



“Praise for the tomato genetic resources center TGRC and best wishes for an important and brilliant future”

The future of our food system relies on our ability to breed varieties that are able to produce good yield in climate change conditions like drought, increase salinity and extreme temperatures and at the same time are resistant to emerging diseases. To face all these challenges breeders and scientists need to have access to genetic resources: collections of natural and human generated materials that are used to breed modern varieties.

With more than 6,000 individual seed samples representing 2,000+ different accessions distributed to researchers and breeders worldwide The C.M. Rick Tomato Genetics Resource Center ([TGRC](https://tgrc.ucdavis.edu/); <https://tgrc.ucdavis.edu/>) is the reference genebank for tomato. TGRC germplasm have been used for a wide variety of basic and applied research with 100+ new publications mentioning use of its stocks every year.

[Harnesstom](http://harnesstom.eu/en/) (<http://harnesstom.eu/en/>) an EU-funded project that aims to produce more resilient tomatoes, is benefiting from the access to TGRC resources. Harnesstom is not alone on this as many other EU-funded projects like EU SOL, Traditom, Tomgem, ProGRACE, etc., have also used accessions from TGRC. All these projects involved all together close to a hundred research teams in over 50 research institutions spreading all over Europe. Participants involved not only groups from the academia but also from the industry, breeders, seed companies, association of producers, processors etc. In all these projects having access to tomato accession provided by TGRC has been a key factor for the success of these programs that resulted in prebreeding materials, knowledge and building a research community around tomato genetic resources.

TGRC current Director/Curator Dr. Roger Chetelat is retiring July 1st after many years leading this important resource center. While we cannot help but wish Roger the best in his new stage we also need TGRC continuing his leading role in maintaining, characterizing and providing access to unique genetic resources as these will be essential for developing new knowledge and materials. We need TGRC to continue its key role in both research and breeding activities both in Academia and in Seed Companies worldwide. This is more relevant now than ever as new sources for tolerance to climate change conditions are needed and new emerging diseases are threatening tomato cultivation worldwide.

The C.M. Rick Tomato Genetics Resource Center takes his name after his founder the late [Charles M Rick](https://tgrc.ucdavis.edu/people/charles-rick) (<https://tgrc.ucdavis.edu/people/charles-rick>) who in the mid 1950-70s





collected together with collaborators most of the wild species accessions from Center and South America, but after the years it has received contributions from other researchers and centers around the world. A worldwide Reference Resource the TGRC is key for our future and are the basis of future research infrastructures like GRACE-RI.

