DATA MANAGEMENT

The effectiveness of genetic resources conservation and utilization is determined by the availability and reliability of information relating to the germplasm collections. Micro computers are used for the storage and management of genetic resources data.

OTHER FACILITIES

Fields and green house are available for germplasm evaluation and multiplication. There is a conference hall which can accommodate 400 persons, a seminar room and a library.

TRAINING

The centre provides training programmes related to its activities, in order to help a national awareness of genetic diversity and the necessity for its conservation.
PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES CENTRE

The Plant Genetic Resources Centre of Sri Lanka was established in 1988 with the financial and technical assistance of the Government of Japan. The function of the Centre is to plan and implement a national programme for the collection and conservation of the genetic resources of food and other useful crops. The agricultural research institutes and centers collaborate to form a country-wide network for this purpose.

Diversity in capsicum

The work on genetic resources at PGRC involves these activities:

GERMLASM COLLECTION AND INTRODUCTION

This is the methodical exploration and collection of crop genetic resources in the form of cultivated types and their wild relatives. This activity is aimed at the maximum recovery of the genetic variation of a species. Links are established with international agricultural research institutes and foreign genebanks for introduction and exchange of crop germplasm.

Collection of genetic resources

EVALUATION

Systematic characterization and evaluation are essential for effective utilization of crop genetic resources. Germplasm characterization is the recording of highly heritable morpho agronomic traits that could be used to distinguish different accessions and also in the identification of duplicates. Germplasm is evaluated for specific traits useful to the breeder, such as pest- and disease-resistance, adaptability and biochemical traits, through the cooperation of researchers at agricultural research institute and centers.

GERMLASM CHARACTERIZATION

Seed conservation in the form of seed plays a pivotal role in the activities of the centre. Seed is stored in the gene bank, which has provision for the storage of up to 25,000 accessions. Seed collections are kept at low temperatures as base collections stored for long-term security and active collections for medium-term storage to meet request from breeders and research workers for use in crop improvement.

Seed storage in genebank

IN VITRO CONSERVATION AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Vegetatively propagated crops and crop plants which are difficult to conserve in the form of seed are preserved using in vitro techniques. Biotechnology opens up a new dimension for the utilization of crop genetic resources. The centre has facilities for the application of biotechnology for crop improvement.

in vitro Banana plants  

in vitro conservation