

Objective

To support the global system for the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Key activities in Ethiopia

- Forage seed testing and processing
- Forage seed conservation
- Forage seed multiplication and regeneration in Shola, Bishoftu, Zwai and Sodo
- Forage germplasm characterization
- Forage seed distribution



INITIATIVE ON

Genebanks

Genebanks Initiative



Environmental health & biodiversity

70,000 additional genetic accessions become available (an increase of 15%). Agrobiodiversity conserved in genebanks and made available for use underpins efforts to reduce the loss of genetic variation at all levels and to safely restore and diversify agroecosystems, supporting the provision of environmental services as well as crop genetic resources



Nutrition, health & food security

More than 23.1 million people (4.7 million households) are projected to benefit from high-yield vitamin A-rich cassava and orange-flesh sweet potato. Agrobiodiversity available in genebanks includes nutritional traits and variation and resilient landraces to underpin farming system diversification and crop improvement in support of planetary and human health, and nutrition and food security.



Poverty reduction, livelihoods & jobs

More than 42.6 million people (9 million households) are projected to benefit from high-yield high-zinc rice, stress-tolerant maize, and high-yield wheat. Agrobiodiversity available in genebanks includes specific crops and genotypes to underpin crop improvement and farming system diversification in support of efforts to increase farmers' employment and income and thus reduce poverty and enhance livelihoods. Crop improvement also contributes not only to the volume of crop yields, but also to their stability, which is especially critical for farmers in vulnerable and marginal situations.



Gender equality, youth & social inclusion

More than 2.5 million women producers (and 3.4 million women and girls in adopting households) are projected to benefit from high-yield fast-cooking beans and orange-flesh sweet potato. Some needs of women, men and youth may be addressed by providing improved technologies (varieties with adaptive traits) that respond to their preferences (such as those that can reduce processing labor, quality traits and income-generating traits) and by repatriating landraces that have been selected by women over time for particular preferred traits.



Climate adaptation & mitigation

More than 69.9 million people (14.7 million households) are projected to benefit from stress-tolerant maize. Genebanks hold landraces and crop wild relatives that are a rich source of adaptive traits and genetic material that can be made available through a range of tools and approaches in adaptive breeding, developing new stable varieties of globally important crops to adapt to new challenges linked to climate change.

2022 achievements

- Training for five technicians/scientist from the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute on molecular and serological plant health testing, seed conservation processes, SQM, documentation and germplasm health—at ILRI Genebank.
- Distribution of approximately 800 kg of seed and over 200,000 cuttings/root splits for fodder production and 760 samples for forage research in Ethiopia.
- Survey to establish knowledge and capacity gaps on plant health testing carried out under Genebanks GHU and Plant Health Initiative.
- Regional access and benefit sharing (ABS) training workshop held in Addis Ababa co-hosted by ILRI, Alliance-Bioversity, African Union.

Partners



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Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR)



- Universities,
- NGOs and
- farmers

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