

## 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.

MULTI-CROP PASSPORT DESCRIPTORS The list of multi-crop passport descriptors (MCPD) is developed jointly by IPGRI and FAO to provide international standards to facilitate germplasm passport information exchange. These for the FAO World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) on plant genetic resources descriptors aim to be compatible with IPGKI crop descriptor lists and with the descriptors used for the FAO World Information and Early Warning System (WIEWS) on plant genetic resource (PGR).

For each multi-crop passport descriptor, a brief explanation of content, coding scheme and suggested fieldname (in parentheses) is provided to assist in the computerized exchange of this MCPD List to meet their specific needs. As long as these may want to further expand can be exchanged worldwide in a consistent manner. Jeneral comments:

If a field allows multiple values, these values should be separated by a semicolon (;) without space(s), (i.e. Accession name: Rheinische Vorgebirgstrauben: Emma; Avlon).

A field for which no value is available should be left emoty (i.e. Elevation). If data are space(s), (i.e. Accession name: Khemische Vorgebirgstrauben; Emma; Avion).

A field for which no value is available should be left empty (i.e. Elevation). If data are available should be left empty (i.e. Elevation). If data are available should be left empty (i.e. Elevation). A field for which no value is available should be left empty (i.e. Elevation). It data are exchanged in ASCII format for a field with a missing numeric value, it should be left empty. If data are exchanged in a database format, missing numeric values should be represented by exchanged in ASCUI format for a neid with a missing numeric value, it should be left empty. If data are exchanged in a database format, missing numeric values should be represented by Dates are recorded as YYYYMMDD. If the month and/or day are missing this indicated with hyphens. Leading zeros are required (i.e. 197506-, or 1975--). indicated with hyphens. Leading zeros are required (i.e. 19/506-7 or 19/5---).

Latitude and longitude are recorded in an alphanumeric format. If the minutes of the chould be indicated with hyphone. I eading zeros are required. Lantuge and longitude are recorded in an alphanumeric format. In missing, this should be indicated with hyphens. Leading zeros are Country names: Three letter ISO codes are used for countries. Country names: Three letter ISO codes are used for countries.

The ISO 3166-1: Code List and the Country or the Country or area numerical codes added or changed are not available on-line, but can be obtained from IPGRI The ISO 3160-1: Code List and the Country or the Country or area numerica added or changed are not available on-line, but can be obtained from IPGRI [ipgri-mcpd@cgiar.org] [ipgri-mcpd@cgiar.org]
For institutes the codes from FAO should be used. These codes are available from http://apped for org/wiewe/ for registered WIFWS users. From the Main Menus. For institutes the codes from FAO should be used. These codes are available from http://apps3.fao.org/wiews/ for registered WIEWS users. From the Main Menu select: 'Arabic administrators, or by the FAO WIEWS administrator generated online by selections. [Stetano.Dulgnerott@tao.org].
The preferred language for free text fields is English (i.e. Location of collecting site and 1. Institute code MULTI-CROP PASSPORT DESCRIPTORS 1. Institute code
Code of the institute where the accession is maintained. The codes consist of the 3-letter ISO

(INSTCODE)

(INSTCODE) Code of the institute where the accession is maintained. The codes consist of the 3-letter ISO 1.5 Accession number from the FAO website (http://apps3.fao.org/wiews/).

(ACCENUMB) 2. Accession number
This number serves as a unique identifier for accessions within a genebank collection, and is assigned when a sample is entered into the genebank collection. 3. Collecting number 3. Collecting number
Original number assigned by the collector(s) of the sample, normally composed of the name or initials of the collections.

(COLLNUMB)

(COLLNUMB)

Initials of the collector(s) followed by a number. This number is essential for identifying duplicates

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 agrobotanical analysis, is reflected in the List of Descriptors for Genetic Markers Technologies.