

National Institute for Agricultural Research, Morocco



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Genebank at a Glance

Acronym	INRA
Country	Morocco
Year established	2003
Conservation methods and facilities	Seed
Number of staff	7
Total number of accessions	72,380
Number of accessions distributed annually	300



Evaluation of maize accessions for drought tolerance (2023).

Recent Highlights

- The genebank holds over 70,000 accessions representing a total of 166 genera and 568 species/subspecies. Since 2011, it has added 25,000 new samples to its collection.
- It has deposited approximately 1,000 seed samples representing 46 species in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.
- A new genetic resources center near Rabat is expected to be operational by mid-2024 and will house plant, animal and microbial genetic resources units.
- The genebank is identifying and characterizing valuable traits within the germplasm collections, such as disease resistance and nutritional content, aiming to help develop crops that are better suited to the changing environmental conditions and nutritional demands.
- Utilizing the genetic diversity stored in the genebank, researchers collaborate with plant breeders to develop improved crop varieties. These varieties can exhibit higher yield, enhanced nutritional quality, and resilience to pests and diseases.
- By studying genetic variation among different accessions, researchers gain insights into the underlying mechanisms of adaptation, informing the development of climate-resilient crops.
- The genebank engages in the development of genetic maps and identification of molecular markers associated with desirable traits, facilitating more efficient breeding strategies.
- Collaborative projects, such as BOLD, help the genebank conserve crop diversity and amplify the impact of genebank research on a global scale.
- The genebank is closely connected with INRA breeders and researchers, and also collaborates with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).



Collecting mission in the Rif mountains (2023).



Characterization of barley accessions for morphological traits (2023).



Multiplication of a barley collection conserved at the INRA genebank (2023).



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