



# Genetické zdroje

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## Summary

Genetic resources play a crucial role in sustainable development and form an important part of biological diversity at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels. They refer to many dimensions of biodiversity, such as essential living material of plants and animals, edible plants and crops, including landraces, cultivars, hybrids, and their wild relatives, livestock, agroecosystem components and types important for productivity, soil organisms supporting soil fertility and structure. They serve as a basis for scientific and technological advances in plant and livestock breeding and improvement and continue to be vital for new methods of bioengineering and biotechnology. Their conservation depends also on an equitable access and sharing of benefits, respecting rights of farmers and indigenous people.

The Czech Republic distinguishes, in relation to its area, by a relatively high richness of biodiversity. The nature conservation system (in situ conservation) has been developed since the middle of the nineteenth century and at present comprises 4 National Parks, 24 Landscape Protected Areas, numerous national nature reserves, national nature monuments, nature reserves and nature monuments, on the basis of the Act on Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection. Other categories include: Important Landscape Phenomena, System of Landscape Ecological Stability, Nature Parks and Temporarily Protected Areas. In total 15 % of the country area are protected, of which National Parks represent 1,5 % and Protected Landscape Areas 13 %. The main

responsible institutions in this field are: Administration of Nature Conservation and Agency for Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection of the Czech Republic.

Important ex situ collections were established for conservation of genetic resources in agriculture, mainly as to plant, but also animal resources. They are supervised by the Research Institute of Crop Production, Prague-Ruzyne and Research Institute of Animal Production, Prague-Uhrineves respectively. The institution playing the leading role in conservation and breeding of forest species is the Forest and Game Management Research Institute, Prague-Strnady, in forest management and regeneration Forests of the Czech Republic, State Enterprise.

Botanical and zoological gardens can contribute to conservation of genetic resources, especially those participating in conservation programmes. Several centres for handicapped animals help to recover rare and endangered species.

The publication describes in more details situation in the Czech Republic, illustrated by means of selected tables and graphs.

The last chapter gives an overview of international and regional organizations and treaties related to genetic resources and biodiversity with a brief description of their main activities. Their mutual cooperation and synergy is a prerequisite of a successful and effective conservation at global, regional, but as well national levels.

