

National Plant Genetic Resources Centre, Zambia

Genebank at a Glance

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| Full name | National Plant Genetic Resources Centre, Zambia. Agriculture Research Institute (ZARI) |
| Acronym | ZARI |
| Country | Zambia |
| Year established | 1989 |
| Conservation methods and facilities | Seed, field collection |
| Number of staff | 6 |
| Total number of accessions | 7,000 |
| Number of accessions distributed annually | 100 nationally and 5 internationally |



Recent Highlights

- In addition to conserving diversity, the genebank is heavily involved in the value chains of different crops, especially some neglected and underutilized varieties such as sorghum, for which products are being developed and assessed for commercialization in Zambia.
- The genebank established one community seed bank, thus allowing it to directly partner with farmers in germplasm conservation, variety selection and enhancement. Through this facility more than 100 farmers have indirectly benefited from the community seed bank activities.
- With the support of The Seeds for Resilience project, the genebank is working to upgrade its equipment, facilities, and irrigation infrastructure, and develop staff capacity in quality management, characterization, dissemination and evaluation of germplasm. Through this, they provide a platform for farmers to sample genebank materials to help it with evaluation and selection of varieties. Currently, sorghum, millets, sweet potato, cassava, Bambara ground nut, cowpea and beans are being evaluated in four districts of Zambia.
- The genebank recollected 260 sweet potato accessions from Zambia and safety duplicated this material at the International Potato Center (CIP) in Peru.

