



"Harnesstom fosters collaboration with the Spanish National Center for Genetic Resources"

Harnesstom coordinator and members of the [Harnesstom Database](#) team have recently met with the director and managers of the [National Center for Genetic Resources of Spain CRF](#). The purpose: to establish a collaboration between database experts at CRF and Harnesstom to use and expand HarnesstomDB structure to additional crops.

During the course of the Harnesstom Project bioinformatics and database experts have made important progress in establishing a database for tomato that includes thousands of tomato accessions with associated information that are very useful for breeders, scientists and farmers. On the other hand, the National Center for Genetic Resources of Spain maintains large collections for the main crops of interest in Spain. The CRF has a legal mandate to conserve, coordinate activities and facilitate the use of all resources held in the banks of the Plant Genetic Resources National Program Network. Seedbanks like CRF are key to the conservation of agrobiodiversity, its study and documentation. Currently, the National Inventory, includes passport data information and characterization data of more than 75,000 accessions, including cereal, legumes, etc. This agrobiodiversity includes traditional landraces donated by farmers, crop wild relatives, breeding materials and existing and obsolete commercial varieties, with the potential to be used both as base materials for obtaining new varieties and for the recovery and cultivation of native varieties. The final aim is that all this diversity is made available to public and private sector researchers, breeders and farmers.

To fulfill this aim it is important that all the information about the accessions stored at the CRF is accessible and easily searchable by potential end users. Harnesstom shares this view and building a database that collects all the information on thousands of tomato accessions stored in SeedBanks like CRG and produced in several large EU-funded projects like ESPSOL, TRADITOM, G2PSOL, TOMGEM etc. has been one of the pillars of the Harnesstom project. Now all this expertise can put to fruition in helping bringing to light all the info about the genetic resources stored at the CRF. The basis for this collaboration has thus been established and will continue with the support of different national initiatives currently developing in Spain.



Members of CRF and Harnesstom after the joint meeting

