



International Workshop on Conservation & Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives



Máirín de Valera Seminar Room,
Department of Botany & Plant Science,
Áras de Brún (top floor),
School of Natural Sciences,
NUI Galway, Ireland.



Sat 17th - Sun 18th October, 2009



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



Irish Aid

Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha

International Workshop on Conservation & Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives

Context

A crop wild relative is a wild plant taxon that has an indirect use derived from its relatively close genetic relationship to a crop. The wild relatives of crop plants or crop wild relatives, which include the progenitors of crops as well as other species more or less closely related to them, constitute an increasingly important resource for improving agricultural production and for maintaining sustainable agro-ecosystems.

The challenges facing food & energy production and agricultural sustainability are mounting in the face of climate change and greater ecosystem instability. In this context, crop wild relatives will prove a critical resource for ensuring food security and climate change proofing of agriculture for the future. Crop wild relatives contain many valuable genes and characteristics (traits) that will be essential to breeding of crop varieties that can be grown more sustainably, particularly in regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa where climate proofing of staple crop production is an urgent need. Indeed, over the past century crop wild relatives have already contributed many useful genes to our staple crop plants, and modern varieties of most major crops now contain genes from their wild relatives.

Hence, crop wild relatives are of major importance to past and future crop improvement and food security, but especially as source of useful traits for crop adaptation to climate change. However, like many other plant species, many crop wild relatives are threatened with extinction or genetic erosion (due to reduced population sizes) of the genetic diversity within their genepools. This International Workshop will focus on current efforts in Ireland and internationally for the conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives.

Workshop Organising Committee: Danny Hunter, Charlie Spillane, Tom Curtis, Rico Santiago, Angela Mina-Vargas, Peter McKeown, Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington, Michael O'Connell, Pat O'Rafferty, Zoë Popper, Dagmar Stengel, Síle Mhic Dhonncha, Teresa Borelli.

Registration: The workshop is free and open to all who are interested in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, including crop wild relatives. To register your attendance at the workshop, please send an email to: Angela Mina-Vargas [angelmina@gmail.com] indicating your name, institution, address and e-mail/tel contact details.

Workshop Location: Máirín de Valera Seminar room within the Department of Botany and Plant Science, Áras de Brún (top floor), School of Natural Sciences, NUI Galway, Ireland.

Sponsors and partners for the workshop are [NUIG Botany & Plant Science](#), [Genetic Heritage Ireland](#), [Bioversity International](#) and [Irish Aid](#).

Workshop Program

Saturday 17th October 2009

Chair: *Tom Curtis* [20 min talks + 10 min for questions/discussion]

- **09.00- 09:30** Registration
- **9:45 – 10:15 Charlie Spillane** – World Food Day welcome & importance of crop wild relatives.
- **10:15 – 10:45 Danny Hunter** – Bioversity International's work on crop wild relatives (CWR) and the challenges of CWR conservation in developing countries.
- **10:45 – 11:15 Jeannot Ramelison** – Management plans for promoting *in situ* conservation of wild yams in Madagascar.
- **Coffee 11:15 -11:30**

Chair: *Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington*

- **11:30 - 12:00 Beatriz Zapata Ferrufino** – Crop wild relatives in Bolivia.
- **12:00 – 12:30 Angela Mina-Vargas** – The CIAT bean germplasm collection and importance of understanding phylogenetic relationships of wild relatives of cultivated *Phaseolus* bean species.

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

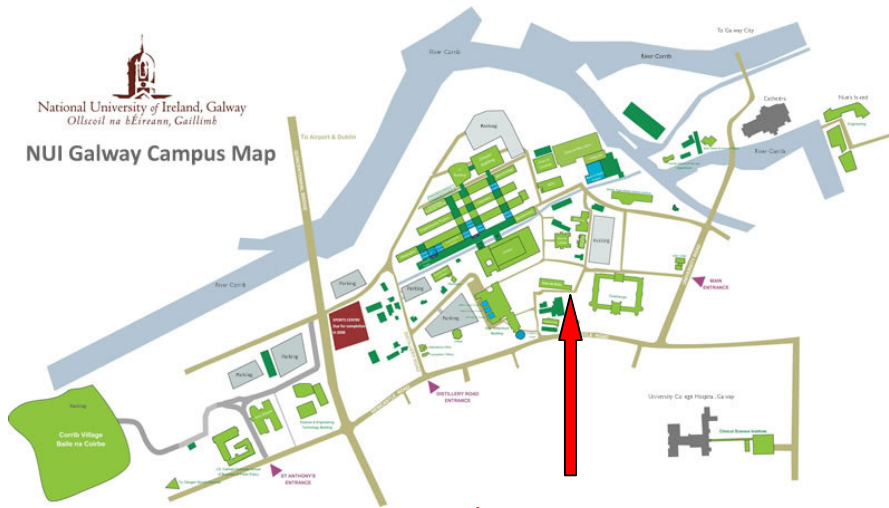
Chair: *Danny Hunter*

- **14:00 - 14:30 Tom Curtis** – Genetic Heritage Ireland/DAFF work on crop wild relatives in Ireland.
- **14:30 – 15:00 Dermot Grogan** – *Beta vulgaris* subsp. *maritima* populations in Ireland.
- **Coffee 15: 00 – 15:15**
- **15:15 – 15:45 Sativaldi Djataev** - *In situ* conservation of crop wild relatives in Uzbekistan.
- **15:45 – 16:15 Anura Wijesekara** – Education and public awareness programmes to enhance awareness and understanding of crop wild relatives.
- **16:15 Discussion**

Sunday 18th October 2009

Botanical field trip to Burren National Park (led by Dr. Tom Curtis and Dr. Micheline Sheehy-Skeffington). In addition to highlighting the unique botanical aspects of the Burren region, it is envisaged that this trip will allow insights into the BurrenLIFE project. Will use as a base (for our sandwiches, tea/coffee) the NUIG Research Station in Carron, near the Burren LIFE offices. Route plan in development and will be organised at the workshop.

Maps & Directions



Áras de Brún

