Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Introduction to pre-breeding

This course explains and defines pre-breeding and its context, identifying the situations to which it is best applied and its possible limitations. The potential of pre-breeding to make optimal use of the benefits represented by plant genetic resources is also outlined. The module introduces the criteria to define when pre-breeding is an advisable option, and introduces basic concepts of plant biology and genetics necessary to set up a successful pre-breeding programme.

3.5 hours

Available in English

You will learn about

- The potential of pre-breeding to make optimal use and benefits represented by plant genetic resources (PGR)
- Defining pre-breeding context and examples of applications
- Identifying the situations to which pre-breeding is best applied and its limitations
- Genetic control of trait expression and plant reproductive biology
- Application of basic biological knowledge to pre-breeding

Who is the course for?

The course is, primarily, for germplasm curators and plant breeders and their support and collaborating personnel, university lecturers and students engaged in germplasm management and/or crop improvement. It is also recommended for extension agents, seeds specialists, field technicians and relevant research administrators and managers.

Key partners

This course was jointly developed by Bioversity International, Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Contributing organizations:

- Alberta Innovates - Bio Solutions
- International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)
- International Potato Center
- Global Crop Diversity Trust
- Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences, Aberystwyth University
- International Centre for Plant Breeding Education and Research, The University of Western Australia
- Center for Agricultural Biotechnology, Kasetsart University
- Agricultural Research Service, USDA
- Centre for Genetic Resources, Wageningen University
- Bioversity International

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CA8643EN/1/04.20

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