



Annual Report 2009



**GLOBAL CROP
DIVERSITY TRUST**
A FOUNDATION FOR FOOD SECURITY



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Introduction

CLIMATE CHANGE DOMINATED THE MEDIA in the months leading up to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen at the end of 2009. Much of the attention focussed on the nightmare scenarios that would unfold if climate change is not addressed – including the oft-repeated assertions that crop yields would drop dramatically.

This was, correctly, cited as a motivation to act. After all, no greater failure could afflict societies anywhere than the failure of their crops, and the resulting inability to feed themselves. So it seems extraordinary that adapting agriculture to climate change barely warranted a mention in the official documents.

The Trust has worked hard to challenge this complacency. In February 2009, with Norway, we co-organised an anniversary celebration of the opening of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, and used the spectacular Arctic setting to launch a plea from the assembled climate change and agriculture experts: "At Copenhagen, we ask the nations of the world to recognise the urgency of adapting agriculture to climate change, that crop diversity is a prerequisite for this adaptation, and therefore that the importance of ensuring that the genetic diversity of our crops is properly conserved and available is a basic prerequisite for feeding a warming world".

Yet while agriculture remained unacknowledged in the run up to Copenhagen, in an apparently parallel universe, countries committed to achieve food security at the World Summit on Food Security. At the Trust, we tried to bring these two worlds together, issuing a statement to the world's media signed by a remarkable group of over 70 leading thinkers in development: "No credible or effective agreement to address the challenges of climate change can ignore agriculture and the need for crop adaptation to ensure the world's future food supplies".

Crops, of course, cannot be adapted to meet climate change or any other challenge without crop diversity, and we continue to lay the groundwork for future food security, whatever the climate may be. That is the main subject of this report, and in the pages that follow you will find details of a highly successful year in which more than 40 grant agreements were signed with partners in every corner of the world, to conserve, use and better understand national and international collections of crop diversity.

So as international political agreements very slowly begin to join the dots between agriculture and climate change, our work continues to gather pace. Crop diversity is safer this year than last, and will be safer again next year. We thank all our donors, partners and supporters for making this possible, and for having the foresight to recognize the urgency of our work.



MARGARET CATLEY-CARLSON
CHAIR



CARY FOWLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Highlights

SIGNED 42 grant agreements with institutes from all across the world, including:

- 17 competitive grants to 24 institutes in 22 countries, to evaluate priority crop collections for traits essential to climate change adaptation
- 17 grants to institutes in 42 countries to carry out regeneration and safety duplication of threatened seed samples

INITIATED the first long term grant agreement with a non-CGIAR institute. An agreement was signed with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community to provide 'in perpetuity' funding for the collections of aroids and yam managed by the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees.

LAUNCHED a third round of the competitive grants award scheme for evaluation activities.

INITIATED a new competitive grants scheme for collecting of wild crop relatives or landraces which are entirely missing from genebanks.

SUPPORTED the shipment of 127,704 seed samples to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault from seven international collections and three national collections.

HELD two Executive Board meetings, at IRRI in Los Baños, Philippines, and in Rome, Italy.

HELD the annual meeting of the Donors' Council in Rome, Italy.

PRESENTED the Trust's work programme at the third meeting of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Tunis.



The Global System

THE TRUST IS INVESTING IN A WIDE RANGE of fixed-term projects aimed at rescuing threatened crop diversity and enhancing the quality of existing crop collections. This secures the building blocks of a global system for the conservation of crop diversity, which can then be supported, forever, by the in-perpetuity grants from the Trust's endowment.

This work is carried out in partnership with the UN Foundation with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as the Grains Research and Development Corporation of Australia.

Saving

Collecting

The first step in the process of conserving crop diversity in genebanks is to locate and collect this diversity, from farmers' fields and from the wild. Although the greater part of the diversity of many crops has probably been collected, there are gaps in the collections of all crops and in particular of those crops of most importance to the poor. In addition, many of the wild species related to crops are not well represented in genebanks, despite the fact that they may be particularly important for climate change adaptation. The Trust works to identify gaps in collections and to fill these gaps.



Charlotte Lusty/Global Crop Diversity Trust

The Trust has partnered with scientists at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and Bioversity International to develop a methodology, Gap Analysis, which will help scientists identify the most fruitful areas from which to collect and conserve crop wild relatives. This methodology has now been completed and gap analysis results have been produced for 12 major crop gene pools. For more information, please visit <http://gisweb.ciat.cgiar.org/GapAnalysis/>.

In November 2009, the Trust launched its first competitive grants scheme for collecting, announcing a call for proposals to collect crop wild relatives which are entirely missing from genebanks and to fill geographic gaps in existing collections as revealed by such gap analysis. Special preference will be given to species and populations thought to contain traits essential for climate change adaptation.

Regenerating

Like people, seeds grow old and die. Their viability declines when stored for too long, and this happens much faster when seeds are kept in poor conditions. The process of regeneration involves growing out the accessions stored in genebanks and harvesting fresh seed samples, to ensure the diversity lives on. This process also provides an important opportunity to study the plants and capture more information about their characteristics, as well as to send some of the seed of each accession to an international genebank and to the Seed Vault in Svalbard as a back-up.

The Trust has identified those accessions most at risk, and by the end of 2009, the majority of the planned regeneration projects had been initiated, with a few also nearing completion. 17 new grants for regeneration were signed during the year, involving 46 institutes in 42 different countries.

A number of partners completed their first round of regeneration this year and submitted their first annual progress reports. 43,784 accessions have been successfully regenerated so far and safety duplication of these for the Svalbard Global Seed Vault has begun.

Svalbard Global Seed Vault

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is not an ordinary genebank. It is essentially a simple idea – a remote facility that provides a naturally-frozen back-up to existing genebanks around the world, in the safest



Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway

Svalbard Global Seed Vault: Minister of the Environment and International Development of Norway Erik Solheim, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and Minister of Agriculture and Food of Norway Lars Peder Brekk

possible place. It also remains a uniquely powerful symbol of the importance of crop diversity, and attracts attention to this issue at the very highest levels.

The Trust provides support to developing countries and international organizations to ship safety duplications of their collections to the Seed Vault. In 2009, the Trust funded the deposit of a total of 127,704 accessions in the Vault, bringing the total of Trust supported seed samples at the Vault to 369,199. A total of 491,526 accessions were held in the Vault at the end of 2009.

Svalbard Global Seed Vault Conserving crop diversity for food security

THE WORLD'S SEEDBANKS ARE VULNERABLE. Underfunding, wars and extreme weather have all taken their toll in recent years. A safety net is needed to make sure that such events do not mean extinction for unique crop varieties. This is the purpose of the Seed Vault.

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, or the Doomsday Vault as the media have nicknamed it, was officially opened on February 26, 2008, to serve as the ultimate safety net for one of the world's most important natural resources.

The Seed Vault has a capacity of 4.5 million seed samples (three times the number of unique samples thought to exist), equivalent to about 2 billion seeds. The facility started with the deposit of safety duplicates of the international collections managed by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centres, as well as a number of key national genebanks. The ultimate goal of the Vault is to safeguard as much of the world's unique crop genetic material as possible.

The Trust contributes to the Seed Vault through technical advice and assistance, and by providing annual operating support, and by facilitating and sponsoring the shipment of the majority of seeds to the Vault. Safety duplicates of the seeds regenerated with funding from the Trust are all shipped to the Vault, as are unique accessions from the international collections held by the CGIAR.

Since its opening in 2008, the Seed Vault has captured the world's attention and highlighted the importance of crop diversity in adapting to climate change. On the first anniversary of the opening of the Seed Vault, an event was held drawing together leading figures from the fields of agriculture and climate change, to highlight how these frozen seeds, and the diversity they contain, lie at the heart of our response to the challenges facing our food supply. Participants issued a statement calling for crop diversity to be acknowledged as an essential prerequisite for climate change adaptation to be placed at the heart of discussions on adapting climate change to be held later the same year.

See Annex 4 for the full statement.

Managing

Upgrading

The infrastructure of several important genebanks requires upgrading if they are to continue carrying out their conservation tasks effectively.

The Trust continues to support the upgrading of two of these key international genebanks: the Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CATIE) in Costa Rica and the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC). The funds from the Trust are being used to replace equipment and clear backlogs in essential processes, such as regeneration and documentation.

Data Management

The Trust has been working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Bioversity International to develop and deploy a state-of-the-art genebank management programme which will be user-friendly, flexible and powerful, and useful for all sizes and types of genebanks anywhere in the world. The programme will be made freely available to genebanks to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their operations.

A prototype of the system has been developed and is being tested. The deployment of the new system, supported by training of key personnel, is scheduled for 2010.

Cryopreservation

Crops that do not produce seed or that have seeds that are hard to store cannot be conserved by simply keeping them safe in cold, dry conditions in conventional seed genebanks. Alternative methods for storage of such vegetatively propagated crops are expensive. This problem is compounded by the fact that these crops are often of particular importance to the poor, and so have seen little investment in the past. The Trust is therefore supporting research into cryopreservation – storing plant tissue in liquid nitrogen at -196°C – which is may be a more cost effective and sustainable than the alternatives used to date.

Last year the Trust entered into partnership with seven institutes to develop and refine protocols for cryopreservation of aroids, cassava, sweet potato and yams. Work is well under way, and in April 2009, the partners took part in a cryopreservation symposium and hands-on workshop in Leuven, Belgium, co-funded by the Trust and Bioversity International.

Using

Evaluation

In order for the genetic diversity held in genebanks to be of use to farmers, it must be screened to identify useful traits, such as resistance to pests and disease, or tolerance to heat or cold. Samples with these traits can then be included in crop improvement programmes. The Trust is providing competitive grants to screen collections for the characteristics with the greatest potential for crop improvement, targeting traits of importance to the poor, in particular in the context of climate change.

The second call for proposals under the competitive grants scheme received 63 proposals. Following their assessment, 17 grants were agreed with 24 institutes in 22 countries covering 25 crop collections. These include testing sweet potato for disease resistance and cold tolerance, wheat for stresses associated with heat and drought and rice for drought, salinity and pest and disease resistance.

After the first two rounds of the competitive grants scheme, the Trust has signed 30 grant agreements for evaluation, involving a total of 41 institutes in 33 countries and 45 crop collections. A third call for evaluation proposals was issued in November 2009.

Global Information System development

In order for crop diversity to be used as effectively as possible, it is vital not only that collections are safe and well managed, but that information about them is easily available to potential users worldwide.

The Trust is supporting the development of GENESYS, an online information portal which will link genebanks worldwide. The project, run in partnership with Bioversity International, will connect existing international information systems, such as the CGIAR System-wide Information Network for Genetic Resources (SINGER) and the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Network's web portal (EURISCO), with the databases of national genebanks. This will enable plant breeders and researchers to search the contents of multiple genebanks worldwide to locate and obtain the genetic resources they need.

In 2009 a prototype of the system was developed and is undergoing testing.

Pre-breeding

Pre-breeding involves identifying desired traits within varieties of crops, and starting to incorporate them into modern breeding materials. This link between genetic resources and breeding programmes is a vital step in the use of conserved crop diversity.

Six pre-breeding projects were initiated in 2009, addressing traits associated with pest and disease resistance, as well as enhanced yield and improved nutritional quality. The projects are part of the Trust's support for the Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building, a partnership facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Through this initiative, more than 100 scientists have also been trained in pre-breeding.

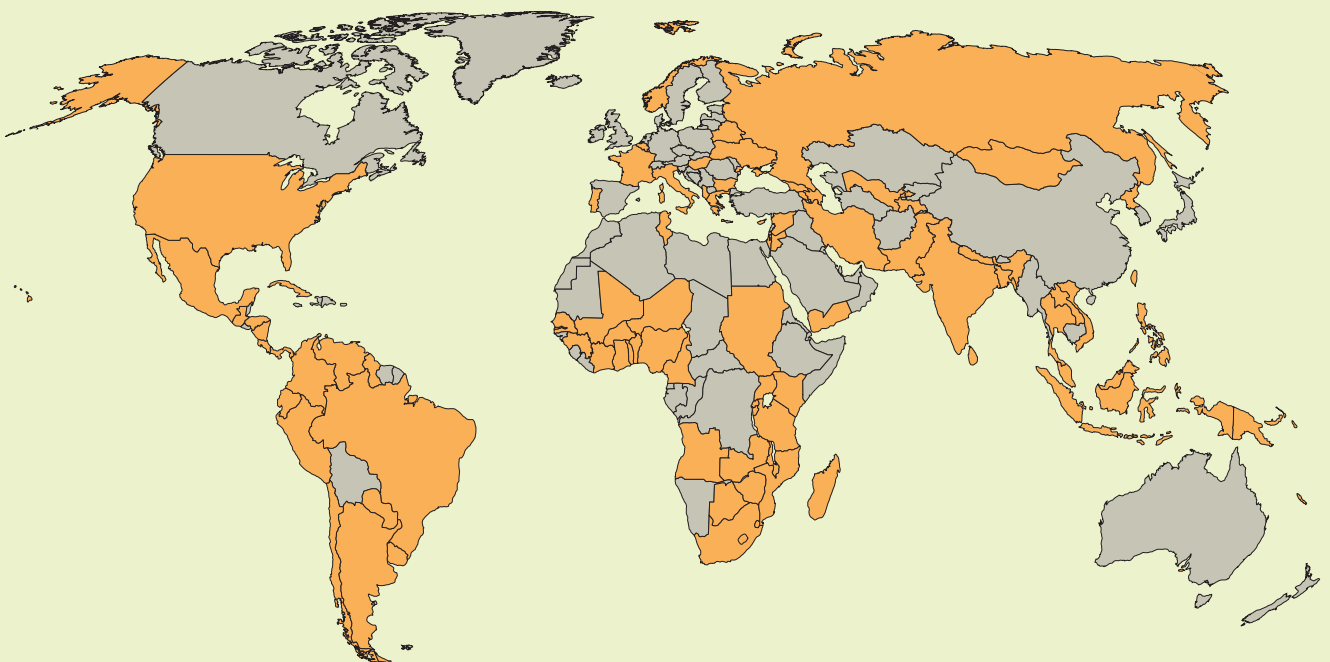
Coconut Embryo Transfer

TRANSPORTING LIVE COCONUTS IS COMPLICATED which is why the Trust supports research into better methods of moving coconut germplasm.

As a result of the grant signed with the Marc Delorme Station of the Centre National de Recherche Agronomique in Côte d'Ivoire in 2008, seed nuts of unique tall accessions have this year been produced through controlled pollination.

Another partnership, with Bioversity International on behalf of the Coconut Genetic Resources Network COGENT, has developed and will test an improved embryo transfer protocol. This project involves national institutes in Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Philippines as well as Côte d'Ivoire. They will first test the protocol on dwarf varieties and then, pending a successful outcome, use the refined protocol to move the unique accessions of tall varieties from Côte d'Ivoire to different national collections to safely duplicate them.

World map indicating countries in which work is being carried out with funding from the Trust



Cumulative grant giving

All the projects described above will contribute to the improvement of existing crop collections, making sure that their long-term conservation is feasible. The cumulative effect of these grants is therefore significant, as the long-term grants from the Trust's endowment are only provided to genebanks holding unique crop material in facilities meeting high international standards.

The table below lists the fixed-term grants awarded until the end of 2009. At the end of the year, total commitments came to USD 11.9 million for grants and activities associated with the global system for use and conservation. Over 100 institutes in more than 80 countries have now received support from the Trust. It is worth underscoring, however, that in every case the benefits of this work extend far beyond the borders of any single country.

This list does not include the long-term grants provided by the Trust, which are outlined in the following section.

Cumulative Giving of Fixed-Term Grants by Activity (since 2007)

Activity	Grants	Institutes	Countries
Collecting	1	1	1
Regeneration	50	88	74
Upgrading	7	7	7
Cryopreservation	6	6	6
Coconut Embryo Research	3	5	5
Evaluation	30	41	33
Information systems	2	2	2
Pre-Breeding	6	6	5

Mid-term review

The work undertaken in partnership with the United Nations Foundation with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation was externally reviewed during the year. Experts from Australia, Brazil and Ethiopia spent over three weeks undertaking the mid-term review in June 2009, which provided an important opportunity for the Trust to receive detailed feedback on its work programme with implications beyond the Gates Foundation-funded project.



In their report, the review panel noted that the Trust was performing at a high standard and that the project will “make a strong contribution towards the long-term security of crop genetic resources and will facilitate better use of these resources by plant breeders and other germplasm users worldwide”. The members of the panel expressed satisfaction with the way the Trust has implemented the project and the reception of the project by partners, most of whom are vigorously and positively engaged. They also noted the measureable progress the Trust has made in the face of sometimes considerable technical and political obstacles.

A pathway for dealing with an indefinite future

AROUND 90% OF THE WORLD'S YAM PRODUCTION is harvested and consumed in the 'yam belt' of West Africa. In large parts of Benin, which lies squarely in the yam belt, yam culture is an integral part of community life and sustainability. Expert farmers in certain villages actively bring in tubers from wild yam plants found in the forest, and promising new domesticated forms continue to be integrated into the rich diversity of yam landraces cultured and consumed in rural communities.

The Trust-funded project for the regeneration and characterisation of the yam collection in Benin is providing an opportunity for farmers to grow and test landraces from distant regions within the country. Dr Alexandre Dansi of the University of Abomey-Calavi, the project manager, has adopted a novel approach and is carrying out the regeneration of the national collection entirely in farmers' fields, employing farmers together with technicians to characterise and evaluate the varieties. Past experience has shown that farmers use different and, in some cases, more detailed characteristics or traits to distinguish varieties as compared to scientists.

One of the benefits of this approach has been to stimulate heightened interest in yam production and diversity over a wide area in Benin. Dansi reports that although city market prices for yam are high compared to other roots and tubers, production is relatively labour-intensive, and the lower-yielding or less valuable traditional varieties are being lost. Happily, as part of the project, Dansi has already sanitised and packed more than 800 yam varieties in a car and sent them to Ibadan, Nigeria, where they are being duplicated safely in the international yam collection managed by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

At IITA, the Benin yams will be planted in the field collection and also conserved in tissue culture. DNA will be extracted from the samples and analysed, enabling scientists to determine just how unique, in genetic terms, the diversity in Benin is compared to other countries in the region – the kind of information that is important to support decisions on which accessions should be part of core collections and deserving of further evaluation.

This particular pathway, from the hundreds or thousands of varieties across rural communities to a few representative specimens in the long-term cryopreserved collection at IITA, illustrates how a global system might work to maximize effectiveness and efficiency. Farmers nurture, develop and pass on a wide diversity of materials and cultural practices as long as their efforts provide returns in some form. Outside of the trends and pressures of the farmers' environment, in the international collections, the vast range of diversity is represented, conserved securely, and may be sourced by everyone for the indefinite future.



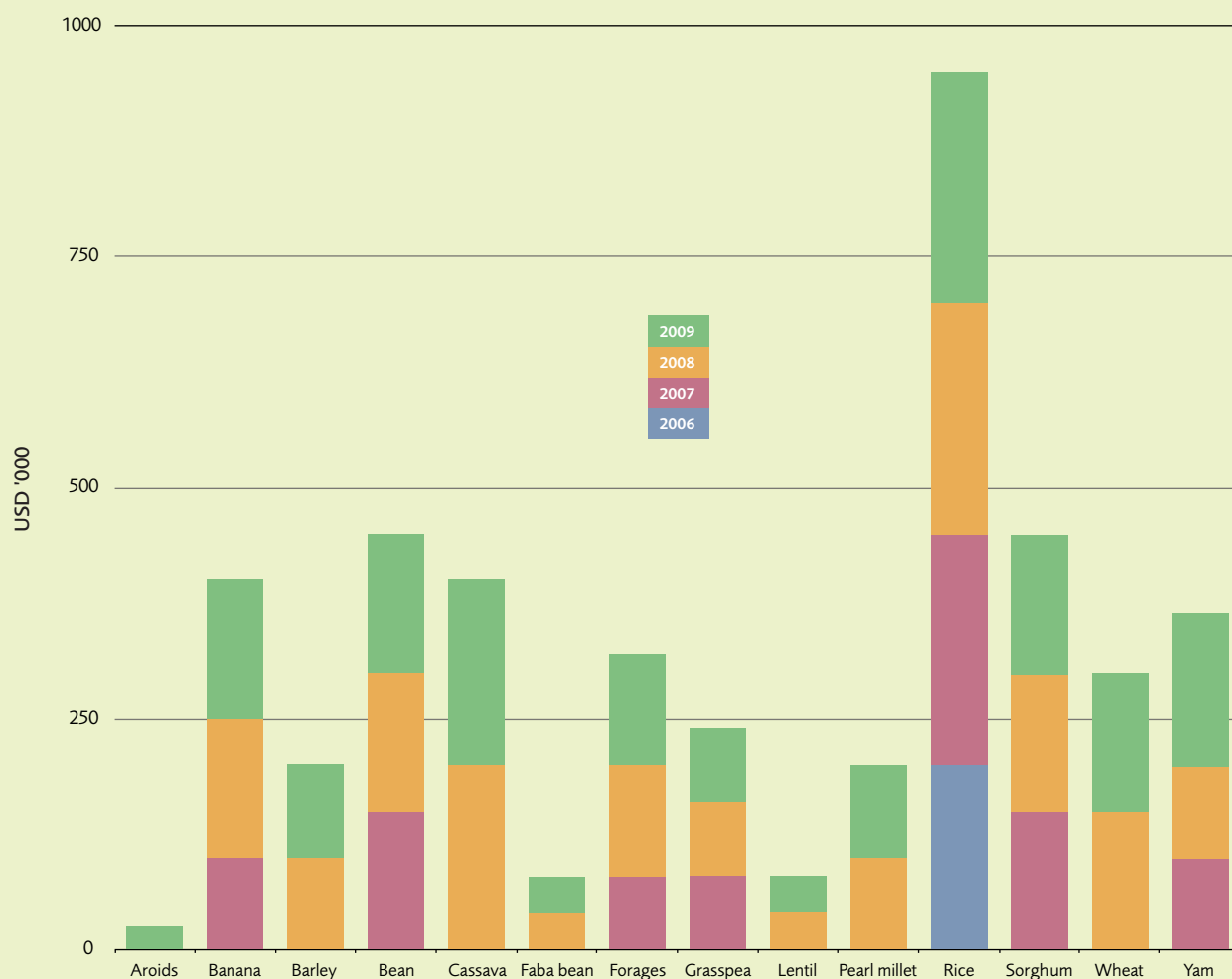
Long-Term Funding

WHILE THE VALUE OF CROP DIVERSITY IS UNDISPUTED, its conservation is far from guaranteed. Funding for genebanks remains unstable and unpredictable, despite the fact that it is the reliability of funding that is probably the single most important risk to effective long-term conservation. The endowment fund of the Trust seeks to resolve this, offering precisely the year-on-year guaranteed funding required to ensure that crop diversity is safe and available forever.

As the fund reaches its optimal size, the annual interest accrued will be sufficient to provide in-perpetuity funding for the operations of all the world's most important collections of crop diversity. In doing so, the Trust is contributing to the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Long-term financial support is provided to collections held and managed in accordance with international standards. All recipients must have undertaken to cooperate to promote the long-term conservation and sustainable utilization of the *ex-situ* collections of germplasm and place them under the terms of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Distribution of Grants by Year and Crop (USD '000).



Distribution of Grants by Year and Crop (USD '000).

YEAR	Aroids	Banana	Barley	Bean	Cassava	Faba bean	Forages	Grasspea	Lentil	Pearl millet	Rice	Sorghum	Wheat	Yam
2009	25	153	102	153	204	41	122	82	41	102	260	153	153	147
2008	0	150	100	150	200	40	120	80	40	100	255	150	150	120
2007	0	100	0	150	0	0	80	80	0	0	250	150	0	100
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	0	0	0

2009 Progress

During 2009, the Trust provided funding for a total of 14 crops in 17 collections held in-trust by 8 CGIAR genebanks, one regional genebank and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. This year the Trust was very happy to sign its first long-term grant agreement with a non-CGIAR centre. The agreement with the Secretariat of Pacific Community's (SPC) Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT) will guarantee the conservation of the region's in-trust collections of aroids and yams, for the indefinite future. The Trust and SPC are very enthusiastic about this partnership and what it means for the sustainable conservation and utilisation of the region's important crop diversity, and therefore for food and nutritional security and economic growth in the Pacific region.

Aroids

MINOR CROPS IN WORLD TRADE, but important for food security, aroids are widespread throughout the humid tropics. The main species are taro from South-East Asia and the cocoyam from Tropical America.

The aroids rarely enter into world commerce, as they are mostly grown in subsistence agriculture systems and for local markets. However, they play a substantial role in the food security of millions of people in the tropics. The starch rich corms, the aroid's short underground stems, are the main product, but the leaves and the flowers are also eaten. Aroids are used as emergency or famine foods in times of food shortage. Some taro cultivars have extreme flood tolerance and can give substantial yields even in places too wet for paddy-field agriculture.

The aroids are known as "orphan crops", meaning they receive minimal attention from modern plant breeding relative to their importance as a food source. The crops in this group clearly have great potential, and there is considerable diversity both within species and between them.

Apart from the SPC funding, long-term funding was maintained at 2008 levels. Other new long-term grants were not issued as part of the conservative financial strategy required to minimize the affects of the global financial crisis on our investments. It is hoped that three additional crop collections will be funded in 2010.

Grant outcomes and impacts

The long-term grant reports for 2008 (received in 2009) represent the second annual round of reporting by grantees and provide the first opportunity to see early trends across priority genebank activities. The 2007 reports provided a baseline for pre-Trust investment, and the 2008 reports have therefore provided an opportunity to see the impact of Trust investment on essential core activities.

Overall, the results for the core conservation activities were positive and the performance indicators showed trends in the right directions.

Backlogs in core genebank operations such as regeneration, viability testing and safety duplication are being reduced, the numbers of accessions conserved under best practice long-term conditions and being documented and made publicly available are increasing. This demonstrates the importance of reliable funding for the planning of essential genebank activities. In just over one year (2007-2008):

- Regeneration backlogs have been reduced from an average of 51% of accessions requiring regeneration to restore viability in 2007 to an average of only 19%.



- The average levels of seeds requiring viability testing has also decreased from an average of 64% of collections in 2007 to 30%.
- The portion of seed collections currently stored under agreed scientific and technical best practice long-term conditions has increased from 76% in 2007 to 83%.

Most Centres are very close to reaching 100% long-term storage for seed, some like IRRI and CIMMYT had already achieved it and others showed good progress in 2008. Vegetatively propagated material is more costly to conserve in terms of time and resources and it will take longer for these crop collections to be adequately conserved for the long term.

Distribution levels were generally greater in 2008 than in the previous year and this included a slight increase in the number of new/different accessions compared to a baseline of the past 4 years.

In addition, the Inter-Centre Working Group of CGIAR Cenebank Managers agreed to harmonize their genebank performance indicators with those developed and being used by the Trust for long-term grants monitoring so that only one set of performance indicators are being used. Given that no suitable indicators for monitoring genebank performance existed previously, this adoption by the international genebank community is very welcome and should ensure greater efficiency as well as promote best practice.

Further impact of Trust funding

The narrative reports provide interesting detail on the impact of the Trust's funding. Many noted that the grants have guaranteed the international status of the collections and have had a dramatic impact on their operations. The funds have ensured the continued upgrading of the collections; regeneration, safety backup and multiplication for building up stock for distribution. The overall picture shows that:

- more accessions are being made available to the multilateral system of the International Treaty, allowing breeders and curators a wider choice of material with which to work.
- accessions are better documented and thus more easily accessible by the scientific community.



Charlotte Lusty/Global Crop Diversity Trust



Jim Richardson

Governance

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IS THE PRINCIPAL DECISION-MAKING BODY OF THE TRUST.

The members of the Board (see Annex 2) are elected by the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Trust's Donors' Council. In 2009, Executive Board Members continued to be engaged in advocating the work of the Trust through supporting fundraising efforts, developing strong partnerships with stakeholders, as well as promoting the work and message of the Trust through national and international media outlets.

This year the Board convened a strategy meeting at IRRRI in Los Baños, Philippines in April and held its annual business meeting in Rome in November.

Two new members joined the Board and attended the first meeting in April. Assistant Director - General for the Agriculture Department, Modibo Traore, represents the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the Director General of Bioversity International, Emile Frison, replaces Mangala Rai as the representative for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Key events and achievements of the year:

- Elected Margaret Catley-Carson to a second term as Chairperson
- Elected Professor Adel El-Beltagy as Vice-Chairperson for 2010
- Appointed Lew Coleman to the Board for another term of three years
- Bade farewell to Karl-Eric Olsson whose term on the Board had expired
- Accepted the Finance and Investment Committee's report and its recommendation for a revised investment strategy.
- Reviewed and edited the Trust's risk matrix and Annual Board Risk Statement. At its April meeting in the Philippines the Board focussed on the key areas of risk facing the Trust, developing strategies where relevant.
- Took action on progressing a Headquarters Agreement for the Trust.
- Provided strategic advice to the CGIAR Alliance on ensuring sustainable funding to key crop collections during the reform process.
- Discussed and supported **five** new programmatic areas: collecting crop wild relatives, strengthening the global system of genebanks, improving management and information systems, enhancing roots and tubers for food security, and endowing a crop.
- Adopted a final version of the Fund Disbursement Strategy of the Trust, to be reviewed by the Board as required.
- Approved the 2010 work plan and budget.
- Adopted a draft Orientation Programme for new incoming Board Members.
- Approved the extension of the Executive Director's contract for another 5 years.



Donors' Council

The Donors' Council is composed of public and private donors, from both developing and developed countries, who have made a significant contribution to the Trust. The Donors' Council:

- advises the Executive Board on fundraising and other financial matters related to the activities of the Trust;
- provides a forum for the expression of the views of donors on the operation of the Trust;
- provides financial oversight of the operations of the Trust.

To this end, the Donors' Council met in November 2009, to review the 2010 annual budget and consider future programmatic areas for the Trust. The budget, proposed programmatic areas and the Finance and Investment Report were all endorsed.

This year the Donors' Council was also scheduled to elect two new members to the Executive Board. The Council selected:

- Ambassador Walter Fust, CEO of the Global Humanitarian Forum and past Director-General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, to join the Executive Board in 2010;
- Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, former Minister of Agriculture of Brazil and former head of the Organization of Brazilian Cooperatives, to join the Executive Board in 2011.

Governing Body of the International Treaty

The Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held its third meeting in Tunis, Tunisia. As required by the Relationship Agreement between the Governing Body and the Trust, the Board of the Trust provided an annual report to the meeting and the Board Chair gave a well-received presentation. The Governing Body endorsed the Trust's Fund Disbursement Strategy and agreed on a process to elect two new members to the Trust Board beginning in 2010.

The report from the meeting states that the Governing Body "commended the Global Crop Diversity Trust for its excellent programmatic performance during the past biennium, which had made a substantial contribution to attaining the objectives of the International Treaty". The Fund Disbursement Strategy of the Trust was welcomed and supported. It was recommended that the Trust continue to give priority in their funding activities to countries that are Contracting Parties to the International Treaty.

Board members and staff who attended the third meeting of the Governing Body provided positive reports and noted the progress achieved in improved understanding of the Trust's operations and its Fund Disbursement Strategy. The Board welcomed this closer collaboration and understanding and assessed the outcome for the Trust as being very positive.

The Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources elected two new members to the Executive Board:

- Ms. Åslaug Haga, former Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy and Minister of Local Municipalities and Regional Development, and leader of the farmers' party in Norway. Haga will join the Executive Board in 2010.
- Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), and former Prime Minister of Niger. Mayaki will join the Executive Board in 2011.



Charlotte Lusty/Global Crop Diversity Trust

Crop Diversity – An essential part of a climate change response

IN NOVEMBER 2009, world leaders gathered for the World Summit on Food Security in Rome, to discuss how best to produce sufficient food for a population expected to reach 9 billion by the year 2050, especially in the face of a changing climate.

In his address to the World Food Summit, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, who visited the Svalbard Global Seed Vault earlier in the year, firmly linked food security with climate change, and called the current food crisis "a wake up call for tomorrow". Leading up to the event, José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission (who visited the Vault in 2008), spoke of the importance of crop diversity in tackling climate change and called for more high-level attention to this subject, stating that "the impact of biodiversity is often insufficiently understood, which means that we have undervalued its contribution to tackling global challenges. The more diverse the variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, the more resilient it is to change ... Biodiversity is essential for reliable and stable long-term food production".

Delegates at the Summit unanimously adopted a declaration that states "Any recipe for confronting the challenges of climate change must allow for mitigation options and a firm commitment to the adaptation of agriculture, including through conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture."



Fundraising

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF THE TRUST'S RECOGNITION in the US Farm Bill in 2008, the Trust made good progress in fulfilling this funding authorization through the appropriations process. In 2009, two separate bills were passed by the United States Congress pledging a total of USD 17 million. These bills include:

- The FY 2009 State Foreign Operations bill provided for USD 7 million.
- The FY 2010 State Foreign Operations bill provided for USD 10 million.

With these two separate pledges of USD 10 million and USD 7 million, the USA became the single largest country donor to the Trust, bringing their total giving to more than USD 24 million. Other successes during the year include:

- AusAID pledged an additional AUD 4.5 million to the Trust, bringing their total pledge to AUD 21 million (USD 16 million).
- Spain increased their contribution to the Trust by providing another EUR 1 million to the endowment fund.
- The Slovak Republic joined the growing number of countries which support the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

- A number of donations were received from individuals around the world via the Trust's website.
- Norway and Sweden both funded staff positions for the year.

A further measure of donor support is the high rate of payments against pledges. During the year payments were made by many of the Trust's largest donors, bringing the percentage of payment versus pledges to an impressive 84%.

The Trust is extremely grateful to all its donors who have given so generously to support the work of the organization.



Special Initiatives on Climate Change

LEADING UP TO THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN, the Trust worked hard to ensure that crop diversity would be given a prominent place in any agreement to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Trust coordinated the drafting and release of a Statement on Food Security and Climate Change. Prominent agricultural scientists along with distinguished climate change experts joined together to underscore how the almost total absence of agriculture in the agreement could lead to widespread famine and food shortages in the years ahead. The Statement was probably the first time leaders in the agricultural world together with prominent biological scientists and climate change experts have spoken out on the challenges agriculture faces due to climate change, and on the need to ensure that agriculture is ready to adapt.

The statement emphasized that "getting agriculture ready for ... dramatically new growing environments is not a trivial matter. No one should assume that success is guaranteed. For agriculture to adapt, crops must adapt, but there is no 'climate change gene', no single characteristic, that can ensure that they will retain, much less increase, their productivity in new climates. Concerted adaptation efforts will be required crop-by-crop, country-by-country and internationally."

The Statement was widely distributed to media prior to Copenhagen and to delegates at the conference. Media Outlets including Nature, the New York Times, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation featured interviews based on the Statement, and a Reuters article about the statement was picked up by hundreds of newspapers worldwide.

The lack of agreement at the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change highlights the difficulty and complexity of this issue. Unfortunately, climate change is already underway and urgent work on adapting out crops cannot wait for political agreements. The Trust will continue to ensure the genetic diversity required for adapting our crops is secured and available.

See Annex 5 for full statement.



Communications

THE WEBSITE WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED WHEN THE TRUST had only a handful of projects. Today, the Trust is active in more than 80 countries. This needed to be reflected in the website in order to provide the transparency and to be able to communicate new types of information. The website therefore received a major facelift during 2009. The design was updated to give more prominence to the work of the Trust and its partners, and language options were added to reflect the Trust's international audience.

An interactive map providing information on all the Trust's programme was launched over the summer, allowing users to browse the Trust's work by crop or by specific activity. Drop-down menus for all of the Trust's priority crops and activities can be used separately or together, allowing users to get an overview of the specific kind of projects they are looking for. From each project entry in the map there are links to pages that provide further information on the crops and activities involved.

From early 2010, the map will also be available in French and Spanish.



Screenshot of the interactive map presenting the Trust's programme.

Six slideshows are now available on the revamped website, drawing attention to the role of crop diversity in adapting to climate change, in reducing poverty and hunger and in securing environmental sustainability. Additional slideshows highlight the importance of diversity in traditional culture and in meeting the priorities of the international community.

Website traffic has been steady throughout the year, with average monthly hits of just over 17,200, a significant increase from 2008.

The Trust also began to use social networking tools, such as Facebook. This allows us to develop a new community of supporters, as well as share updates from the Trust and associated news articles in a more interactive and informal way. For example, during COP15, the climate change conference in Copenhagen, Executive Director Cary Fowler used the Trust's Facebook page to publish updates from the negotiations. Additionally it serves as an extra outlet for our newsletter, Crop Diversity Topics, and for the contributions the Trust receives from supporters across the world.

This year we have also joined Flickr, where many of our photographs are available for viewing and sharing. To see the pictures, please go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/croptrust>

Crop Diversity Topics

The Crop Diversity Topics newsletter seeks to explore the ways in which crop diversity matters to people in their daily lives. Drawing on examples from history and contemporary events, the articles are engaging and speak to readers from all backgrounds.

The Crop Topics are distributed as an electronic newsletter to subscribers, stakeholders, and partners, and are also published on the Trust website and on Facebook. The Topics are also posted on a number of websites with broad readership as part of the Trust's efforts interest and engage a larger audience.

This year's Crop Topics included:

Darwin on the Farm On "embracing our evolutionary responsibility" and conserving the diversity from which humans will have to fashion those small incremental adaptive changes in crops necessary for their survival.

Hitched On countries' interdependency in food production, and on the crop diversity on which current food supplies and future food security, as well as our fragile environment, depends.

National Security On preparing for a rainy day: collecting, screening, and conserving diversity and priming the plant breeding pump with critically-needed new crop traits.

Making Sense of 1859 On the 150th anniversary of explaining global warming and explaining evolution – and connecting the dots between the two.

Press Coverage

The Trust continues to garner high profile media coverage, and 2009 was another positive year in this regard (see Annex 6). Climate change proved to be the backdrop for many articles about the Trust, with notable appearances in New York Times, Nature, New Scientist and the Wall Street Journal. The first anniversary of the Seed Vault was covered by many news outlets, including BBC News and TIME magazine.



TED

CARY FOWLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE TRUST, was invited in July to speak about the future of agriculture at the TEDGlobal conference in Oxford. The TED conferences "bring together the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers". Their hugely popular website and videos make an invitation to give a TED talk an invitation to speak to tens of thousands.

Fowler, "a biodiversity archivist" according to TED, spoke of crop diversity in general and about the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in detail. In the face of climate change, pests and disease, he told the audience that by saving seeds, humanity might end up saving itself.

The TED website has more than a million regular followers, and the talk is accessible for anyone to view - in 12 languages.

View the talk at

http://www.ted.com/talks/cary_fowler_one_seed_at_a_time_protecting_the_future_of_food.html
or on our website.



Finance and Investment

THE TRUST AIMS TO BUILD AND MANAGE AN ENDOWMENT FUND, the income from which will be used to fund the effective conservation and ready availability of the biological basis of agriculture for all time. Funds received for the endowment fund are invested in accordance with the Investment Objectives and Policies approved by the Executive Board. Investments are overseen and monitored by the Board's Finance and Investment Committee. The Trust has also retained the services of an Independent Financial Advisor to assist with all aspects of investment management including providing advice on the ethical policies adopted by the Trust.

The Organization is an official signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), an international framework for incorporating sustainability into investment decision-making. The Principles were launched in 2006 by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as a framework to help investors achieve better long-term investment returns and sustainable markets, through better analysis of environmental, social and governance issues in the investment process.

During the year contributions in the amount of USD 2,852,213 were received for the endowment fund. As at December 31, 2009, contributions to the fund had been received from the following donors:

Australia, DuPont/Pioneer Hi-bred, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gates Foundation/UN Foundation, Germany, India, International Seed Federation, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syngenta A.G., United Kingdom and the United States.

The market value of the endowment fund was USD 95,355,526 at December 31, 2009 and the fund reported a gain in market value for the year of USD 12,115,135 (14%). The Investment Objectives and Policies permit the annual withdrawal of up to 4.5% of the average market value of the fund over the previous six quarters, however during 2009 approximately 2.8% was withdrawn, with the balance remaining invested in the fund. This conservative approach is required in times of market instability to ensure that the Trust can meet its objectives and cover additional anticipated costs in the medium term.

The investment strategy of the Trust is kept under constant review by the Finance & Investment Committee of the Executive Board. It is foreseen that in the long-term funds will be managed by multiple asset managers, each specializing in a particular asset class. The Trust's investments remain highly diversified both in terms of type and style of investing. At year-end approximately 40% of the endowment fund was held in an actively managed fund across a wide variety of asset classes, 30% was passively managed in index-based funds, and the remainder was held in cash and cash equivalents, a higher-than-usual portion due to market conditions. The independent financial advisor was consequently requested to develop a number of asset models, to simulate a variety of strategies to assist the Trust in selecting the optimal portfolio, and to begin the process of identifying investment managers.



Niel Palmer (CIAT)



Annexes

Annex 1 Financial Statements

D. Cavagnaro

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Executive Board Global Crop Diversity Trust

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the statements of activities, changes in fund balances and cash flows for the years then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audits in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe the audit experience we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Global Crop Diversity Trust as at December 31, 2009 and 2008 and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE S.p.A.

Roberto Lolato

Roberto Lolato
Partner

Rome, Italy
June 16, 2010

Ancona Bari Bergamo Bologna Brescia Cagliari Firenze Genova Milano Napoli Padova Parma Perugia
Roma Torino Treviso Verona

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

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Partita IVA IT03049560166



Statement of Financial Position for the year ended 31 December 2009

	Notes	2009 USD	2008 USD
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivable	4		
Donor		5,775	-
Other		13,024,303	13,038,667
Prepaid Expenses		132,651	-
Total Current Assets		13,162,728	13,038,667
Non Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	25,399,364	22,529,192
Endowment Fund	7	69,956,162	59,947,088
Total Non Current Assets		95,355,526	82,476,280
TOTAL ASSETS		108,518,254	95,514,946
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	5		
Donor		7,659,154	7,442,583
Other		696,041	1,854,808
Total Current Liabilities		8,355,195	9,297,391
Non Current Liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities		8,355,195	9,297,391
Fund Balances			
Unrestricted		834,515	831,703
Temporarily Restricted		3,973,018	2,909,571
Permanently Restricted		95,355,526	82,476,280
Total Fund Balances	6	100,163,059	86,217,555
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES		108,518,254	95,514,946



Statement of Activities for the year ended 31 December 2009

	Notes	2009 USD	2008 USD
INCOME & SUPPORT			
Investment Income			
Endowment Fund Gain/(Loss)		12,115,535	(20,172,392)
Investment Expenses Released		(151,074)	(184,374)
Interest Income		17,959	557,305
Net Investment Income		<u>11,982,420</u>	<u>(19,799,461)</u>
Contributions to Operational Fund			
Contributions to Operational and Fundraising Activities	8	1,291,225	1,014,149
Total Contributions to Operational Fund		<u>1,291,225</u>	<u>1,014,149</u>
Net Assets released from Restrictions			
From Capacity Building Fund		6,096,662	4,889,554
From Endowment Fund		1,955,387	2,375,090
Total Net Assets released from Restrictions		<u>8,052,049</u>	<u>7,264,644</u>
TOTAL INCOME & SUPPORT		21,325,694	(11,520,669)
GRANT EXPENSE			
Long-term Conservation Grants		1,900,362	1,841,100
Capacity Building & Other Grants		3,793,568	2,689,355
Conservation Strategies		83,192	7,862
Salaries & Benefits		1,928,386	1,832,260
Professional Services		145,799	294,187
Travel		145,716	65,889
Total Grant Expense		<u>7,997,023</u>	<u>6,730,654</u>
SUPPORTING EXPENSES			
Salaries & Benefits		622,478	515,189
Travel		35,370	89,372
Governance		102,399	80,330
Public Awareness & Communications		174,414	206,232
Professional Services		375,810	345,946
Facilities		32,966	137,424
Total Supporting Expenses	9	<u>1,343,437</u>	<u>1,374,494</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		9,340,460	8,105,148
Net Excess of Income & Support over Expenditure		11,985,234	(19,625,817)
Increase/(Decrease) in Restricted Funds:			
Capacity Building Fund			
Contributions	8	7,160,108	6,452,871
Released from Restrictions		(6,096,662)	(4,889,554)
Increase/(Decrease) in Capacity Building Fund		<u>1,063,446</u>	<u>1,563,317</u>
Endowment Fund			
Contributions		2,852,213	19,669,569
Released from Restrictions		(1,955,387)	(2,375,090)
Increase/(Decrease) in Endowment Fund		<u>896,824</u>	<u>17,294,479</u>
Increase/(Decrease) in Restricted Funds		1,960,270	18,857,796
Increase/(Decrease) in Fund Balances			
Fund Balances at Beginning of Period		86,217,555	86,985,575
Fund Balances at End of Period		<u>100,163,059</u>	<u>86,217,555</u>



Statement of Changes in Fund Balances for the year ended 31 December 2009

	2009 USD	2008 USD
RESTRICTED FUND BALANCES		
Endowment Fund		
Opening Balance	82,476,280	84,981,262
Donations/Contributions	2,852,212	19,669,569
Investment Income	17,959	557,305
Net Endowment Fund Gain/(Loss)	11,964,463	(20,356,766)
Amount Released	(1,955,388)	(2,375,090)
Closing Balance	<u>95,355,526</u>	<u>82,476,280</u>
Capacity Building Fund		
Opening Balance	2,909,571	1,346,254
Donations/Contributions	7,160,108	6,452,871
Amount Released	(6,096,662)	(4,889,554)
Closing Balance	<u>3,973,018</u>	<u>2,909,571</u>
UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCES		
Operational Fund		
Opening Balance	831,703	658,059
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	2,811	173,644
Closing Balance	<u>834,515</u>	<u>831,703</u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	<u>100,163,059</u>	<u>86,217,555</u>



Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2009

	2009 USD	2008 USD
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase/(Decrease) in Unrestricted Fund Balance	2,811	173,644
(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts Receivable	(124,062)	(5,802,135)
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable	(942,196)	4,065,173
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	(1,063,447)	(1,563,318)
CASH FLOWS FROM RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES		
Increase/(Decrease) in Capacity Building Fund	1,063,446	1,563,317
Increase/(Decrease) in Endowment Fund	2,870,173	20,226,874
Net Cash Provided By Restricted Activities	3,933,619	21,790,192
Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	2,870,172	20,226,874
CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	22,529,192	2,302,318
CASH AT END OF YEAR	25,399,364	22,529,192



Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2009

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Trust) is an autonomous international fund established under international law. The international status of the Trust is conferred under an Establishment Agreement, which has been signed by 26 countries. The Trust was established on October 21, 2004 and operates within the framework of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as an essential element of its Funding Strategy.

The Trust is currently located in Rome, hosted by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Bioversity International, pending the establishment of a permanent headquarters location.

Mission

The mission of the Trust is to ensure the long-term conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture with a view to achieving global food security and sustainable agriculture. To do this, the Trust aims to raise an endowment fund to support the development of a rational and efficient system for conserving crop diversity around the world.

Donors to the Trust include governments from developing and developed countries, foundations, the private sector and individuals.

Friends of Global Crop Diversity, Ltd

A United States charitable organization, Friends of Global Crop Diversity, Ltd, was established in August 2005 to further the mission of the Trust. The Corporation was established under section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code and will assist the Trust in informing the American people of the objectives and purposes of the Trust and raising US funding to support the mission of the Trust.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Trust are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). Since existing IFRS do not cover issues unique to not-for-profit organizations, the Trust has drawn from other widely used standards (such as SFAS 117 of US GAAP) to provide guidance on issues of importance that are not yet addressed by existing IFRS. The significant accounting policies followed are described below.

2.1 Accounts Receivable

All receivable balances are valued at their net realizable value, that is, the gross amount receivable less an allowance for doubtful accounts where appropriate.

Allowances for doubtful accounts are provided in an amount equal to the total receivables shown, or reasonably estimated to be doubtful of collection. The amount in the allowance is based on past experience and on a continuous review of receivable reports and other relevant factors. When an account receivable is deemed



doubtful of collection, an allowance is provided during the year the account is deemed doubtful. Any receivable, or portion of receivable judged to be un-collectible is written off. Write-offs of receivables are done via allowance for doubtful accounts after all efforts to collect have been exhausted.

The Trust did not have any doubtful accounts during the year.

2.2 Endowment Fund

The endowment fund is a permanently restricted fund established to support the effective conservation and ready availability of the biological basis of agriculture.

The endowment fund investments are recorded as non-current assets at fair market value. In accordance with IFRS 7, the fair value of financial assets and liabilities is determined with reference to quoted market prices. Changes in the market value of the funds and interest earned are reported in the Statement of Activities in the year in which the change occurs. The investment objectives and policies permit the annual withdrawal of income of up to 4.5% of the average market value of the fund over the previous six quarters. The amount withdrawn is reported in the Statement of Activities as net assets released from restrictions.

2.3 Accounts Payable

Accounts payable are short-term liabilities reflecting amounts owed in respect of services received and grants payable during the year together with contributions received in advance from donors.

2.4 Revenue Recognition

Funding managed by the Trust falls into three categories:

- 1) Endowment fund
- 2) Funds for various projects undertaken by the Trust, conservation strategies and capacity building grants
- 3) Funds to cover the operational and fundraising activities of the Trust

While some donors provide funds that may be applied to any category and activity at the discretion of the Trust, most donors allocate their funds to a specific category or categories. In certain cases, the Trust may receive funds that are either unrestricted for use within the category concerned or that are restricted or "earmarked" by the donor for a specific purpose or activity.

Unrestricted grants, received and pledged, are recognized as revenues when the conditions imposed by the donor have been substantially met or explicitly waived by the donor.

Restricted grants are recognized as revenue to the extent grant conditions have been met. Grants pledged but not yet received are accrued among receivables only to the extent expended.

Grants in kind are recorded at the fair value of the assets or services received, or the fair value of the liabilities satisfied.

Foreign currency transactions

The Trust conducts its operations in several currencies and maintains its accounting records in United States dollars. The financial statements are expressed in United States dollars solely for the purpose of summarizing the financial position and the results of activities.



All items in the Statement of Financial Position, where necessary, have been translated at market rates of exchange at year-end.

Revenue and expense items in currencies other than United States dollars have been recorded at the exchange rate prevailing on the transaction date.

2.5 Expenditure

The costs of carrying out the projects undertaken by the Trust and other activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated between grant expenditure and supporting expenditure.

2.6 Fixed Assets

Office equipment and furniture are recorded at cost and depreciated over the estimated useful life of the respective assets (three to five years) on a straight-line basis where the asset has an original cost greater than USD 2,000. Items with an original cost lower than this amount are charged directly to operating expenses in the period in which they are incurred.

Equipment and furniture acquired through the use of restricted grants are recorded as assets, and are fully expensed and charged directly to the appropriate restricted project in the year of acquisition.

3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in banks denominated in US dollars. The Organization considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents comprise contributions received for the endowment fund together with related interest earned. As contributions for the endowment fund are permanently restricted, cash and cash equivalents at year-end of USD 25,399,364 (2008: USD 22,529,192) are reported as non-current assets. These funds are held with Intesa San Paolo, Italy and Banca Popolare di Sondrio, Italy.

The investment strategy of the Organization, given the current climate, is to remain highly diversified, both in terms of type of investment and style of investing. At year-end approximately 40% of the endowment fund was held in an actively managed fund across a wide variety of asset classes, 30% was passively managed across market places and the remainder was held in cash and cash equivalents, a higher-than-usual portion due to market conditions. The investment strategy is kept under constant review by the Finance & Investment Committee of the Executive Board.



4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

All receivable balances are valued at their net realizable value.

Credit Risk Management

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty will default on its contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Organization. The Organization does not have any significant credit risk exposure as amounts receivable consist mainly of amounts held with the host organizations, Bioversity International and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), which are highly reputable international organizations. Total accounts receivable represent 12% of total assets.

(A) Accounts Receivable - Donor

Accounts receivable from donors consists of claims for expenses paid on behalf of restricted projects in excess of the amount received. It may also pertain to claims for unrestricted grants promised or pledged provided that the conditions attached to the grants have already been met. Accounts receivable from donors at year-end amounted to USD 5,775 (Dec 31, 2008: USD 0).

(B) Accounts Receivable – Other

This balance relates mainly to amounts received by the host organizations, Bioversity International and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), on behalf of the Trust that have not yet been expended.

	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2008
Bioversity International		
Balance as at 1/1	12,131,174	6,036,599
Investment Income	1,402,414	1,624,686
Australia	179,790	-
Canada	809,717	973,520
Gates Foundation/UN Foundation	5,912,105	7,103,265
Grains Research & Development Corporation	-	1,701,622
Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust	300,000	200,000
Switzerland	70,000	70,000
United States	1,000,235	-
Expenditure	(9,658,001)	(5,578,518)
Accounts Receivable from Bioversity International	12,147,434	12,131,174
Food And Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)		
Balance as at 1/1	402,192	944,780
Investment Income	441,209	-
Norway	236,730	29,131
Sweden	157,618	141,483
Other	(4,066)	27,822
Expenditure	(774,484)	(741,024)
Accounts Receivable from FAO	459,199	402,192
Other - Investment Fund Income	417,671	505,303
TOTAL	13,024,303	13,038,667



5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

(A) *Accounts Payable - Donor*

Accounts payable to donors includes unexpended funds received in advance for restricted projects. It may also include unrestricted grants received for which conditions have not yet been met.

Donor	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2008
Australia	179,790	-
Gates Foundation/UN Foundation	7,265,582	6,643,102
Grains Research & Development Corporation	-	745,213
Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust	500,000	-
Norway	129,514	-
Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation	34,268	29,268
Syngenta Foundation	-	25,000
TOTAL	7,659,154	7,442,583

(B) *Accounts Payable – Other*

This balance consists of amounts payable at the year-end in respect of long-term conservation and capacity building grants. It also includes amounts payable in respect of supplies and services received during the year.

Donor	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2008
Grants Payable		
Long-term Conservation Grants	-	1,382,100
Capacity Building Grants	623,736	386,256
Total	623,736	1,768,356
Other		
Investment Management Fee	57,305	48,320
Consultancy Services	15,000	38,132
Total	72,305	86,452
TOTAL	696,041	1,854,808



6. FUND BALANCES

Resources are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into fund categories according to the activities or objectives specified by internal designation or by external restriction.

The Organization manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate reserves and by continuously monitoring forecast and actual cash flows. Management information systems focus on significant issues and produce timely, accurate, complete and meaningful information to enable effective management of liquidity.

Unrestricted Fund

The operational fund contains unrestricted net assets representing unrestricted resources available to support the Organization's operations. The fund serves to provide working capital and financial stability for the Organization in the future. It comprises contributions received and expenditure incurred in respect of the operational and fundraising activities of the Trust. The operating surplus represents the excess of revenue over expenditures on operations for the year.

	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2008
Balance as at 1/1	831,703	658,059
Operating Surplus	2,811	173,644
Balance as at 31/12	834,514	831,703

Temporarily Restricted Fund

The capacity building fund contains net assets that are temporarily restricted by donor-imposed stipulations or by internal designation. When the restriction expires due to accomplishing the stipulated purpose or through passage of time, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the Statement of Activities as net assets released from restrictions. The fund comprises contributions received or allocated and expenditure incurred in respect of projects, conservation strategies, capacity building and long-term grants and related program expenditure.

	Dec. 31, 2009	Dec. 31, 2008
Balance as at 1/1	2,909,571	1,346,254
Contributions	7,160,108	6,452,871
Expenditure	(6,096,662)	(4,889,554)
Balance as at 31/12	3,973,017	2,909,571



Permanently Restricted Fund

The permanently restricted endowment fund contains net assets which are subject to donor-imposed stipulations that they be maintained permanently by the Organization. The fund comprises contributions received for the endowment fund together with the related bank interest earned, changes in market value less management fees and income withdrawn during the year. Current year contributions to the fund are as follows (amounts in USD/000):

Donors Balance	Balance 31-12-08	Contributions	Other movements	Balance 31-12-09
Australia	11,074	1,599		12,673
Dupont/ Pioneer Hi-bred	1,000	-		1,000
Egypt	25	-		25
Ethiopia	25	-		25
Gates Foundation/UN Foundation	7,500	-		7,500
Germany	6,045	-		6,045
India	50	-		50
International Seed Federation	30	-		30
Ireland	2,868	1,277		4,145
Norway	15,177	-		15,177
New Zealand	50	-		50
Slovak Republic	-	20		20
Spain	1,295	-	(43)	1,252
Sweden	11,887	-		11,887
Switzerland	10,262	-		10,262
Syngenta AG	1,000	-		1,000
United Kingdom	19,468	-		19,468
United States	5,000	-		5,000
Private	1	-		1
Interest Earned	1,520	-	17	1,537
Realized & unrealized gain on investment fund (change in market value) less management fees	(6,233)	-	11,964	5,731
Realized Gains	(5,568)	-	(1,955)	(7,523)
TOTAL	82,476	2,896	9,983	95,355

Further detail can be found in Note 7.

7. ENDOWMENT FUND

The Trust will build and manage an endowment fund, the income from which will be used to fund the effective conservation and ready availability of the biological basis of agriculture. An endowment fund will provide a permanent source of financial support matching the long-term nature of conservation with long-term secure and sustainable funding.

Funds are invested in accordance with Investment Objectives and Policies approved by the Executive Board. The Finance and Investment Committee implement the investment strategy adopted by the Executive Board. The Trust also retains the services of an Independent Financial Advisor to assist in all areas of investment management including the provision of advice on the ethical policies adopted by the Trust.



The Organization is an official signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), an international framework for incorporating sustainability into investment decision-making. The Principles were launched in 2006 by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as a framework to help investors achieve better long-term investment returns and sustainable markets, through better analysis of environmental, social and governance issues in the investment process.

The Endowment Fund investments at year-end of USD 69,956,162 (2008: USD 59,947,088) represent the principle together with changes in market value less management fees and income released. Changes in the market value of the funds and interest earned are reported in the Statement of Activities in the year in which the change occurs.

The following schedule represents the composition of the market value of the investment fund as at December 31:

	Balance 31-12-09	Balance 31-12-08
Equities	36,944,559	26,560,136
Bonds	26,063,006	29,114,190
Hedge Funds	2,505,352	1,735,592
Real Estate	1,209,009	984,988
Cash	3,234,236	1,552,183
TOTAL	69,956,162	59,947,088

The following table provides an analysis of changes to non-current assets during the year:

	Note	31-12-09	31-12-08
Balance as at 1/1		82,476,280	84,981,262
Contributions	1	2,852,213	19,669,569
Endowment Fund Gain/(Loss)	2	11,964,460	(20,356,765)
Income Released	3	(1,955,387)	(2,375,090)
Investment Income	4	17,959	557,305
Balance as at 31/12		95,355,526	82,476,280

Notes:

1. Contributions were received from government agencies, private foundations and corporations. Further detail can be found in Note 6.
2. The endowment fund gain/(loss) represents the change in market value of the fund and is reported in the Statement of Activities for the year.
3. The Investment Objectives and Policies of the Trust permit the annual withdrawal of up to 4.5% of the average market value of the fund over the previous six quarters. During the year the Trust did not require the entire 4.5%, approximately 2.2% was withdrawn and the balance was retained in the fund.
4. Investment income relates to amounts earned during the year from holding funds on fixed term deposit.



Investment Risk & Risk Management

The Organization invests in a professionally managed portfolio that contains equity, US corporate bonds, US government bonds, emerging market debt, US REITs and hedge funds. Such investments are exposed to various risks such as market and credit. Due to the level of risk associated with such investments, and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of such investments, it is reasonably possible that changes in risks in the near term would materially affect investment balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Currency exposure within the fixed income portion of the portfolio is predominantly in USD as dictated by the component indices all being referenced to the US fixed income markets. As a result, the Trust portfolio has minimal currency risk and exposure arising from the underlying fixed income assets.

Movements in interest rates within a bond portfolio and the inherent risk thereof are driven by changes in investor views on macroeconomic factors and individual issuers of interest rate sensitive securities. Price sensitivities of securities to changes in interest rates are primarily measured by the duration measure - modified duration for sensitivities to changes in yield, and spread duration for price sensitivities to changes in the option adjusted spread (which is a function of perceived credit quality). Management of interest rate risk is performed through the adjustment of the duration measure by buying/selling bonds of different maturities. Where the investment team's view is for price appreciation in any one market or sector, greater duration risk may be taken through the switching of existing bonds into longer maturity securities. Conversely, if bond yields were perceived to rise in the future, a shorter maturity/duration profile would be taken. Duration adjustments may also be performed through the use of an interest rate Futures overlay, where permitted. The monitoring of interest rate risk is usually performed relative to a benchmark or investment objective through the duration measure. This marginal or active risk as mentioned previously is thus monitored on a continual basis until a change in investment view is decided.

For the global equities portion of the portfolio, the sensitivity (beta) of price change will be close to that of the market and hence similarly so will volatility levels. Observed equity volatility for the first quarter of 2010 has generally been on the decline since the end of 2009 but with a volatile period during late-January/February when concerns over levels of specific Euro zone sovereign debt (ie. Greece) had elevated uncertainty in most risky assets. For the remainder of H1 2010 we would expect average volatility levels to subside further, albeit slowly, as a credible solution for Greece should materialize lending stability to equity markets as a whole.



8. CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATIONAL, FUNDRAISING AND GRANT ACTIVITIES

Contributions to operational, fundraising and grant activities for the year were received from the following donors:

	Bioversity International	FAO	Balance 31-12-09
Canada	809,717	-	809,717
Gates Foundation/UN Foundation	5,289,625	-	5,289,625
Grains Research & Development Corporation	750,988	-	750,988
Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust	250,000	-	250,000
Norway	-	107,216	107,216
Sweden	-	157,618	157,618
Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation	65,000	-	65,000
Syngenta Foundation	25,000	-	25,000
USAID	1,000,235	-	1,000,235
Other	-	(4,066)	(4,066)
TOTAL	8,190,565	260,768	8,451,333
Contributions to Operational and Fundraising Activities			1,291,225
Contributions to Capacity Building Fund			7,160,108
Total			8,451,333

9. GRANT AND SUPPORTING EXPENDITURE

With the exception of investment management expenses, which are released from the investment fund, all expenditures are incurred by the host organizations, FAO and Bioversity International, on behalf of the Trust. These expenditures are charged back to the Trust at cost plus overhead.

Grant expenditure continued to increase in 2009 as work progressed on the Global System Project, a five-year project funded by the Gates Foundation/UN Foundation. The Trust also increased its program of providing long-term sustainable funding to the world's most important collections of crop diversity; collections of banana, barley, bean, cassava, fababean, forages, grasspea, lentil, pearl millet, rice, sorghum, wheat, yam and edible aroids were supported in 2009.

The Trust retains the services of a government affairs company in Washington DC to assist with the process of securing funding from US government sources. It also retains the services of a communications company to assist in raising awareness for the Organization and its mission and to educate donors and policy makers about the wide-ranging benefits of crop diversity.

Annex 2 Members of the Executive Board 2009

Chair: Margaret Catley-Carlson (Canada)

Chair of the Global Water Partnership, and the International Advisory Committee for Group Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, Ms. Catley-Carlson is a member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board, the Rosenberg Forum, and of the Council of Advisors of the World Food Prize. She serves on the Boards of the Biblioteca Alexandrina, IMWI (the International Center for Water Resource Management); the IFDC (Fertilizer Management) and IIED - the International Institute for Environment and Development. She has been chair of the ICARDA and CABI Boards and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, Vice Chair of the IDRC Board and a commissioner of Water for the 21st Century. She was President of the Canadian International Development Agency 1983-89; Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF in New York 1981-1983; President of the Population Council in New York 1993-98; and Deputy Minister of the Department of Health and Welfare of Canada 1989-92. Ms. Catley-Carlson is an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Vice-Chair: Wangari Maathai (Kenya)

Professor Wangari Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace. She is the founder of the Green Belt Movement, a grassroots environmental organization which has assisted women and their families in planting more than 35 million trees across Kenya to protect the environment and promote sustainable livelihoods. She is a Member of Parliament and a former Assistant Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya. Among the many honors and awards Wangari Maathai has received are the Right Livelihood Award (1984); the Global 500 Roll of Honor (1991); the Goldman Environmental Prize (1991); the Africa Prize (1991); the Edinburgh Medal (1993); the Sophie Prize (2004) and the Legion d'Honneur (2006).

Lewis Coleman (USA)

Mr. Coleman was appointed President of DreamWorks Animation, a NASDAQ company, in December 2005 having served as a director of the company since October 2004. As of March 2007, he was re-elected to the Board of Directors and has taken on the position of Chief Financial Officer as well. Previously he was the President of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation from its founding in November 2000 to December 2004, and currently serves as one of the Foundations trustees. Prior to that, Mr. Coleman was employed by Bank of America Securities, formerly known as Montgomery Securities where he was a Senior Managing Director from 1995 to 1998 and Chairman from 1998 to 2000. Before he joined Montgomery Securities, Mr. Coleman spent ten years at the Bank of America and Bank of America Corporation where he was Head of Capital Markets, Head of the World Banking Group, and Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Financial Officer. He spent the previous thirteen years at Wells Fargo Bank where his positions included Head of International Banking, Chief Personnel Officer and Chairman of the Credit Policy Committee.

Mr. Coleman currently serves as Non-executive Chairman of Northrop Grumman Corporation. He also serves on several private company and civil boards.

Mr. Coleman was one of the pioneers of debt-for-nature swaps, which involves agreements between developing nations in debt and one or more of their creditors who agree to forgive debt in return for environmental protection.



Sir Peter Crane (UK)

Professor Sir Peter Crane is a Fellow of The Royal Society, UK and former Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He is also a foreign associate of the United States National Academy of Sciences and a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Sir Peter Crane has previously served as Director of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. In 2004 he was knighted for his services to conservation and horticulture. Sir Peter stepped down from his post at the Royal Botanic Gardens in 2006 to become the John & Marion Sullivan University Professor at the University of Chicago.

Jorio Dauster (Brazil)

Ambassador Jorio Dauster is the Board Chairman of Brasil Ecodiesel. He is a former Ambassador of Brazil to the European Union, and Chief Negotiator of Brazil's foreign debt for the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Finance. Ambassador Dauster has also served as President of the Brazilian Coffee Institute and as Coordinator of the Project for the Modernization of Brazil's Patent System.

Adel El-Beltagy (Egypt)

Prof. Dr. Adel El-Beltagy is currently the Chair of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR). He is Chairman of the International Dryland Development Commission (IDDC) and Professor at the Faculty of Agriculture/Ain Shams University. He was Director General of the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) (1995-2006); Director/Board Chairman of Agricultural Research Center, Egypt (1991-1995); Fellow of the University of Wales (1993); Chairman for the Scientific Technical Council of the International SAHARA and SAHEL OBSERVATORY (SSO) (1993-2002); First Under-Secretary of State for Land Reclamation, Egypt (1986-1991). Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Moscow; Academician (Foreign Member) of the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences; and Honorable Academician of Kyrgyz Agrarian Academy; He is Honorable Professor of the Scientific Council of Azerbaijan Agricultural Academy; Fellow of Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and has been awarded Al-Istiklal Medal by His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Hussein of Jordan; He has authored/co-authored more than 140 scientific publications.

Cary Fowler, Executive Director (ex officio)

Prior to joining the Trust as its Executive Director, Dr. Cary Fowler was Professor and Director of Research in the Department for International Environment & Development Studies at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. He was also a Senior Advisor to the Director General of Bioversity International. In this latter role, he represented the Future Harvest Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research in negotiations on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.

Cary's career in the conservation and use of crop diversity spans 30 years. He was Program Director for the National Sharecroppers Fund / Rural Advancement Fund, a US-based NGO engaged in plant genetic resources education and advocacy. In the 1990s, he headed the International Conference and Programme on Plant Genetic Resources at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which produced the UN's first ever global assessment of the state of the world's plant genetic resources.



He drafted and supervised negotiations of FAO's Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources, adopted by 150 countries in 1996. That same year he served as Special Assistant to the Secretary General of the World Food Summit. He is a past-member of the National Plant Genetic Resources Board of the U.S. and the Board of Trustees of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Mexico. Cary is the author of several books on the subject of plant genetic resources and more than 75 articles on the topic in agriculture, law, and development journals.

Emile Frison (Belgium)

Dr. Emile Frison is the Director General of Bioversity International. A plant pathologist by training, Dr. Frison served as a Senior Scientist with Bioversity where he held special responsibility for the health of samples of crop diversity. He then served as Director of Bioversity's regional office for Europe and, until his appointment to the top position at Bioversity, was Director of the organization's International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain in Montpellier, France, promoting research on bananas and plantains, the world's fourth most important staple crop. As Director General of Bioversity, Dr. Frison recently lead the organization, its stakeholders and partners in the formulation of a new strategic vision for Bioversity, in which nutrition and agricultural biodiversity will play an important role in the overall goal of reducing hunger and poverty in a sustainable manner. He is author and co-author of over 150 scientific publications and is a member of several scientific societies.

John Lovett (Australia)

Professor John Lovett is the Chairperson of the Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity, Australia. He has held professorships at the University of Tasmania and the University of New England, of which he now is a Professor Emeritus. Professor Lovett has previously served as Chairperson of the Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Accounting and of the Oilseeds Research Council, as Managing Director of the Grains Research and Development Cooperation and as President of the Australian Society of Agronomy.

Karl Erik Olsson (Sweden)

Mr. Karl Erik Olsson is a former Minister of Agriculture of Sweden. A farmer by profession, he has served as an elected Member of Parliament in Sweden for twelve years and as a Member of the European Parliament for nine years.

Modibo Tiémoko Traoré (Mali)

Dr. Modibo Tiémoko Traoré, a former Minister for Rural Development with the Government of Mali, is the FAO Assistant Director-General charged with the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department. He joined FAO as Regional Representative for Africa after heading the African Union's Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources for three years. A veterinarian and livestock expert, Dr. Traoré was also Mali's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China between 2000 and 2005. Mr Traoré, a former National Director of Mali's Livestock and Veterinary Services was his country's Minister for Rural Development (Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries) between 1994 and 2000, and also held responsibility for the Environment and Water Resources.

Annex 3 Staff

Full-time staff

- **Jenin Assaf**^{^*} – Programme Assistant
- **Anne Clyne** – Director of Finance
- **Layla Daoud** – Project Officer
- **Amanda Dobson**[^] – Temporary Office Assistant
- **Maria Vinje Dodson**[^] – Associate Professional Officer
- **Cary Fowler** – Executive Director
- **Luigi Guarino** – Senior Science Coordinator
- **Colin Khoury** – Scientific Assistant
- **Julian Laird** – Director of Development and Communications
- **Charlotte Lusty** – Scientist
- **Godfrey Mwila** – Programme Scientist
- **Hang Nguyen** – Programme Assistant
- **Melly Preira** – Personal Assistant to Executive Director
- **Britta Skagerfält** – Associate Professional Officer
- **Anna Stolyarskaya** – Finance Assistant
- **Jane Toll** – Project Manager
- **Kem Turner** – Programme Assistant
- **Kijo Waruhiu** – Associate Scientist
- **Mellissa Wood** – Director of Programme Development

Part-time staff

- **Suzy Gemma**[▼] – Programme Assistant
- **Sophie Mannhardt**[▼] – Programme Assistant
- **Marco Marsella** – IT Consultant
- **Gerald Moore** – Legal Advisor
- **Bert Visser**^{*} – Honorary Fellow

Interns and Volunteers

- **Jens Hansson**

* *Not Rome based*

▼ *Long term leave*

^ *Started during the year*

* *Temporary Staff*

Annex 4 Svalbard Statement



Svalbard Global Seed Vault Anniversary Seminar

Frozen Seeds in a Frozen Mountain - Feeding a Warming World Summary statement, February 2009

Food security is threatened. Forecasts for declines in the yields of staple crops show that climate change will place unprecedented pressures on our ability to grow the food we require, particularly in developing countries. All Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scenarios show warming over the next several decades will take place irrespective of any action taken today. The same models show conditions for agriculture will be dramatically different from those which dominate today. Adapting agriculture to these future conditions is therefore essential.

The need for new crop varieties that can withstand these challenges is now widely recognized and is frequently cited in climate change discussions. This statement draws the world's attention to the following:

- the development of crops that can cope with heat, drought, flood and other extremes will likely be the single most important action we can take to adapt to climate change;
- this is an urgent need requiring action now, given both the serious threat to food security and the time required to breed new crop varieties;
- our ability to breed these new varieties cannot be taken for granted, as it is undermined by the loss of the biological basis of our food supply – the genetic diversity of crops.

At the Copenhagen Climate Conference in December 2009, the need to conserve and make available crop diversity, as the bedrock of all plant breeding efforts, must be recognised as a fundamental component of climate change adaptation.

Agriculture is founded on the diversity of plant and animal genetic diversity. The ability of agriculture to adapt draws on this diversity: it is therefore the foundation of the world's food security. There is a global need for crop varieties adapted to climate change, in order not only to reach the UN Millennium Development goals to reduce hunger but strengthening global food security in the medium- and long term. It is increasingly important, and acknowledged, that all countries should recognise their responsibility for food production and the need for international collaboration in this regard. All countries should make sustainable use of their natural resources. To achieve this, national and international development programs need an increased focus on agriculture.

Yet the breeding of new varieties cannot be taken for granted – it is vital to have as much as possible of the genetic diversity of our crops available for the task, but this diversity is being lost. Global interdependence in this area is total. No country in the world is self-sufficient in the genetic diversity of the crops that feed its people. It is therefore in the interests of every nation to ensure that this diversity is conserved and is available to all. Many actions are required to adapt agriculture, but underlying all is the single prerequisite that the genetic diversity of our crops be conserved and available to plant breeders: conserving crop diversity is therefore one of the most cost-effective measures possible to increase food.




Increased international resources are needed to ensure the conservation of crop genetic diversity, and in particular. It should be recognized that conserving the world's crop diversity requires a partnership between the agriculture, environment and development communities. The framework for this exists: for example, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity both call for its conservation. A more effective worldwide network of genebanks is required, to which the Svalbard Global Seed Vault is a vital contribution, providing long term secure storage of seed diversity for future generations. The Global Crop Diversity Trust should be further strengthened to maintain its role as a key element in the support and coordination of this global conservation network.

Breeding new varieties takes time, often about 10 years to produce a new variety, meaning the dramatically different conditions predicted for 2030 are a mere two crop breeding cycles away. There is therefore a need to accelerate the breeding of climate ready varieties. Bearing in mind that many crops of importance to food security will not be of interest for commercial breeding companies, there is a need for adequate support of breeding activities at both national and global levels. It will be of special importance to increase breeding capacity, technology transfer and breeding efforts in developing countries, e.g. in close cooperation with the CGIAR institutes.

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture provides the international framework and international mechanisms for the conservation and use of crop diversity. Developed countries in particular should ensure the adequate financing to implement the Treaty and creative financing mechanisms should also be examined, such as a payment based on the sale of seeds in developed countries. In keeping with the fact that the genetic diversity of our crops has become a critical issue in climate change adaptation, governments, private sector and farmers' organizations must cooperate in these matters to meet a common threat.

At the Copenhagen Climate Conference in December 2009, the need to conserve and make available crop diversity, as the bedrock of all plant breeding efforts, must be recognised as a fundamental component of climate change adaptation. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault bears witness to the importance of crop genetic diversity for the world, and to the potential of concerted international action. At Copenhagen, we ask the nations of the world to recognise the urgency of adapting agriculture to climate change, that crop diversity is a prerequisite for this adaptation, and therefore that the importance of ensuring that the genetic diversity of our crops is properly conserved and available is a basic prerequisite for feeding a warming world.



Annex 5 Climate Change Statement

Food Security and Climate Change: A Call for Commitment and Preparation November 2009

Leaders from all over the world will meet shortly in Copenhagen for the UN Climate Change Conference. We call on them, as they seek agreement on a global response to the challenges of climate change, to recognize and address the specific threat that it poses to the world's food security.

The negative impact of climate change on agriculture, and thus on the production of food, could well place at risk all other efforts to mitigate and adapt to new climate conditions. The magnitude of change now being forecast, even in relatively optimistic scenarios, is historically unprecedented, and our agricultural systems are still largely unprepared to face it.

Farmers will encounter problems they have never before experienced: much greater weather variability, higher average temperatures, increased numbers of extremely hot days, shorter growing seasons, much greater moisture stress, added salinity from salt water incursion and irrigation systems, and new combinations of pests and diseases.

Getting agriculture ready for such dramatically new growing environments is not a trivial matter. No one should assume that success is guaranteed. For agriculture to adapt, crops must adapt, but there is no "climate change gene," no single characteristic, that can ensure that they will retain, much less increase, their productivity in new climates. Concerted adaptation efforts will be required crop-by-crop, country-by-country and internationally.

Crop diversity is the raw material for crop adaptation. This diversity, primarily found today in seedbanks, contains the traits that plant breeders and farmers will need to incorporate into tomorrow's resilient, climate-ready crop varieties. Agriculture—and people—cannot do without it.

Current institutional and financial arrangements, however, are inadequate to guarantee conservation of this priceless resource. Indeed, diversity is being lost – diversity that almost certainly holds the key to future crop adaptation. Moreover, the time required to integrate new traits into crop varieties can be a decade or more. We cannot wait for disaster before initiating action.

Fortunately, ensuring the availability of crop diversity is entirely feasible technically, financially and politically. Small investments made now will soon generate enormous and recurring benefits even if climate change is far less pronounced than is now widely anticipated.

No credible or effective agreement to address the challenges of climate change can ignore agriculture and the need for crop adaptation to ensure the world's future food supplies. We urge countries at the Copenhagen Conference to give due attention to crop diversity conservation and use as an essential element of the commitments they will make for climate change adaptation.



Signatories of Statement

Signatories have signed in an individual capacity; affiliations have been reduced and are for identification purposes only.

Mark Alley, USA

- President of the American Society for Agronomy
- Professor of Agriculture, Virginia Tech University

Per Pinstrup Andersen, Denmark

- World Food Prize Laureate, 2001
- Former Director-General of International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Pamela Anderson, USA

- Director General, International Potato Center (CIP)
- Former Senior Entomologist at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

David Battisti, USA

- Former co-Chair of the Science Steering Committee for the U.S. Program on Climate (US CLIVAR)
- Professor of Atmospheric Sciences University of Washington

Bernard Le Buaneq, France

- Former Secretary General of the International Seed Federation
- Member of the French Academy of Agriculture

Teresita Borrromeo, Philippines

- Chair of the Rice Technical Working Group of the National Seed Industry Council
- Professor, Crop Science Cluster, University of Philippines, Los Baños

Marcel Bruins, Netherlands

- Secretary General, International Seed Federation
- Former Manager of Plant Variety Protection, Seminis Vegetable Seeds

Maggie Catley-Carlson, Canada

- Former President of Canadian International Development Agency
- Member of the United Nations Secretary General Advisory Board on Water

Colin Chartres, Australia/Britain

- Director General, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- Former Chief Science Advisor to Australia's National Water Commission

Bob Clements, Australia

- Former Executive Director, Crawford Fund for International Agricultural Research
- Former Chief of Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures

Lew Coleman, USA

- Founding President of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Former Chairman Bank of America Securities

Sir Peter Crane, United Kingdom

- Former Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

- Dean, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University

William Dar, Philippines

- Director General, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- Former Secretary of Agriculture (Philippines)

Jorio Dauster, Brazil

- Board Chairman of Brasil Ecodiesel
- Former Ambassador of Brazil to the European Union

Keith Downey, Canada

- Research Scientist Emeritus and Adjunct Professor of Crop Science, Agri-Food Canada
- Canadian Agriculture Hall of Fame, 2002

Ruben Echeverría, Uruguay

- Director General, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- Former Executive Director, Science Council of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Gebisa Ejeta, Ethiopia

- World Food Prize Laureate, 2009
- Distinguished Professor of Agronomy, Purdue University

Adel El-Beltagy, Egypt

- Chair of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR)
- Former Director General of the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Walter Falcon, USA

- Professor Emeritus of International Agricultural Policy, Stanford University
- Former Member of the Presidential Commission on World Hunger

Cary Fowler, USA

- Executive Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust
- Former Head of Secretariat, International Conference and Programme for Plant Genetic Resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

Emile Frison, Belgium

- Director General, Bioversity International
- Former Director, International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain

Walter Fust, Switzerland

- CEO/ Director General of the Global Humanitarian Forum in Geneva
- Former Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Amy Goldman, USA

- Board Chair, Seed Savers Exchange
- Board Member, New York Botanical Garden

Hartwig de Haen, Germany

- Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, University of Göttingen

- Former Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

Hartmann, USA

- Director General, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- Former Professor and Director of International Programs, University of Florida

Geoff Hawtin, United Kingdom

- Former Director General of the International Plant Genetics Resource Institute (IPGRI)
- Former Director General of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)

Vernon Heywood, United Kingdom

- Emeritus Professor in the School of Plant Sciences at the University of Reading
- Former Director of Botanic Gardens Conservation International

Cosima Hufler, Austria

- Chair of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN
- Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and International Environmental Affairs, Austria

Masaru Iwanaga, Japan

- Director General, National Institute of Crop Science, Japan
- Former Director General of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)

Gurdev Khush, India

- World Food Prize Laureate, 1996
- Former Head, Division of Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

Kay Killingsworth, USA

- Former Secretary-General, World Food Summit
- Former Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN

Norman Looney, Canada

- Chair, Global Horticulture Initiative
- President, International Society for Horticultural Science

John Lovett, Australia

- Chair, Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity
- President, Australian Agronomy Society

Frank Loy, USA

- Former Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs
- Former Chair of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)



Thomas Lumpkin, USA

- Director General of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
- Former Director General of the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC)

Wangari Maathai, Kenya

- Nobel Peace Prize, 2004
- Former Assistant Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Kenya

Chebet Maikut, Uganda

- Vice-President of the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF)
- Former MP (Uganda)

Nigel Maxted

- Senior Lecturer, Plant Genetic Conservation, University of Birmingham
- co-chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) working group on Crop Wild Relative Specialist Group

Gian Tommaso Scarascia Mugnozza, Italy

- President, Italian National Academy of Sciences
- Cavaliere di Gran Croce Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana

Paul Munyenyebe, Malawi

- Head, Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC), South African Development Community
- Head of Department, Bunda College, University of Malawi

Zachary Kithinji Muthamia, Kenya

- Head, National Genebank of Kenya

Godfrey Mwila, Zambia

- Former Chair of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations
- Former Head, National Genebank, Zambia

Rosamond Naylor, USA

- Director, Programme on Food Security and the Environment, Stanford University
- Professor, Environmental Earth Science, Stanford University

Karl Erik Olsson, Sweden

- Former Minister of Agriculture (Sweden)
- Former MP (Sweden) and MEP

Jim Peacock, Australia

- Former Chief Scientist, Australia
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Lifetime Achievement Award, 2005

Enrico Porceddu, Italy

- Member, Italian National Academy of Sciences
- Professor of Agriculture and Genetics, University of Tuscia, Viterbo

Sir Ghilleen Prance, United Kingdom

- Former Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- Fellow, Royal Society

Calvin Qualset, USA

- Former President American Society of Agronomy
- Former Director of the Genetic Resources Conservation Program at University of California, Davis

Kenneth Quesenberry, USA

- President, Crop Science Society of America (CSSA)
- Professor, Forage Breeding and Genetics Department of Agronomy, University of Florida

Rudy Rabbinge, Netherlands

- Chair, Science Council of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
- Senator, National Parliament of the Netherlands

Peter Raven, USA

- President and Director, Missouri Botanical Gardens
- U.S. National Medal of Science, 2000

Roberto Rodrigues, Brazil

- Former Minister of Agriculture (Brazil)
- Former Chair of the World Committee on Agricultural Cooperatives

Pedro Sanchez, Cuba/ USA

- World Food Prize Laureate, 2002
- Director of Tropical Agriculture at the Earth Institute, Columbia University

Rajaram Sanjay, India

- Former Director, Wheat Program, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)
- Recipient of Chinese Friendship Award

Papa Seck, Senegal

- Director General, Africa Rice Center (WARDA)
- Former Chair of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Carlos Seré, Uruguay

- Director General, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- Former Regional Director International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Henry Shands, USA

- Former Director of the USDA-Agriculture Research Service (ARS) National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation
- President of the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)

Emmy Simmons, USA

- Former Assistant Administrator for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade (EGAT) at USAID
- Co-Chair, Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability of the National Academies

Paul Smith, United Kingdom

- Head, Millennium Seed Bank, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
- International Editor, Oryx Journal

Mahmoud Solh, Lebanon

- Director General, International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- Former Director, Plant Production and Protection Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

Aleki Sisifa, Tonga

- Director, Land Resources Division, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- Former Deputy Director of Agriculture and Forestry, Tonga

M.S. Swaminathan, India

- First World Food Prize Laureate, 1987
- Former Minister of Agriculture, India

Peter M.A. Tigerstedt, Finland

- Former Member, Technical Advisory Committee to the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
- Professor Emeritus, University of Helsinki

Bert Visser, Netherlands

- Director, Centre for Genetic Resources the Netherlands (CGN)
- Former Chair of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)

Joachim von Braun, Germany

- Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- Former Professor of Food Economics and Policy at Kiel University, Germany

Ren Wang, China

- Director, Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
- Former Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS)

David Williams, USA

- Coordinator of the CGIAR System-wide Genetic Resources Program
- Former International Affairs Specialist, Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Andrew Westby, United Kingdom

- President, International Society for Tropical Root Crops
- Director of Research, Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich

Mohamed Zehni, Libya

- Former Director, Plant Production and Protection Division, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations
- Former Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations Organizations

Robert Zeigler, USA

- Director General, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
- Time Magazine Global Innovator Award, 2007

Annex 6 Media Coverage 2009

The Trust continues to enjoy great success in promoting the issue of crop diversity far beyond the scientific and development communities. The following is just a selection of the media outlets the Trust appeared in 2009.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation	The Guardian (UK)	Scientific American
Aftenposten (Norway)	The Hindu (India)	Scientific Inquiry
ARS News (USA)	Il Sol 24 Ore (Italy)	Seattle Times (USA)
Asian News International (India)	Irish Examiner	Seed Magazine (USA)
BBC News	Irish Times	Sina (China)
Berliner Zeitung (Germany)	Kathimerini (Greece)	Soitu.es (Spain)-
BG Newsroom (Bulgaria)	Le Monde (France)	Stavangeravisen (Norway)
Bloomberg.com	Nature News	Svalbardposten (Norway)
Brisbane Times	New Kerala (India)	Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)
Chicago Public Radio (USA)	New Scientist (UK)	Tages Anzeiger (Switzerland)
Chicago Tribune	New York Times	Teatro Naturale (Italy)
Cosmos Magazine	Newsfood	Thai-Indian News (India)
Daily Nation	Nine News (Australia)	The Times (UK)
The Daily Telegraph (UK)	Norway Post	Time Magazine
Der Standard (Austria)	O Globo (Brazil)	Tribune de Genève (Switzerland)
Deutsche Welle (Germany)	Popular Science	United Nations Radio
Diario de Noticias (Portugal)	Portland Monthly (USA)	United Press International
The East African	Redorbit	USA Today (USA)
EU Observer	Reuters	Wall Street Journal (USA)
Farmers Guardian	Science and Development Network	The West Australian
France 24	Science Magazine	The Wire
G Magazine (Australia)	Science Oxford Online	ZDF (Germany)



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Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany
The Gatsby Charitable Foundation
Grains Research and Development Cooperation
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Gordon J. Hammersley Foundation
Government of Egypt
Government of Ethiopia
Government of Spain
Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland
International Seed Federation
Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust
Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural, Colombia
Ministry of Agriculture, India
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand
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United Nations Foundation
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