

CALL FOR PAPERS

BUILDING EUROPEAN COOPERATION FOR

PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

CONSERVATION, INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE



12–13 NOVEMBER 2026



**POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
SCIENTIFIC CENTER IN ROME**
VICOLO DORIA 2, ROME, ITALY

ORGANISED BY:

Polish Academy of Sciences
Scientific Center in Rome

Institute of Plant Genetics,
Polish Academy of Sciences

Marche Polytechnic University

BACKGROUND

Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) are fundamental to food and nutritional security, crop improvement, adaptation to climate change, and the long-term resilience of European and global agri-food systems. At the same time, a substantial proportion of genetic resources conserved in genebanks and research collections remains insufficiently characterised, is dispersed across institutions, or is only partially accessible to breeders, farmers and other potential users. The challenge therefore extends beyond the conservation of genetic diversity. It also requires effective mechanisms for its responsible assessment, exchange and sustainable use.

Against this background, the workshop “Building European Cooperation for Plant Genetic Resources: Conservation, International Cooperation and Sustainable Use” will bring together a limited number of researchers and stakeholders from Poland, Italy and other countries. Participants will represent complementary expertise in plant genetic resources conservation, genebank management, agronomy, genomics, phenotyping, seed biology, data science, plant breeding, participatory research, Citizen Science and agricultural policy.

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A FOCUSED WORKSHOP FOR SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE AND COLLABORATION

The event will follow a deliberately small-scale and interactive format, designed to facilitate open scientific discussion, exchange of experience and the development of concrete collaborative initiatives. During the meeting, participants will also consider the potential development of a European policy-oriented white paper on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, with particular attention to the European context.

Drawing on the experience of the INCREASE project and other European and international initiatives, the workshop will explore how activities undertaken by genebanks, stakeholder engagement, participatory approaches, Citizen Science and international cooperation can be better integrated within a common strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

TOPICS OF INTEREST

We invite contributions addressing, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Conservation of plant genetic resources: complementarity between *ex situ*, *in situ* and *on-farm* conservation, including decentralised approaches;
- Characterisation and evaluation: classical and molecular phenotyping, genomics, metabolomics and evaluation under diverse environmental conditions;
- Genebanks and Intelligent Collections: management, characterisation and long-term development of user-oriented collections, with particular reference to the experience and outcomes of the INCREASE project;
- Citizen Science and participatory approaches: involvement of citizens, farmers and other stakeholders in the conservation, evaluation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources;
- International cooperation: collaboration between European genebanks, research institutions and other stakeholders, including data and germplasm exchange;
- Sustainable use of PGRFA: links between genetic resources, plant breeding, agricultural diversification, climate adaptation and resilient agri-food systems;
- European strategies and future cooperation: approaches to strengthening coordination, networking and joint initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

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CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Researchers and experts working in the fields of plant genetic resources, conservation biology, plant breeding, agronomy, genomics, phenotyping, seed biology, data science, Citizen Science, participatory research, agricultural policy and related disciplines are invited to submit contributions.

Given the focused nature of the workshop, preference will be given to contributions that:

- present original research or significant practical experience;
- address current challenges in the conservation or sustainable use of PGRFA;
- demonstrate innovative approaches or methodologies;
- provide examples of successful national or international cooperation;
- contribute to discussion on the future of European cooperation in the field.

Contributions may address one of the topics listed above or related aspects of the conservation, characterisation, management and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Please submit your contribution to accademia@pan.pl by **12 October 2026**.

Further information concerning the format of submissions and the programme will be provided to selected contributors.



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