



A crop wild relative global portal

Meeting the information challenge for CWR *in situ* conservation

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CWR diversity is a critical resource for food security and human well being, but it is under serious threat from global change. 16-22% of *Arachis*, *Solanum* and *Vigna* species may go extinct by 2055.

CWR are seriously under-conserved both *ex* and *in situ*: An estimated 6% have accessions conserved *ex situ*. *In situ* conservation has focused on protected areas, while most CWR occur outside protected areas.

Rational

Information is an essential ingredient for effective conservation. With growing international interest in CWR conservation, a considerable information gap became evident. The global, UNEP-GEF supported project “*in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives through enhanced information management and field application” (2004 – 2010) addressed this information gap by developing national information systems in Armenia, Bolivia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and linking these and other relevant information to a global portal.

Before the project

- Limited targeted national information activities on CWR
- No global web site dedicated to CWR
- Dispersed data and in formats not readily useable
- Little data digitized, in particular location data
- Different data structures in institutes within a country

Achievements during the project

At national level:

- ▶ **Nationally adapted information systems to manage CWR data and applied GIS tools to create distribution maps and do spatial analysis**

- Digitization of existing information
- Aggregation of existing but dispersed information in national or institutional databases, using common CWR descriptors agreed within the project
- Collection of new occurrence data from numerous field surveys
- Use of and integration into existing IT structure and capacity

At global level:

- ▶ **A global portal on CWR that provides data from national inventories and international resources:**

- Content management system Typo3 for sustainable management and easy participation in further portal development
- Search interface to national inventories linked through TapirLink
- Links to international resources providing additional information about CWR taxa in national inventories
- Search interface to data about CWR experts, project and institutes
- News and events on CWR
- Publications such as books, papers, theses, newsletters
- Funding alerts for CWR research
- Active encouragement of user community contributions

