

Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias, Ecuador



Genebank at a Glance

Acronym	INIAP
Country	Ecuador
Year established	1991
Conservation methods and facilities	Seed, <i>in vitro</i> , cryo-preservation, field collection
Number of staff	9
Total number of accessions	43,000
Number of accessions distributed annually	28,654

Recent Highlights

- Over the last 20 years, the genebank has returned crop diversity to farmers' fields through bio-knowledge centers and community seed banks. This effort has resulted in over 500 accessions from 10 species being returned to over 1,500 farmers.
- Multiplication of highly sought-after varieties has provided communities with diversity through seed producers. These activities have led to the distribution of diversity of corn, beans, and potatoes, to over 2,000 farmers.
- Currently, the genebank is engaged in projects focusing on the collection, characterization, and seed multiplication of underutilized species. These initiatives also involve conducting inventories of wild species linked to cultivated ones and edible wild species, including blackberry, vanilla, and white cacao, with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- Through the BOLD project, the genebank is improving its equipment, strengthening its data management systems, and building capacity to better share germplasm with farmers and other users.
- Additionally, the genebank is characterizing wild potato relatives gathered in Ecuador to identify those with resistance to Late Blight (LB). Accessions of wild potato relatives, previously collected in Ecuador and housed at INIAP, will undergo evaluation for the presence of 10 genes primarily associated with LB resistance. Accessions that exhibit resistance to LB will be chosen for future breeding, followed by assessments in either greenhouse or field settings.
- Ninety accessions of wild potato relatives will undergo characterization for a combination of physical traits, molecular markers and ecological adaptation. This comprehensive approach will help create a detailed profile of the features of these potato wild relatives. This not only contributes to a better understanding of the diversity among Ecuadorian potato wild relatives but also aids in the process of regenerating genebank material.

