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G4007.21: Genotyping Support Service

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Collaborating institutions and scientists

GCP Subprogramme Leaders

Generation Challenge Programme (GCP) studies the genetic diversity of germplasm using genomics to discover the genes and alleles controlling the expression of complex agronomic traits. The results are useful for the plant sciences in general but especially for crop breeding because they contribute to the better understanding of traits controlling plant performance, and at the same time they facilitate the job of breeders, i.e. to create varieties faster and more suited to the users' needs. The GCP strives to transfer these results to crop scientists in the developing countries.

The Genotyping Support Service (GSS) facilitates the access of national agricultural research systems (NARS) to technologies developed by the GCP, bridging the gap between research in advanced facilities and that closer to the fields of developing countries. With these services, GCP offers cost-efficient genotyping services worldwide, access to data, support and training in statistics for proper interpretation of genotype and phenotype data. The aim is to raise the capacity of developing country researchers to access and use modern and more efficient tools and technologies.

In its first call, GSS received 33 applications, out of which 25 were selected (then 6 ceased). The 19 requests in process are as follows: Potato 5, Cassava 4, Rice 3, Sweetpotato 2, Maize 1, Chickpea 1, Coconut 1, Yam 1, *Musa* Ensete 1. These applications were received from Tanzania 4, Bolivia 1, Kenya 3, India 1, Ghana 3, Brazil 2, Iran 1, Sri Lanka 1, Chile 1, Ethiopia 1 and China 1. Fourteen of these applications aim to conduct molecular characterisation of germplasm and five address plant breeding issues such as marker assisted selection, gene tagging or genetic map development. The workshop for this call will take place on the last week of January 2009.

The GSS opened its second call between June 1st and August 10th.