



What we do...

We selectively characterise the diversity of the most important crop germplasm for agriculture, including collections stored in gene banks under the custody of the CGIAR as well as by national research programmes. Using this diversity, we apply genomic tools and interdisciplinary approaches to better understand gene function and their interactions. This understanding of gene systems across crops helps to identify and tag genes which contribute

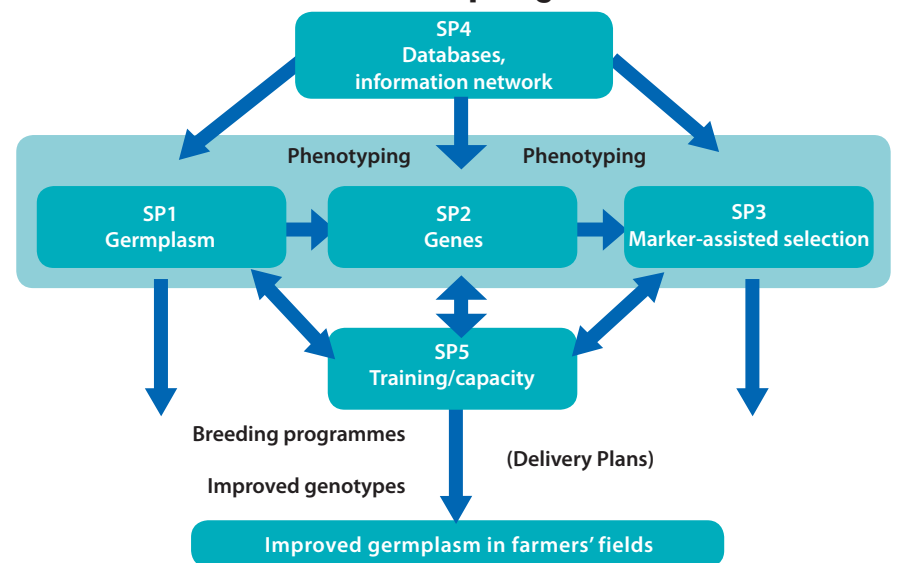
desired agronomic traits. Selection of favourable alleles (ie, variants) of those genes increases the efficiency, speed and scope of plant breeding. We also integrate information components and analysis tools into a coherent information gateway and provide support for data storage and analysis. To ensure impact, we empower scientists in developing country research programmes to use modern breeding.

...and how we deliver

We monitor the development and delivery of our research products through formal Delivery Plans: all GCP project must be conceived with a very clear vision of project products, and target users of these products.

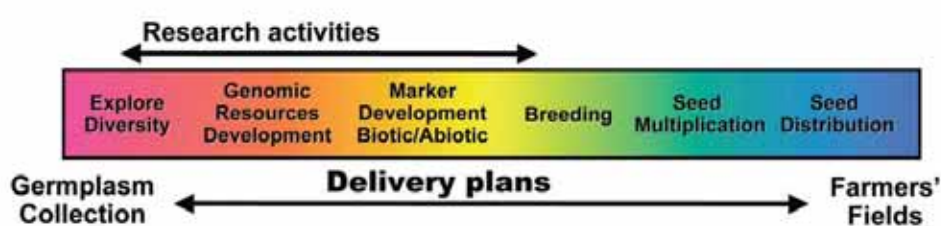
Another top priority is focusing and consolidating our research portfolio and concentrating on priority crops identified in GCP's target environments (details on our website). Through our Delivery Strategy, we are attempting to change the mindset of upstream researchers so that in writing their research proposals, they forecast and take into account users and applications, anticipate possible pitfalls, and devise potential solutions to overcome these constraints. Our work is structured along five overlapping and interactive Subprogrammes.

GCP's five Subprogrammes



The road ahead

Knowledge generation requires the freedom to experiment with new ideas across disciplines and crops, while product development demands a clear roadmap for translating knowledge into tangible products. GCP's research is premised on these twin pillars, thus ensuring appropriate knowledge is generated, and potential products tested and validated in target environments – all within the overall context of generating products useful to resource-poor farmers. The flow diagram illustrates our research-delivery pathway.



Our success is very dependent on the adoption, adaptation and application of our research outputs for

the ultimate benefit of resource-poor farmers. However, our impact in their fields depends directly on national researchers being familiar with the science generated by GCP, and their capacity to apply this science to breeding so as to address the needs of the farmers and consumers for whom they work. If we are to be effective, it is imperative that we cultivate and maintain strong links with country research programmes, and that we substantively enhance their capacity.

In a relatively short time, we have woven a vibrant and active community of crop scientists and – through our partners – we have tangible products to put on the table as evidenced in our recent publications such as *Project updates* and the brochure *Looking back on Phase I and moving on to Phase II and the future*. These two publications, our Delivery Strategy, target environments, and more, are all downloadable from our website. Please visit us online.