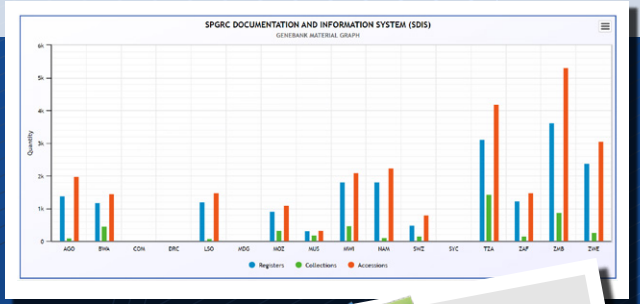
Documentation & Information

- The Documentation and Information programme is responsible for the coordination of documentation of plant genetic resources information in the SADC region.
- Provides technical support to Member States on matters to do with documentation and maintenance of plant genetic resources information and sharing the information among Member States and other users.
- The Documentation and Information programme manages a regional database on plant genetic resources conservation called the SDIS which is a web-based platform for SADC plant genetic resources conservation focal points for managing information about conservation activities in their respective countries.
- It is also a central point were regional information about plant genetic resources conservation and utilization is found and is linked to other global information systems.



01 Documentation

The process of recording information about PGR, including their source, characteristics, and location.

02 Information Exchange & Sharing

Proper documentation is essential for the exchange and sharing of PGR, ensuring that accurate information accompanies genetic material.

03 Policy & Legal Frameworks

Establishing, publishing legal and policy frameworks for the documentation, access, and benefit-sharing related to PGR.

04 Capacity Building

Conducting regional trainings on documentation best practices and knowledge related to PGR conservation and utilization.

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DESIGNWORX

SADC PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES CENTRE

SPGRC
INFORMATION BROCHURE

About SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC)

The SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC), which falls under the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources (FANR) Directorate, works with national plant genetic resources centres (NPGRCs) in each of the SADC Member States to coordinate collection, conservation and utilization of plant genetic diversity and variability of Southern Africa. The SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre, and its national counterparts, also perform important roles in research, documentation and training, and education in the area of conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources.

VISION

To be lead institution that ensures regional plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are safeguarded and efficiently used to enhance the resilience of farming and food systems for improved food, and nutrition security and livelihoods in the SADC region

MISSION

Mobilise, conserve and make available plant genetic resources using state-of-the-art technologies and standards, contributing to sustainable development, environment and food security for the wellbeing of the people of SADC

OBJECTIVES

- To build the human resources capacity within the SADC region to better conserve and use PGRFA
- To consolidate and strengthen the regional and national ex situ collections of PGRFA (at SPGRC and NPGRCs) in the SADC region
- To promote in situ conservation and use of PGRFA including CWR in SADC Member States
- To promote on farm conservation and use of PGRFA in the SADC region
- To promote the sustainable utilization of PGRFA in SADC Member States
- To mobilize adequate financial resources for the conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA in SADC Member States
- To increase awareness of the importance of PGRFA among its major stakeholders including policy makers, farmers, landowners and the SADC citizenry for enhanced community PGRFA conservation and use

Ex Situ Conservation

- The *Ex situ* conservation programme is responsible for coordination of ex situ conservation works involving managing gene banks and providing technical support to Member States on how best to manage crop germplasm *ex situ.*
- The *Ex Situ* conservation section also manages the SADC regional genebank (base collection) based in Lusaka, Zambia at SPGRC and ensures that the regional collection is duplicated for safety at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault close to the North Pole in Longyearbyen.
- The base collection at SPGRC is a regional long-term plant germplasm conservation facility whose availability is a guaranteed of food security for future generations while the Svalbard Global Seed Vault duplicate is a backup against unforeseen events like wars or natural disasters that might damage the collection at SPGRC.
- The *Ex situ* conservation programme also carry out basic research to generate information about *ex situ* germplasm conservation.

01 Conservation
Activities related to maintaining the viability and genetic integrity of PGR, such as seed banking or in vitro conservation.

02 Characterization and Evaluation
While initial characterization may occur In situ, more detailed evaluation and characterization are often carried out in controlled ex situ environments, such as gene banks.

03 Utilization
Ex situ conservation often serves as the source for utilizing PGR in breeding programs, where controlled conditions can facilitate breeding efforts.

04 Exchange and Sharing
The exchange of PGR between institutions or countries is primarily an ex situ activity, involving the transfer of preserved genetic material.

In Situ Conservation

- The *In situ* conservation programme contributes to achieving the SPGRC mandate by promoting and providing technical guidance and coordination of germplasm collection missions.
- On-farm conservation and establishment of community genebanks banks.
- Maintenance of root and tuber crops in field genebank.
- *In situ* conservation of Crop Wild Relatives and medicinal plants occurring in the SADC region.
- The *In situ* conservation programme also carries out basic research to generate information about ex situ germplasm conservation.

01 Collections
Involves the gathering of plant materials from their natural habitats.

02 *In Situ* Conservation
In situ conservation involves preserving PGR in their natural habitats, which can include protected areas, farms, and community-managed landscapes.

03 Characterization & Evaluation
In some cases, the utilization of PGR may involve participatory plant breeding or on-farm conservation, which falls under in situ utilization.

04 On-Farm Conservation
Involves conserving local land races within traditional systems.