

# Genebanks: delivering food security

What are genebanks? They are places where seeds, and other living material, of thousands of different varieties of the world's crop plants are kept safe. Their mission? To serve up, like a great chef, whatever the world's appetite for agricultural innovation demands.



**The Crop Trust supports the international genebanks of CGIAR, which safeguard some of humanity's favorite crops.**

## Philippines

### The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

Conserves **132,604** samples of both cultivated (traditional, improved varieties, breeding lines, genetic stocks) rice and wild rice from **134** countries.

## Lebanon and Morocco

### The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Conserves **152,305** varieties of cereals, legumes, forage and rangeland species from **127** countries.



**Food for thought:** After some time in storage, seeds are 'woken up', tested, and if necessary planted and harvested to make up for any losses that may have occurred. Scientists use special net cages for some crops so that insects do not cross-pollinate different varieties.

**The European Commission generously contributes to the Crop Trust's long-term support for international genebanks, such as those of The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, ICARDA, IITA and IRRI. In order to help guarantee funding for the essential operations of genebanks, in perpetuity, the Crop Trust seeks to increase its Endowment Fund to yield USD 25 million annually as quickly as possible.**

## Nigeria

### The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)

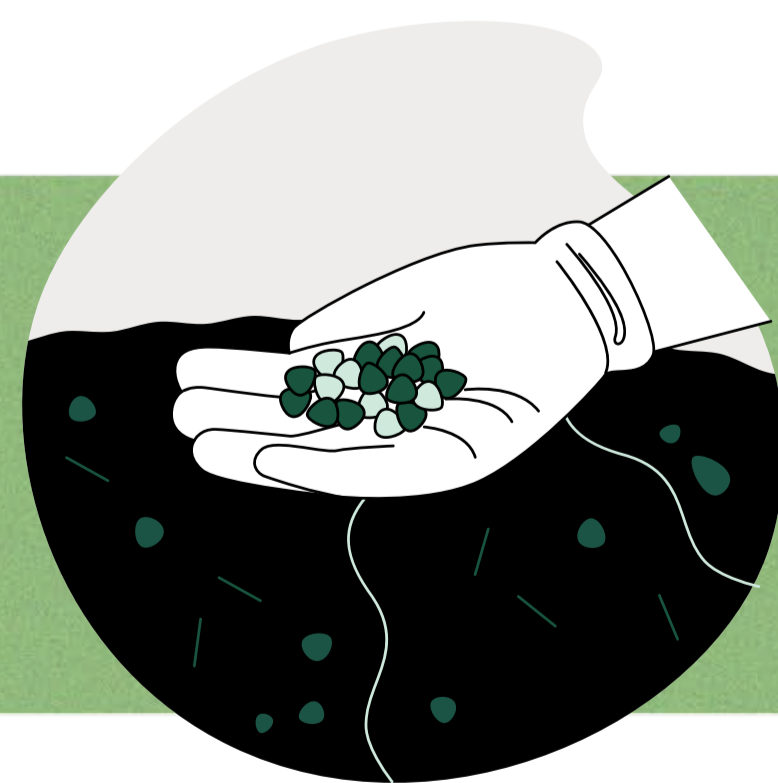
Conserves **36,000** varieties of maize, bambara groundnut, African yam bean, and cowpea from **40** countries.

## Colombia

### The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

Conserves **60,593** varieties of beans and forages from **140** countries, in addition to **5,963** varieties of cassava from **28** countries.

**Food for thought:** No improved varieties of Bambara groundnut and African yam bean are yet available, therefore farmers and scientists rely on the diversity of traditional landraces preserved by genebanks.



**Spread the word: tell someone about #genebanks today!**

