

Name of Issue:

Does our knowledge and tools facilitate collection of the most valuable plant gene resources into the gene banks?

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Highlights from the discussion:

Questions and answers:

What do “the most valuable gene resources” mean?

- Are we able to agree on the criteria?
- Which genes are valuable in the future? -We do not know that now!
- Both phenotype and genotype information will be needed for decision making; no single test or method is sufficient (yet)- molecular markers will however be of a great value.
- It will be necessary to collect first “too much” material.
 - Concerning seeds no practical problems to store them.
 - In the case of laborious in-situ collection, (like woody plants) it will be necessary to select core collections out of the material 1). Plant itself 2). High heterogeneity in the collection as the main value criteria.

Future/Next Step: Criteria for selection should be further discussed and decide, and methods to improve characterisations of genetic resources should be developed and harmonised.