



Which species?

All Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) from cultivated species and their Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) (vegetable, field crop, fruit, ornamental, medicinal and aromatic plants) except for forest trees, in France and its overseas territories.



For who?

All stakeholders involved in PGR and CWR:

- conservation
- characterisation
- use (scientific, agricultural, cultural, sociological or economical)

A wide diversity of stakeholders are involved:

- National or regional public institutions: research institutes, botanical conservatories, nature reserves, biological resources centres, regional genetic resources centres, botanical gardens, ...
- Local authorities
- Private: breeders, producers, nursery owners, farmers
- Associations
- Individuals



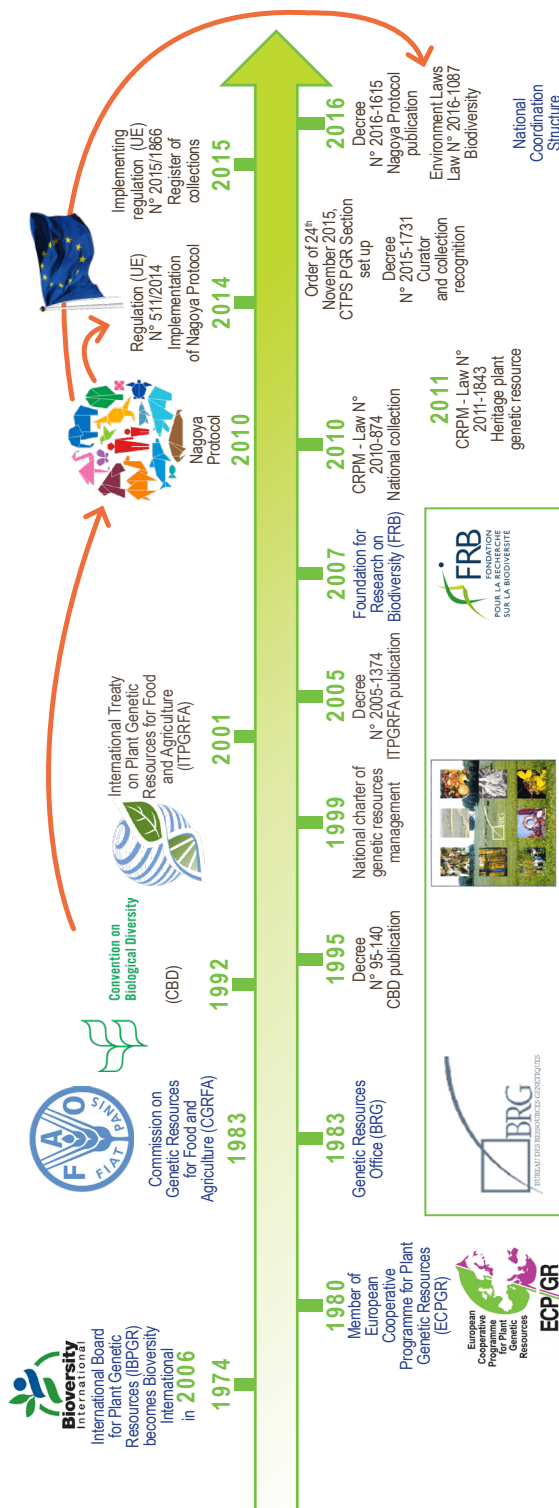
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Conservation of cultivated plant genetic resources

An organisation involving a diversity of stakeholders

a wide range of stakeholders

Associations, Conservatories, Farmers, Breeders,
Genetic Resources Centres, Public Research ...



The history of cultivated plant genetic resources and their crop wild relatives in France...

Since 1983, France has recognised the **need to maintain domesticated genetic resources in the different kingdoms (animal, microbial, plant) as a potential resource to meet future needs**. The Genetic Resources Office (BRG) draws up and leads the national policy on genetic resources conservation and represents France in international bodies.

Following the "Grenelle Environnement" forum in 2007, the BRG merged with the French Biodiversity Institute (IFB) in charge of wild genetic resources to become the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity (FRB). The FRB's activities are focused on research aspects, and the BRG's scientific activities were incorporated into this new organisation.

The conservation of cultivated Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) involves a wide range of stakeholders.

Public research institutes manage *ex situ* collections, whereby plants are maintained outside their natural habitat. These collections are held by **Genetic or Biological Resources Centres**, who are in direct contact with a wide panel of stakeholders including scientists, breeders, and farmers. Certain collections are also managed by **public-private conservation networks**. These networks, set up by the BRG, have established national collections that are freely available.

PGR organisations have also been set up at a more local level, such as **regional genetic resources centres, botanical conservatories, nature reserves and local authorities**. These organisations manage their collections in both *in situ* (maintained in their natural habitat) and *ex situ* conservation. In particular, they have put in place initiatives to revive traditional knowledge, help farmers and incorporate old local varieties into the economic sector. **Farmers, associations and individuals** have also developed strong skills in PGR conservation, mainly *in situ* and "on farm". These conservation measures aim to promote varieties that are adapted to local conditions and produced in short supply chains by local actors, using and enhancing traditional knowledge.

These curators are faced with practical and regulatory issues, such as evolving national and international regulations, notably the Nagoya Protocol coming into force.

....Towards a new organisation since 2016



In order to support and highlight the work of these stakeholders and the diversity of cultivated plant genetic resources in France, a National Coordination was set up in 2016, funded by the French Ministry of Agriculture.

Its missions are to coordinate and lead the conservation of cultivated Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) and their Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) at national level, and to assist the French government in complying with their international commitments.

This new organisation is comprised of a National Coordination Structure within the French Group for the Study and Control of Varieties and Seeds (GEVES) and a Technical Committee for Plant Breeding (CTPS) Section for the conservation of cultivated PGR and their CWR.

The CTPS Section brings together 46 members representing stakeholders who are involved in *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation, characterisation and use of PGR.

