

Location & Contact

The Eswatini National Plant Genetic Resources Centre (GeneBank) serves as the country's national vault for plant biodiversity and agricultural sustainability.



GeneBank Administrative & Research Facility

Location

Center: Eswatini National Plant Genetic Resources Centre
Station: Malkerns Research Station
Town/Region: Malkerns, Eswatini

Contact Details

Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
Department: Department of Agricultural Research and Specialist Services (DARSS)
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MOA SLOGAN

"Green Value Chains, Stronger Trade, Brighter Future"

Resource Stewardship

Protecting Our Resources & Biodiversity Conservation

TRADE FAIR 2026 THEME:
"Unlocking Economic Opportunities through Sustainable Trade"

THEMATIC SECTION:
Resource Stewardship – Biodiversity Conservation

Preserving Genetic Foundation

Plant genetic conservation directly empowers agricultural growth and export capabilities:

- **Genetic Diversity:** Safeguards wild relatives, indigenous crops, and landraces from extinction.
- **Resilient Crops:** Supplies essential genetic traits to breed climate-smart, pest-resistant crops.
- **Sustainable Trade:** Enables reliable agricultural value chains that drive national export trade.



High-precision Seed Counting & Characterization (Contador)

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

GENEBANK

National Plant Genetic Resources Centre



THEMATIC EXHIBITION

Resource Stewardship

Protecting Our Resources & Biodiversity Conservation

Green Value Chains • Stronger Trade • Brighter Future

FIELD OPERATIONS

Germplasm Regeneration

The GeneBank conducts active field multiplication and characterization at research trial fields to ensure high seed vitality and viability.



Field evaluation & seed multiplication trial rows

Field & Conservation Tasks

Accession Evaluation: Systematic recording of crop growth habits, yields, and resilience.

Seed Multiplication: Regenerating seed batches to ensure supply for research & breeding.



Evaluation of chili pepper & indigenous vegetable accessions

CORE FUNCTIONS

Key Functions of NPGRC

As the national plant genetic hub, the Centre executes key functions critical for national food sovereignty:

1. Exploration & Collection

Collecting local crop landraces, wild edible plants, and crop wild relatives throughout Eswatini.

2. Ex-Situ & In-Situ Conservation

Preserving seeds in climate-controlled cold vaults and supporting community-based on-farm conservation.



Cold storage vault for long-term seed preservation

3. Seed Testing & Processing

Cleaning, drying, moisture testing, and cataloging seed accessions for long-term viability.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Unlocking Trade Opportunities

Biodiversity protection underpins sustainable trade by securing the raw genetic material required for high-value agricultural exports.



Root crop & fruit tree field genebank conservation

Value Chain Transformation

- **Climate-Resilient Crops:** Ensuring stable crop yields and trade consistency amidst environmental shifts.
- **Agro-Processing & Innovation:** Supplying unique genetic traits for niche culinary, medicinal, and commercial products.
- **Sustainable Agriculture:** Fostering green value chains that protect Eswatini's natural heritage.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
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WELCOME TO TRADE FAIR 2026