

# Australian Pastures Genebank

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**PIRSA**



**AUSTRALIAN  
PASTURES  
GENEBANK**

The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) manages the Australian Pastures Genebank (APG).

The APG is Australia's first national pasture and forage genetic resource centre. It will be custodian of more than 70 000 accessions of tropical and temperate pasture and forage genetic resources.

The APG is located at Adelaide's Waite Campus research precinct.

## **National mandate**

The APG mandate includes all pasture and forage species of actual or potential value to Australian agriculture.

This includes plants intended to be grown for:

- livestock
- crop rotation
- the environment.

## **Objectives and mission**

The APG will conserve, maintain and distribute plant genetic material in the form of seed and associated data of mandated pasture and forage species.

Mandated pasture and forage species will be:

- acquired
- documented
- conserved
- maintained
- distributed

The APG will be the national hub for pasture and forage plant genetic resource activities in Australia supporting the long term conservation and sustainable utilisation of valuable diversity as a permanent resource for plant breeding and the development of Australian grazing and mixed farming enterprises.

It will also provide a source of genetic diversity for overseas programs and will support Australia's international obligations to conserve and distribute seed for the benefit of global food security.

## **Benefit sharing**

The APG will operate under the framework of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

It will adhere to the rules and standards of its Multilateral System.

Accordingly, seeds and associated data will be provided under a Standard Materials Transfer Agreement.

More specifically, the APG will make small quantities of mandated germplasm and related information available for food and agricultural:

- scientific research
- plant breeding
- genetic resource conservation or education.

## **Vision**

To conserve the diversity of Australia's current and prospective pasture and forage species for use nationally and internationally as the basis for enhanced agricultural productivity and environmental preservation now and forever.

Assured access to genetic resources is critical to help agriculture adapt to the future and would benefit not only primary producers, but also processors, marketers, breeders, education, the environment and regional farming communities

The APG forms part of a two node network within the National Genetic Resource Centre together with the Australian Grains Genebank in Horsham Victoria.



## Undertakings

As custodian of Australia's collection of pasture and forage genetic resources the APG has the following national and international responsibilities to:

- Operate under the framework of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- Establish mandated germplasm collections to meet foreseeable national breeding requirements.
- Support the introduction, quarantine and biosecurity of mandated germplasm.
- Establish relationships with scientists working on mandated germplasm to facilitate a coordinated introduction and regeneration program.
- Keep interested scientists informed of new accessions to the collection.
- Ensure maximum usefulness of the centre.
- Manage and administer the mandated germplasm in accordance with international Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, including ensuring material is duplicated off-site as a safety deposit.
- Provide online access to publicly available information of mandated germplasm.

## Stakeholders

The establishment and operation of the APG is supported by:

- The South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)
- Meat and Livestock Australia
- Australian Wool Innovation
- Grains Research and Development Corporation
- Dairy Australia
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
- Department of Primary Industries New South Wales
- Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry Queensland
- Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment Tasmania
- Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries Victoria
- Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia
- Seed Services Australia
- Australian Government Department of Agriculture



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