

BELGIAN COMMITTEE for PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Following the good collaborative work achieved in 2009 during the establishment of the *FAO Belgian National Report on the State of Plant Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture* (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1500e/Belgium.pdf>), a **Belgian Committee for Plant Genetic Resources** (BCPGR) has been set up in 2011.

The Committee is a working group that coordinates at the national level all actions and initiatives related to Plant Genetic Resources and cultivated plant biodiversity. This Committee works under the supervision of the 'Permanent Working Group Inter-Ministerial Conference on Agricultural Policy' (PW-ICLB/ GTP-CIPA).

The main tasks of the Committee are the following:

- policy coordination between the different regional and federal administrations in charge of these matters;
- setting up and management of a Belgian National Inventory of Plant Genetic Resources collections;
- preparation, coordination and reporting of the Belgian delegates participating to meetings of international fora related to PGR; especially *Bioversity International* and its *European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources - ECPGR* – (www.ecpgr.cgiar.org), the *FAO* and the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* – (www.planttreaty.org), the *Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD)*, (www.biodiv.be – www.cbd.int, ...);
- national coordination of all related *ad hoc* topics (threatened collections, establishment of national collections, national strategies,...).

The permanent members of the Committee are:

- the regional and federal administrations in charge of agriculture:
 - Flemish Government, Department of Agriculture & Fisheries;
 - Wallonia's Operational Directorate-General for Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment (DGARNE);
 - The Ministry of the Brussels-Capital Region, Administration of Economy & Employment, Agriculture division;
 - Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment.
- the public institutions that are holders and managers of plant genetic resources collection linked with the ITPGRFA:
 - *Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research - Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek* (ILVO, Melle/Merelbeke – www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be);
 - *Walloon Agricultural Research Centre - Centre Wallon de Recherches Agronomiques* (CRA-W, Gembloux/Libramont – www.cra.wallonie.be);
 - *Botanic Garden Meise – Jardin Botanique National de Belgique – Nationale Plantentuin van België* (Meise – <http://www.plantentuinmeise.be/index.php>).

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