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## **Generation Challenge Programme and Global Crop Diversity Trust sign commitment to collaborate**

### *Memorandum of Understanding a first step to joint work programme*

WASHINGTON DC, USA (5 December 2006). The Generation Challenge Programme ([www.generationcp.org](http://www.generationcp.org)) and the Trust inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during a brief ceremony in Washington, D.C. on 5 December. The Generation Challenge Programme is a research and capacity building network that uses plant genetic diversity, advanced genomic science, and comparative biology to develop tools and technologies that enable plant breeders in the developing world to produce better crop varieties for resource-poor farmers. The MOU commits the two organizations to collaboration in a number of areas including the evaluation and documentation of samples held in genebank collections and the identification of unintended duplications within and between such collections.

Jean-Marcel Ribaut, GCP director, noted that “Our organizations have complimentary mandates, and together we can work more efficiently and toward greater impact.” Cary Fowler, the Trust’s Executive Secretary hailed the agreement as “an important step in ensuring that the crop diversity we conserve can be fully utilized to make agriculture more resilient and productive in the face of challenges such as climate change, and energy and water constraints.” The organizations will now explore possibilities for joint research and programming.

