, and provide resources for staff.
	Focus should be on engaging more users other than just breeding programs.
Policy	At a policy level, improve policy for germplasm exchange.
	Organize frequent trainings and conferences, foster cross-center collaboration, support the submission of proposals for additional funding, and increase capacity building.

Topic	Main Suggestions
Capacity building and collaborations	Collaborate with universities and NARS.

c) What does success of Genebank Initiative look like according to you?

Seventy-eight (78) people responded to this question.

Table 7: Indicators of Success of Genebank Initiative: Respondents' Suggestions

Topic	Measure of Success
Conservation	Conservation and availability of genetic resources, robustness of conservation strategies, quality and availability of the preserved germplasm.
	"The initiative should lead or at least be recognized as the "organization" for best practices in conservation." (cit.)
	Facilitate access to information and germplasms.
Use	Genebank access to data and receive feedback after accessions' use.
Policy	Ethical and legal compliance.
Capacity building and collaborations	Number of international collaborations.
	Collaborations with public institutions and universities.
	Awareness and education.
	Scientific research and innovation.
	Participatory Initiative that involves NARS programs.
	Help promote better recognition or knowledge from the public or researchers.
Funding	Financial sustainability.
Impact	Long-term impact on global goals and challenges.
	Benefits to farmers and breeders.

d) In your opinion, what are the best indicators to measure the success of the Genebank Initiative?

Answers to these questions were analyzed and grouped per main topics. Table 3 below shows the indicators suggested for each topic. Suggested indicators for success in the Genebank Initiative include:

Table 8: Indicators for Success of the Genebanks Initiative

Topics	Indicator 1	Indicator 2	Indicator 3	Indicator 4	Indicator 5
Conservation	Seed viability	Number of accessions available	Germplasm screening	Availability of disease-free germplasm	Reduction of duplicates
Use	Number of accessions distributed	Use of accessions in research and breeding programs	Breeding lines developed	Impact on developing new varieties or contributing to leading-edge research	
Research	Research outcomes	High-quality publications			
Partnerships and capacity building	Collaborations with universities and other organizations	Engagement with stakeholders	Technical support and capacity transfer to National Genebanks		
Documentation and data management	Documentation of pipelines	Availability of value-added trait and genotypic data	Completeness and accuracy of phenotypic data		

5. Limitations of the Survey

As the team did not have access to all lists of possible survey participants, undertaking a sampling strategy was challenging. For this reason, the exact total number of survey recipients is unknown. The number 947 is an estimation; hence, it is not possible to assess the precise response rate.

Additionally, the survey was designed in a way that questions about respondents' profile were asked at the end. Therefore, collecting background information of the respondents that did not complete the survey was not possible.

Incomplete information on respondents' profile, challenged a more in-depth disaggregated analysis (e.g., by gender). Furthermore, the limited number of responses might lead to differences that are not statistically significant.

6. Annex: Questionnaire

Introduction

Dear Madam/Sir,

We invite you to complete this anonymous survey which is conducted as part of the independent evaluation of the CGIAR Genebank Platform, referred to as the Platform. The Genebank Platform supported the core activities of the CGIAR Genebanks conserving and making available crop and tree diversity. As of 2022, the Platform transitioned to Genebanks Initiative.

The CGIAR's Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service (IAES), per its mandate, to meet the needs of CGIAR System Council, commissioned an independent external evaluation team to conduct the Platform evaluation.

This survey instrument seeks to solicit information to learn about the experiences of the Platform's stakeholders as well as to feed a Social Network Analysis.

What you should know about this survey

The information you share will be anonymized (the responses you provide will not be associated with your personal information so what you say and who you are cannot be linked) unless you specifically request attribution and/or request a follow-up interview.

How long will it take to complete the survey and when to complete it by?

Previous respondents took between 10 and 35 minutes to complete this survey.

We encourage you to submit your response as soon as you receive it, and no later than 17th of September 2023

Who can I direct further questions to?

For any questions regarding the survey, please contact:

Evaluation Analyst, Stefania Sellitti s.sellitti@cgiar.org

We thank you for your time and much valued contribution.

Sincerely,

The Evaluation Team

Engagement with the Platform

	Question type	Answer
Which years (if any) did you work for CGIAR or any of its centers/programs/platform?	Checkboxes	a) 2017 b) 2018 c) 2019 d) 2020

Question type	Answer
	e) 2021 f) None of the above
How would you most closely identify your role with respect to the CGIAR Genebank Platform? Select all that apply.	Checkboxes a) Staff member of a CGIAR Center/Initiative/Platform b) Staff of Center's Genebank c) Staff of CGIAR Germplasm Health Units d) Breeders/Staff of a CGIAR breeding program e) Member of Genebank Platform's Communities of Practice (CoP) f) Staff of funding institution g) External Partner to the Platform (<i>not affiliated to CGIAR – i.e. NARS, universities</i>) h) Users of genebank Platform services (<i>including requestors of accessions</i>)

CGIAR Staff

Question	Type	Answer
In which CGIAR Center/Alliance/Organization/Platform did you work between 2017 and 2021? If you work for a center and one or more Platforms, please check multiple boxes.	Checkboxes	a) AfricaRice b) CIFOR c) ICARDA d) ICRISAT e) IFPRI f) IITA g) ILRI h) CIMMYT i) CIP j) IRRI k) IWMI l) Bioversity International m) CIAT n) ICRAF o) WorldFish p) CGIAR System Organization q) Big Data Platform r) Excellence in Breeding s) Gender Platform t) Genebank Platform u) One of the CRPs
Do you currently still work within the CGIAR System (Center/Alliance/Organization)?	Binary	a) Yes b) No

Initiatives

Question	Type	Answer
In which CGIAR Initiatives do you mainly work?	Dropdown	List of Initiatives
Which impact area does your work mainly contribute to? Select all that applies. Optional	Dropdown	List of Impact Areas

External partners and users

Question	Type	Answer
What type of organization do you work for?	Multiple Choice	a) Universities/Academia b) Private sector (including farm, small- medium enterprises) c) Multilateral organizations d) Not-for-profit sector including NGOs, CSOs, and Foundations e) Governmental and public institutions (e.g., NARES/NARS, other research instituted) f) National genebanks g) Others specify

CoP Participation

Question	Type	Answer
With which communities of practice did you cooperate?	Checkbox	a) Quality Management System b) Impact fellows c) Data Management d) Clonal Crops (including cryo) e) Gap Analysis f) Genetic Resources Policy g) Seed Quality Management h) Genebank Health Units i) None
How did you take part in the COP? Did you have a specific role? i.e. leadership) optional	Comment box	

Outputs

Question	Type	Answer
To which of the following outputs did you contribute through your work with Platform and/or participation to the CoPs?	Checkboxes	a) Development of a new breed/ variety b) Development of innovation/new technologies c) Software development d) Policy documents/briefs e) Journal articles f) Technical briefs g) Guidelines h) Decision support tools i) Training materials j) Conservation of PGR k) Characterization of PGR l) Distribution of PGR m) PGR data management n) Development of SOPs o) Development of Subsets p) Phytosanitary controls q) Engaging with the Plant Treaty r) Others_____
Did you contribute to the Platform Online Reporting Tool?	Binary	a) Yes b) No c) I don't know

Knowledge of the Platform

Question	Type	Answer
When did you first learn about the Genebank Platform?	Multiple Choice	a) 2017 b) 2018 c) 2019 d) 2020 e) 2021 f) Not Sure
How often do you make use of the Genebank Platform's online resources (i.e., website, online reporting tool)?	Multiple Choice	a) Daily b) At least once a week c) At least once a month d) Occasionally/quarterly e) At least once a year f) Less than once a year g) I have never used it
To what extent do you agree with the following	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) +

Question	Type	Answer
statement? “I have good knowledge about the Genebank Platform’s mandate”		“N/A”
To the best of your knowledge, what is the main purpose of the Genebank Platform?	Comment Box Optional question	

Partnerships and Interactions within the platform

Question	Type	Answer
Name of the organization you worked for.	Comment box	
Identify your specific role or position within your professional network (i.e. Indicate whether you are a researcher, farmer, policymaker, etc.).	Multiple choice	a) Leadership/Member of a Governance body b) Management c) Scientist/Researcher d) Farmer/Farmers’ group e) Policymaker f) Communication Expert g) ICT Staff/Data Scientist/Data Management h) Germplasm Health Unit Trainer/Trainee i) Donor/Funder j) NGO staff/manager k) Member of a community based organization h) Any other, please specify -----
Check the names of organizations who are part of your professional network related to the Genebank platform (e.g., colleagues, customers, collaborators, stakeholders). Select all that apply.	Checkbox	a) Crop trust b) CGIAR System c) AfricaRice d) Bioversity International e) International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) f) International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) g) International Potato Centre

Question	Type	Answer
		(CIP) h) International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) i) International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) j) International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) k) International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) l) International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) m) International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) Any other, please specify_____
Having good professional ties aids in better coordination and efficiency. In context to the Genebank Platform, rate the significance of the professional ties you have had within your professional network on a scale of 1 to 5. (Please note - 5 indicates very good ties/relationships and indicates highly significant importance of the ties/relationships and 1 indicates that you have very poor ties which are of least significance / importance).	Likert Scale	a) 1 – Very limited b) 2 – Limited c) 3 – Fair d) 4 – Good e) 5 – Very Good N/A
For Genebank platform related activities/functions, how often do you communicate with the people/ organizations within your professional network.	Multiple Choice	a) On daily basis b) At least once a week c) Once a month d) Twice a month e) Bi-monthly f) Quarterly g) Once or twice in a year Never/ Not communicated till date

Question	Type	Answer
Estimate the total number of individuals in your professional network associated with the Genebank platform.	Open Question	-----
On an average, for any tasks/ information related to the Genebank platform, how many people do you interact with on a daily basis/weekly basis?	Multiple Choice	a) Less than 10 b) Less than 5 c) 10 – 20 d) 20-30 d) More than 30, please specify the number -----
Please check the organization/individuals with which you communicated on regular basis for seeking key decisions pertaining to day-to-day functioning of the Genebank platform. <i>Select all that apply.</i>	Checkbox	a) CGIAR b) Crop Trust c) Independent Advisory Committee d) Genebank Platform coordinator e) Article 15 group genebank managers f) Bioversity International g) Leaders of Community/ies of Practice h) Germplasm Health Unit (GHU) managers Other (please specify).....
List the organizations with which you or your organization have co-authored any publication or research papers related to the Genebank platform. <i>(Optional)</i>	Open question	-----
Please check the organizations/individuals with which you communicate for seeking funds for the various activities of Genebank platform. <i>Select all that apply.</i>	Checkbox	a) CGIAR b) Crop Trust c) Independent Advisory Committee d) Genebank Platform management e) Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) f) Bioversity International g) Any other, please specify -----

Question	Type	Answer
For any projects or initiatives related to Genebank platform, please list all the organizations you/ your organization may have collaborated with. <i>Select all that apply.</i>	Checkbox	a) Crop Trust b) AfricaRice c) Bioversity International d) International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) e) International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) f) International Potato Centre (CIP) g) International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) h) International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) i) International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) j) International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) k) International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) l) International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) m) National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS/NARES) Any other, please specify_____
Please tick the organization/ individuals with which you communicate on regular basis for seeking leadership and other management decisions of the Genebank platform. <i>Select all that apply.</i>	Checkbox	i) CGIAR j) Crop Trust k) Independent Advisory Committee l) Genebank Platform coordinator m) Article 15 group genebank managers n) Bioversity International o) Genebank Platform Management team p) Leaders of Community/ies of Practice q) Germplasm Health Unit (GHU) managers

Question	Type	Answer
		r) Any other, please specify -----
With regards to the Genebank platform related tasks, identify & tick mark organizations/groups/ individuals within your professional network who have a considerable influence on decision making & knowledge dissemination. Select all that apply	Matrix: rows a) Top management at CGIAR b) Crop Trust Management c) Genebank Staff at my centre/organization d) Scientists from my centre or any other CGIAR centre e) Scientists from other (non-CGIAR) organizations/academia f) Breeders g) NARS staff h) Farmers' communities Any other, please specify -----	Columns a) Influence in decision making Influence on knowledge dissemination
List three most important organizations within your professional network who had provided constant support or assistance related to the Genebank platform activities. (Please note: You can list choose the organizations with which you have interacted at the organizational level from period 2017–2021 and rank them in order of your preference).		a) 1st ranked organization ----- b) 2nd ranked organization ----- c) 3rd ranked organization -----

Strategic Leadership and Management

Question	Type	Answer
Approximately, what percentage of your time is allocated to activities related to the Genebank Platform?	Multiple Choice	a) 100% b) 75% c) 50% d) 25% or less e) No time allocated to Genebank Platform Activities
Do you have enough time	Multiple Choice	a) Yes, I have enough time.

Question	Type	Answer
to do your Genebank Platform work?		b) I can complete most of my Genebank Platform work in the time I have, but the results could be better with more time. c) No, I do not have enough time and work extra hours to complete Genebank Platform work. f) No, I need substantially more time to complete my Genebank Platform work.
Do you feel sufficiently included in the decision-making in the Genebank Platform?	Multiple Choice	a) Yes, my perspectives are heard and valued by the Platform's leadership. I can see my perspectives reflected in the decisions that get made. b) I share my perspectives, but they are not valued and incorporated into final decisions. g) No, I am not included in decision-making.

Experience with the Platform

Question	Type	Answer
Overall, the Genebank Platform's services, analytical tools and/or activities I engaged with, added value to my work	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform's products and activities addressed my new and evolving needs	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
When I engaged with the Platform, I felt that my specific needs at professional level were met.	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
Please comment on your previous responses.	Comment box	

Question	Type	Answer
Optional		

Please respond on the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements on a scale of 1-6 whereby 1 means “strongly disagree” and 6 means “strongly agree”

Questions	Type	Answers
The Platform has accelerated CGIAR’s progress towards increased conservation and use of genetic resources	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform supported the development of diverse methods for improved conservation and health of accessions.	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform was successful at strengthening the linkages between conservation and use of genetic materials.	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform was successful at serving users whose focus is to enhance the conservation and use of genetic diversity in situ	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform contributed to increasing the visibility of CGIAR’s genebanks work and available germplasm	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The platform contributed to development of CGIAR genetic resources policy, contribution of CGIAR to international genetic resources policy debates and development, and compliance of CGIAR centers/genebanks with international policies on germplasm exchange	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
Please comment on your previous responses	Comment box	

Process and results

Please respond on the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements on a scale of 1-6 whereby 1 means “strongly disagree” and 6 means “strongly agree”

Question	Type	Answer
The way in which platform sets priorities for research and development is transparent.	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) – 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The platform sets priorities for research and development in a timely manner.	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) – 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform developed policy positions in a participatory and transparent manner.	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) – 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform followed research ethics and good practice.	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) – 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform has been able to meet the needs of CGIAR Partners	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) – 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
Please comment on your previous responses. (Optional)	Comment box	

Capacity Building

Questions	Type	Answers
Which of the following capacity building activities of the Platform did you engage with? Select all that apply	Checkbox	a) I participated in trainings and workshops b) I participated in Genebank Health Units workshops (GHU) c) I followed GROW webinars d) I attended the Annual Genebank Meeting e) I participated in farmers’ open day f) I contributed to technical reports and publications g) I participated in Genetic Resources Policy courses

Questions	Type	Answers
		h) QMS events i) GOAL workshops j) None of the above k) Others_____
To which extend do you agree with the following statement? Thanks to the Platform I have effectively engaged and shared knowledge with a wider network of researchers and institutions working on genetic diversity.	Likert Scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A Comment Box: Please comment on your previous response.
The Platform provided support to improve the quality of my work	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform strengthened capacity in germplasm management and conservation	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform strengthened the capacity of CGIAR to implement and influence international policies and laws	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + "I don't know" N/A
The Platform strengthened the capacity of National partners to implement and influence international policies and laws	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + "I don't know" N/A
The Platform strengthened capacity in complying with international policies on germplasm exchange	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
Please comment on your previous answers. (Optional)	Comment box	

GHU Deep dive questions

Question	Type	Answer
The Platform facilitated improved knowledge and practice of germplasm health testing.	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A

Question	Type	Answer
The Platform strengthened capacity in germplasm health management	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The Platform strengthened interaction National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs).	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
Please comment on your previous answers. (Optional)	Comment box	

Experience with the Communities of Practice (CoPs)

Question	Type	Answer
To what extent did Platform's CoPs provide the opportunity for knowledge sharing in most Genebank relevant areas? Select the COPs that is (are) relevant to you.	Matrix: rows CoPs list a) Quality Management System b) Impact fellows c) Data Management d) Clonal Crops e) Gap Analysis f) Genetic Resources Policy g) Seed Quality Management h) Genebank Health Units	Columns i) Not at all j) To a little extent k) To some extent l) To a large extent m) To a very large extent n) I don't know

Experience with the Communities of Practice (CoPs) – part 2

Question	Type	Answer
How often did you engage with the CoP?	Multiple choice	a) On a daily basis b) At least once a week c) Twice a week d) Fortnightly e) On a monthly basis f) Quarterly g) Once in a year h) Less than once in a year
To What extent do you agree with the following statements?		
My expectations were met with my engagement in the Community of Practice	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A

Question	Type	Answer
CoP efforts helped strengthen members' capacities	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
CoP helped build relationships with external partners.	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
The CoP helped harmonize operating procedures across the CGIAR	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
Please comment on your previous answers. (Optional)	Comment box	
Please give 2-3 examples of COP helping the platform to make progress on conservation, use or policy. (Optional)	Comment box	

Request for Germplasm

Question	Type	Answer
Have you requested germplasm from one or more CGIAR Genebanks between 2017-2021?	Multiple choice	a) Yes b) No

Experience with use of accessions

Question	Type	Answer
What use(s) did you make of the accessions obtained from CGAR Genebanks ?	Multiple choice	c) Breeding d) Research e) Cultivation f) Others (please specify)
Has your breeding program become more effective as a result of Genebank Platform recommendations, training, and support?	Multiple choice	g) Yes, Genebank Platform recommendations, training, and support have made my breeding program more effective h) No, Genebank Platform recommendations, training,

Question	Type	Answer
		and support have not made my breeding program more effective i) I don't know
Has your breeding program become more effective as a result of Genebank documentation on available germplasm?	Multiple choice	a) Yes, Genebank documentation on available germplasm made my breeding program more effective b) No, Genebank documentation on available germplasm have not made my breeding program more effective j) I don't know
Which kind of accessions did you request?	Checkboxes	a) Seeds c) In-vitro
From which Genebank did you request accessions?	Check boxes	<i>List of genebanks</i> a) ICARDA b) IRRI c) ICRISAT d) CIMMYT e) Bioversity International f) CIAT g) IITA h) AfricaRice i) ILRI j) CIP d) ICRAF
For which crops?	Open question	e) _____ -
What has been the average time between requesting and receiving materials?	Multiple choice	a) Within 2 weeks b) 2 to 4 weeks c) 1 to 2 months d) 2 to 6 months e) 6 months to 1 year f) More than 1 year f) I never received what I requested
Which of the followings were utilized to select for the desired accessions? <i>Select all that apply</i>	Checkboxes	a) Center's Genebank database b) Genesys c) A colleague recommendation d) Personal recommendations from Genebank's employee

Question	Type	Answer
		e) Previous research studies g) N/A
How easy was the access to information on desired traits?	Multiple choice	a) Very easy b) Relatively easy c) Normal d) Difficult e) Very difficult f) I could not find any information
Please describe the type of research outputs that have resulted from the requested germplasm. Select all that apply	Checkboxes	a) Genomics or functional genomics b) Phenotype/phenomics c) Taxonomy d) Diversity or evolution e) Conservation methods f) Other
How have these research outputs been used?	Multiple choice	a) Educational purposes b) Forwarded to other research projects c) Varietal development f) Other
How would you categorize the usefulness of the material obtained through the genebanks?	Multiple choice	a) Essential b) Very useful c) Useful d) Minimally useful d) Not useful
In the absence of the CGIAR Genebank, would you have had access to an alternative source of germplasm for your project?	Multiple choice	a) Yes b) No e) I don't know
If yes, please list the alternatives (if known)	Comment box	c)
Without access to this germplasm, would you anticipate an altered outcome to your project?	Multiple choice	a) Yes b) No c) I don't know d)
If yes, please comment	Comment box	d)
Overall, how satisfied are you with the material received?	Matrix: Rows - Quality of the information received with the material, including legal information - Health of germplasm	Columns a) Extremely dissatisfied b) Dissatisfied c) Satisfied d) Very satisfied e) Extremely satisfied

Question	Type	Answer
	• Viability of germplasm • Labeling of germplasm • Packaging of germplasm • Physical quantity of seeds • Ease of ordering germplasm • Accessibility to information regarding the accessions Time between request and reception of accessions	
Did you provide feedback to the Genebank on the quality of the accessions?		a) Yes No
Did you provide feedback to the Genebank on how you used the accession?		b) Yes c) No d)
Over the next 10 years, do you expect your need for CGIAR germplasm and Genebanks' services to change?	Multiple choice	a) Increase b) Stay the same c) Decrease d) N/A e) I don't know
Which types of germplasm materials would you most likely consider for future work?	Multiple choice	a) Traditional cultivars or landraces b) Breeding or research material c) Advanced improved cultivar d) Wild species e) Genetic stocks e) Other
What can be done to encourage the use of CGIAR germplasm and genebank services? <i>Optional</i>	Comment box	f)

Genesys users

Question	Type	Answer
Genesys was more convenient and faster compared to searching accessions and accession data through genebanks' websites/databases	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A

Question	Type	Answer
Using Genesys I could easily find information on germplasm that met my needs	Likert scale	Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A
Genesys provides access to 4 categories of data. Which ones did you use?	Check boxes	a) Passport data b) Subsets and core collections c) Characterization and evaluation datasets d) Crop descriptors lists
Which missing datasets or functions would you like to integrate/developed in Genesys? <i>Optional</i>	Comment box	
Thanks to Genesys, I can better design studies, research experiments or breeding schemes.		Points 1 (strongly disagree) - 5 (Strongly agree) + N/A

Transition to Initiative

Question	Type	Answer
Do you understand why the Genebank Platform transitioned to the Genebanks Initiative	Multiple choice	a) Yes, I understand b) I somewhat understand c) No, I so not understand d) I am unaware of changes
Have you worked with Genebank leadership and/or your manager to adjust your role/responsibilities during transition to the Genebanks Initiative?	Multiple Choice	a) Yes, I have collaboratively adjusted my role and responsibilities with management. b) I am unsure if my role and responsibilities have changed. c) My roles and responsibilities changed but I was not consulted. e) No, my roles and responsibilities have not changed.

Experience with Funders

Questions	Type	Answers
How satisfied were you with the overall delivery of the activities supported by your contribution?	- Quality of outputs - Delivery of expected results - Overall timeliness - Cost effectiveness	- Highly satisfied - Somehow satisfied - Somewhat dissatisfied - Highly dissatisfied Others (please specify)
How satisfied with the platform monitoring & reporting?	- Detail - Frequency & timeliness - Usefulness in steering the Platform and decision-making	- Highly satisfied - Somehow satisfied - Somewhat dissatisfied - Highly dissatisfied Others (please specify)
How satisfied were you with efforts to disseminate information about Platform activities and results?	Multiple choice	- Highly satisfied - Somehow satisfied - Somewhat dissatisfied - Highly dissatisfied Others (please specify)

Forward looking

Questions	Type	Answers
How would you like to see the Genebanks Initiative support your work and objectives?	Comment box	
What, if anything, should the Initiative do differently to enable it to meet its objectives for germplasm conservation and use?	Comment Box	
What does success look like according to you?	Comment box	
In your opinion, what are the best indicators to measure the success of the Genebank Initiative?	Comment box	

Respondents' background

Questions	Type	Answers
Sex	Multiple Choice	a) Male b) Female

Questions	Type	Answers
		c) Non-binary d) Rather not say e) Other
Age	Multiple Choice	a) Less than 18 b) 18-24 c) 25-34 d) 35-44 e) 45-54 f) 55-64 g) 65+
What is your first nationality?	Dropdown	
What is the highest level of education you have completed?	Multiple Choice	a) Post-secondary school qualifications (non-tertiary) b) Graduate or equivalent c) Master's/Post-graduate d) PhD/Doctorate

End of the Survey

Questions	Type	Answers
If you would like an individual interview (remote), or if you are willing to be contacted for follow-up, please leave your e-mail address (optional).	Comment Box	
If there is someone outside the CGIAR system that may have interacted with the Platform to whom you believe we should share the link to this survey, please state here.	Comment Box	

S



Independent
Advisory and
Evaluation
Service

Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service

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