

Bhutan National Plant Genebank



Recent Highlights

- The genebank has secured a rich diversity of crops from the different areas of the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan that have national and global significance to contribute to food and nutrition security.
- A Security Backup Genebank at the Agriculture and Research Development Centre at Wengkhar in eastern Bhutan was established in 2015 to mitigate the risk of loss of germplasm collections to natural or man-made catastrophes.
- The Community Seed Banks (CSBs) at Phuntshothang and Gomdar in Eastern Bhutan were established in 2010 and at Chokhor in Bumthang in east-central Bhutan in 2011.
- The Genetic Resources Policy Initiative (GRPI II) project was implemented from 2013 to 2015 with financial and technical support from Bioversity International, which supported policy, awareness, and research on the implementation of the Multilateral System (MLS).
- An internship program for students from the College of Natural Resources, Royal Technical College, the Sherubtse College and other students on all aspects of PGRFA conservation and sustainable utilization was established.
- Every 2 to 3 years, biodiversity fairs are conducted, providing the opportunity to encourage farmers to maintain crop diversity in their fields, as well as to recognize their efforts in maintaining diversity. It also provides a platform for exchanging seeds and knowledge amongst different farming communities in the country.

Genebank at a Glance

Acronym	BNPGB
Country	Bhutan
Year established	2005
Conservation methods and facilities	Seed, field collection
Number of staff	8
Total number of accessions	3,500
Number of accessions distributed annually	100

