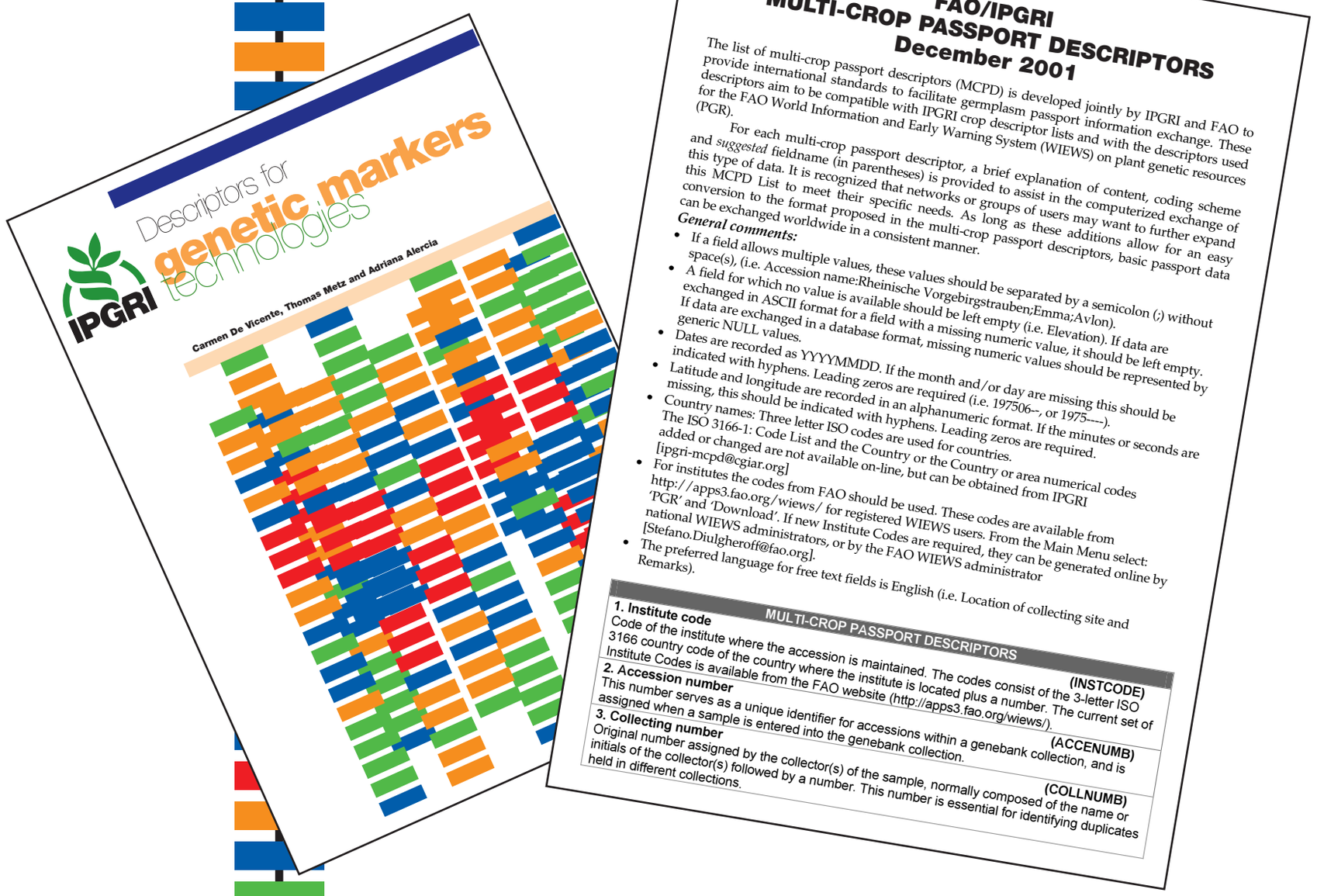
Descriptors and derived standards

The use of a well-defined and thoroughly tested 'universal language' in Descriptor Lists greatly simplifies data recording, updating and modifying, information retrieval, exchange and analysis.

Use of Descriptors also facilitates collaboration since germplasm conservers and users using the same descriptors can easily exchange and interpret each other's data. A typical example of this universal language is the IPGRI/FAO List of Multicrop Passport descriptors (MCPD), which provides international standards to facilitate germplasm passport information exchange. The MCPD has been especially adopted in the EURISCO Search Catalogue, as well as in the SINGER System.



The Descriptors are evolving over time in response to user needs. PGR information on the molecular level is becoming increasingly important, and this has had an impact on IPGRI's latest Descriptors standards. This new approach, which complements classical agro-botanical analysis, is reflected in the List of Descriptors for Genetic Markers Technologies.