

Group 3: How can genebanks improve their service to users?

- The CBD and ITPGRFA were thought to have reduced the use of germplasm by industry, primarily because of legal uncertainty and obligations that were perceived to be perpetual. This was particularly the case for the CBD. The ITPGRFA was viewed more favorably. The status of PGR acquired post-1993 and not covered by the IT was viewed as particularly problematic. Implementation of the CBD is not uniform across nations, which was also problematic.

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- The ITPGRFA's SMTA was generally viewed favorably; most participants felt that it was superior to other MTAs.

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- Funding—apparently, funding from the EU will stop soon, and possible actions for addressing this challenge were discussed.
- Funding for PGR conservation from national governments might also decrease. But, one nation is levying a small tax on seed sales to generate funds to support the ITPGRFA's Multilateral System.

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- Genebanks should take the lead role in collecting new samples, but industry might help finance the collections.
- New acquisitions should be targeted to fill genetic gaps in collections, especially for wild relatives and land races.
- Successful joint multi-national explorations for forage germplasm were described.

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- Funding was required for genomic analyses. An EU-funded fruit germplasm genotyping and phenotyping project was described.
- Within a few years, many germplasm accessions might be fully sequenced. Then, the challenges of genomic data analyses and management will be paramount.
- The genomic data can be applied to cull duplicate accessions from a collection, and to identify particularly interesting genotypes.

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- A wheat genetic improvement consortium currently conducts genotyping and phenotyping of landrace collections to identify core subsets.
- Standardization of genetic markers and analytical protocols are vital for efficient progress.
- Phenotyping is equally important to genotyping but the former is not receiving adequate attention nor support.
- Genetically-engineered PGR are not incorporated into European genebanks at present.