DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH
ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY BHAVAN, ANAND-388 110 (Gujarat)

Circular

A letter received from Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Pusa campus, New Delhi regarding registration of Trait specific germplasms at ICAR-NBPGR is attached herewith for information and necessary action. All the unit and sub-unit heads are hereby advised to submit the unique germplasms identified /developed at our university for registration at ICAR-NBPGR so as to safeguard the precious genetic resources of the country for long term conservation and sustainable agricultural development.

Encl: a/a

No. AAU/DR/T-1/12032 /2021
Date 08 /03/2021

Director of Research
& Dean P.G. Studies

Copy to

1. PS to Hon. Vice Chancellor, AAU, Anand for information
2. All the unit and sub-unit head of the AAU, Anand for information and necessary action
3. Member Secretary (IPR Cell) & Unit officer, Department of Agricultural Biotechnology, AAU, Anand for information and necessary action

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Dr. Kuldeep Singh, *FNAAS*
Director

Date: 25-02-2021

Sub: Registration of Trait-specific Germplasm at ICAR-NBPGR-reg.

Dear Sir/Madam,

ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources is a nodal institute dedicated to the management of Plant Genetic Resources, including collection, exchange, conservation, characterization and distribution to National Agricultural Research System (NARS) partners. One of the major goals of the institute is to cater the needs of crop breeders and other researchers to develop new varieties, new genetic stocks and new knowledge. It also envisages being responsible for on farm and in situ conservation, in close association with farming communities, so as to ensure agricultural and environmental sustainability.

Plant Genetic resources are building blocks for genetic improvement and ICAR-NBPGR is conserving more than 4.5 lakh accessions of around1900 species including crop plants and their wild relatives in national genebank. NBPGR is also facilitating exchange of more than 1.5 lakh seed samples from other countries and sharing seeds of around 20,000 accessions with NARS partners annually through Indian National Plant Genetic Resources (INPGR) System. Despite such large-scale germplasm movement, it is still felt that the germplasm in the genebanks is not being utilized to its optimum levels. One of the approaches for improving enhanced and systematic utilization of genetic resources is through making available to the crop breeders, the genetic stocks with well characterized traits. Use of such genetic resources depend upon the availability of information and the material in a public domain that ensures smooth and regulated access. While access to such genetic stocks is of paramount importance, equally important is the recognition of the researchers who develop/identify the trait specific germplasm.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research with ICAR- NBPGR as the nodal agency has established a mechanism to register trait specific germplasm and to disseminate the information thereof, for using the same effectively in developing new varieties and for generating new knowledge. Guidelines for the registration of the trait specific germplasm at ICAR-NBPGR were formulated in 1996 (http://www.nbpgr.ernet.in:8080/registration/Guidelines.aspx). To smoothen it further, an online Germplasm Registration Information System (GRIS) (http://www.nbpgr.ernet.in:8080/registration/) has been developed to make the entire process of germplasm registration, from submission of application to evaluation by experts simple, faster and transparent.

As a result, so far 1643 genetic stocks for 238 crop species have been registered with ICAR-NBPGR. The genetic stocks with most desirable traits from breeding point of view like resistance to pest and diseases, tolerance to terminal heat, drought, salinity, alkalinity registered with NBPGR can help to develop new varieties to mitigate climate change. Among the crops registered, cucumber with high carotene content, barley with low beta glucan or purple coloured chillies and wheat rich in anthocyanin can be commercially utilized for enhancing the nutritional value of the crops.

ICAR aims at enhancing this activity further to safeguard its plant genetic resources and increasing their utility for sustainable agricultural production.

We understand that your Institute/University, with extremely dedicated team of geneticists, breeders and other researchers is contributing significantly to this arena and continually developing/identifying novel genetic stocks. Hence, we request you to encourage your scientists for submitting the unique germplasm identified /developed at your institute for registration at ICAR-NBPGR. This will help not only in recognizing the efforts of the researchers developing such material but will help in national endeavour of safeguarding the precious genetic resources of the country for long term conservation.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely

(Kuldeep Singh)
25.02.2021