



Securing our Food, Forever

The Crop Trust is an international non-profit organization dedicated to conserving and making crop diversity available for use globally, forever and for the benefit of everyone.

Our vision

A robust global network of genebanks conserves the world's crop diversity and makes it available to combat the effects of the climate crisis and secure sustainable, nutritious, equitable and resilient food systems, forever.

Our mission

To combat the effects of the climate crisis on our food systems, we grow and nurture an endowment fund which, through long-term funding, secures key collections of crop diversity in genebanks worldwide.

Working closely with our dedicated donors and partners, we coordinate and implement large-scale projects worldwide, support the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and proactive pre-breeding efforts around the world to secure crop diversity and make it available for use to secure global food and nutrition security.



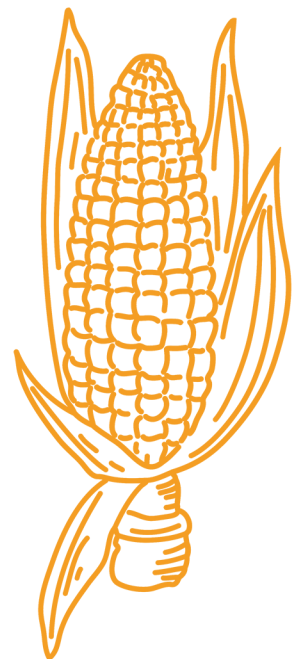
Brent Stirton/Reportage by
Getty Images for Crop Trust

Why We Need Crop Diversity

Securing the world's crop diversity in the face of multiple crises is a global concern and a prerequisite for future food and nutrition security.

Only by safeguarding crop diversity in perpetuity, and making it available for use by researchers, plant breeders and farmers, can we adapt agriculture to the climate crisis, reduce environmental degradation, improve livelihoods and feed everyone adequately.

The importance of the conservation and use of crop diversity is recognized in both international law and policy, as well as in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Crop Trust is recognized as an essential component of the funding strategy of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.



Threats to Crop Diversity

We are losing the diversity of crops and their wild relatives at an alarming rate. This erosion of crop diversity is undermining the resilience of food systems. Increasingly rapid environmental, technological and social changes, including extreme weather events, changes in agricultural practices, the emergence and spread of new pests and diseases, and conflict, are causing crop diversity to disappear in many places around the world.

And once a heirloom variety or wild crop relative is lost, it is **gone forever**.



Securing our Food Supply

Out of 20,000 edible plants, and 6,000 that have historically been used as food, fewer than 200 now make a major contribution to food production, and just nine account for two thirds of food production, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.

Through its critical support to a global network of genebanks, the Crop Trust works to support the adaptation of our food systems to the climate crisis to ensure better nutrition and health, and provide the basis for sustainable agriculture.





Svalbard Global Seed Vault/
Riccardo Gangale



The Svalbard Global Seed Vault

The loss of a crop variety is as irreversible as the extinction of a dinosaur, animal or any form of life. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is our insurance against such a loss as the world's largest backup facility for crop diversity and has the capacity to store 4.5 million crop varieties. Each packet of seeds contains of an average of 500 seeds, so a maximum of 2.5 billion seeds may be stored in the Seed Vault.

Currently, the Seed Vault holds more than 1.1 million seed varieties, originating from almost every country in the world.

The Seed Vault was established and is owned by Norway. It is operated in a unique partnership between the Norwegian Ministry of Food and Agriculture, the regional genebank NordGen and the Crop Trust.

The Crop Diversity Endowment Fund

Despite the cost-effectiveness of genebanks, meeting their long-term operational costs is rarely on a secure, sustainable footing. Yet reliable funding is absolutely crucial: a shortfall in financial resources can lead to the permanent loss of unique varieties. That is where the Crop Diversity Endowment Fund comes into play.

The Crop Trust grows and nurtures an endowment fund to ensure stable, predictable funding for an efficient and effective global system of crop collections in perpetuity.

The organization calculates that an endowment fund of **USD 850 million** is required to generate the necessary annual returns needed for this support.

Support the Crop Trust in responding to the crisis threatening the foundation of our food. Learn more at www.croptrust.org

+49 228 85427 118
www.croptrust.org
info@croptrust.org

Platz der Vereinten
Nationen 7
53113 Bonn, Germany