

# Leipniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Germany

## Genebank at a Glance

<b>Acronym</b>	IPK
<b>Country</b>	Germany
<b>Year established</b>	1943
<b>Conservation methods and facilities</b>	Seeds, <i>in vitro</i> , cryo-preservation, field collection
<b>Number of staff</b>	60
<b>Total number of accessions</b>	152,504
<b>Number of accessions distributed annually</b>	20,000

## Recent Highlights

- Based on over 160 collecting missions, the genebank is one of the world's largest plant germplasm collections, comprising 92 families, 758 genera, and 3,102 species.
- The genebank curates a herbarium comprising over 446,000 voucher specimens, about 109,000 seed/fruit reference samples and 56,600 cereal/grass spikes.
- Genotyping started in 2011, in particular of the barley, in particular of the barley, rye, and faba bean collections.
- High quality germplasm is made available to researchers, breeders and private persons, together with the available data from the in-house developed data management system (GBIS).
- Of particular research interest are the molecular basis of evolution and speciation and the identity of the drivers of intraspecific diversity, since these are expected to provide important insights into the adaptation of crop plants to a changing environment.
- An important contribution is made by the systematic acquisition of DNA sequence data from sub-collections of each accession alongside its phenotype; this activity fits with the continuing expansion of the genebank's digital information offering and its planned development into a bio digital resource centre.

