

# CGN: vegetable genebank!

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## Background

Worldwide approximately 7.4 million accessions are maintained *ex situ* by approximately 1750 collection holders. Only twelve percent of these accessions involves vegetables. In the Netherlands, breeding of vegetable crops is of significant importance, and as a result the total collection of more than 24,000 accessions of the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN) exists for 47% of vegetable accessions.



Collecting *Spinacea turkestanica* in Central Asia to strengthen CGN's spinach collection.

## Aim

CGN has the ambition to focus more on vegetable genetic resources as a specific contribution to international efforts in the area of conservation of plant genetic resources. More precisely, the focus will be on vegetables that are cultivated and consumed in Europe. The new strategy of CGN is based on the observation that many institutes maintain large collections of staple crops, whereas vegetable crops are relatively poorly represented in collections. As one of the largest international players, the Dutch vegetable breeding industry depends for its genetic resources to a large extent on the CGN collections.



CGN collections under development: asparagus, carrot, corn salad, scorzonera and chives.

## Implementation

The technical implementation of the new strategy involves:

- Strengthening of the existing vegetable collections via gap analyses and selective acquisition of new germplasm.
- Development of new collections of neglected and underutilized vegetables.
- Disinvestment in the existing staple crop collections by reduction of the overlap with other collections and the potential transfer of accessions to colleague genebanks.
- Development of a web portal that will provide an up-to-date worldwide overview of vegetable collections and associated information.



Screen shot of the entry page of the web portal under construction.

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