

Focus Group 'Local plant genetic resources in view of climate change and biodiversity loss'

Madrid, Spain
27-28 November 2024

Heritage repository of local fruit and berry crops

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› DESCRIPTION OF THE CASE

The Institute of Horticulture (LatHort), Latvia genetic resource collection = national gene bank for fruit, berry and vegetatively propagated vegetable crops.

- 5500 genotypes of 30 plant species, incl. 1741 samples of national genetic resources.
- Full range of germplasm activities: collection, preservation, research and use.



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> AGRONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFIT/VALUE

Germplasm collection maintenance and research provides:

- > **Preservation of agrobiodiversity** - cultivars are replaced as a result of market demand, technology changes.
- > *Ex situ* collections - **landfill** for understanding plant adaptation.
- > *Ex situ* collections - agronomically important **gene hunting source** for breeding.



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› SOCIO-ECONOMIC VALORISATION

- › Farmer **involvement** in identifying germplasm, direct **participation** in collection activities.
- › Promoting of the old cultivar reintroduction in growing, diversification of farm production and **raising competitiveness**.
- › Identifying and setting up a heritage gardens for the promotion of old varieties through **tourism and local production**.



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› SUCCESS FACTORS:

- › Long-term **experience** in germplasm collection, maintenance and use.
- › National and international **cooperation**.
- › Demo farm network for **knowledge transfer and information exchange**.

› CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES:

- › Climate changes
- › Closer cooperation, wider use of diversity in growing.



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All information on the Focus Group is available on the webpage:

<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/focus-group-local-perennial-plant-genetic-resources-view-climate-change-and-biodiversity-loss>

