



## HORTICULTURE CULTIVARS PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

For more than 50 years, FAO has provided support to field projects and programmes dealing with horticultural development all over the world. This has led to the accumulation of a considerable amount of scientific and technical information and field data on cultivar performances for horticultural crops. However, the knowledge gained had not been systematically classified or recorded for dissemination through a central reference system and a large part of this “institutional memory” was not easily accessible to users. HORTIVAR was designed to address this problem by proposing a central reference system to collect, safeguard and facilitate access to data on the performances of horticultural cultivars under specific agro-ecological conditions, production systems, crop management practices, the occurrence of pests and diseases, market and user requirements. Initiated as project GCP/INT/697/BEL, funded by the Government of Belgium, the project was upgraded in 2013 to a multi-donor project, MTF/GLO/697/MUL. The Republic of Korea provided support to the project in 2017, enabling it to continue its activities until the end of 2020.



### WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The aim of the HORTIVAR database is to facilitate access to information on the performance of horticultural crop cultivars and to help users to identify cultivars and cropping practices adapted to their specific requirements and environment. This aim was achieved and the database currently contains over 90 000 horticultural data sets, covering more than 28 000 cultivars and 1 000 species. It can now function as an information tool to help small-scale farmers to take decisions based on factual information. In order to ensure sustainability, the project established a network of institutional and individual partners who can continue to use and enrich HORTIVAR without further project support. In addition, the awareness-raising and training workshops organized under the project enabled many people to participate in knowledge exchange activities based on the HORTIVAR database, improving users’ capacities for conducting analysis on data sets.

### KEY FACTS

**Contribution**

USD 314 936

**Duration**

May 2013 – December 2020

**Resource Partners**

Governments of Belgium and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea

**Partners**

Horticulture research centres, universities, colleges and training centres; development organizations, institutions, programmes and projects; private-sector entities such as seed suppliers and horticultural producers; and global and regional horticultural networks

**Beneficiaries**

Growers and consumers, horticulture research and development institutions, agriculture colleges and universities, horticulture and nutrition specialists, extension officers, and private sector entities

# IMPACT

A survey with partners in 2020 showed that they were satisfied with the overall performance of the HORTIVAR database and were interested in collaboration in the future. HORTIVAR and the wealth of data it provides can also contribute to improving crop production and minimizing input costs.

# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Operational and technical framework of the HORTIVAR information system developed and maintained.
- Data recording and retrieval system established.
- Target of 119 countries with datasets achieved.
- HORTIVAR database loaded with representative world-wide information on performances of horticultural varieties; 91 907 data entries made.
- Information dissemination, training and exchange services strengthened and diversified.
- 55 international symposiums promoting HORTIVAR held.
- 110 training workshops conducted.
- Self-sustained mechanism for reliable management and updating of the HORTIVAR- Integrated Production and Protection Management information system established.
- 22 agreements signed with private-sector entities.
- Eight decentralized agreements signed with international, regional or national institutions.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Project Code

FAO: MTF/GLO/697/MUL

### Project Title

Horticulture Cultivars Performance Information System

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Partnerships and Outreach

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