



“In the next 50 years, the world’s population will likely increase by more than three billion and global demand for food will double. Most of the world’s best agricultural land is already under production, so without better-performing crops, agriculture will continue to spill into more marginal areas and destroy fragile environments. The enormous genetic diversity found in plants may hold the keys to improving staple crops and help assure adequate food supplies. Tools and technologies are now being developed that allow us to tap into that diversity to find important traits, such as pest resistance and drought tolerance. I challenge the next generation to use these new scientific tools and techniques to address the problems that plague the world’s poor.”

—Norman Borlaug, *Agricultural scientist and 1970 Nobel Peace Laureate at the launch of the UN Millennium Development Goals, 2000.*

The Generation Challenge Programme (GCP) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) rises to this challenge by building global partnerships to explore plant genetic diversity and develop crops with improved stress tolerance, for the resource-poor. GCP was established in 2003 with a 10-year horizon in two phases: Phase I, 2004–2008 and Phase II, 2009–2013.



Our vision:

A future where plant breeders have the tools to breed crops in marginal environments with greater efficiency and accuracy for the benefit of the resource-poor farmers and their families.

The unprecedented confluence of the remarkable revolutions in biotechnology, bioinformatics and communications, provide a unique opportunity for research results to reach farmers in the field. GCP is a transnational, multisectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration in plant sciences, bringing together diverse partners to facilitate the flow of products and information to those who need them.

Our key focus is fortifying plants to withstand drought and other stresses such as pests and diseases, for the benefit of resource-poor farmers in harsh environments.

Our mission:

Using genetic diversity and advanced plant science to improve crops for greater food security in the developing world.

