



Future objectives

The GFG-network is a work in progress. It is constantly changing and growing. The number of the collecting networks as well as partners and cultivars in the collections are increasing.

To verify the trueness-to-type of fruit cultivars is considered top priority among the GFG tasks. Extensive assessments have been carried out spanning all networks and collections and will be carried out in the upcoming decade. Based on the outcome of the assessment the exchange of material is organised. The aim is to obtain for every cultivar with a GFG mandate at least one duplicate at one of the partners.

In addition the GFG database is further optimized e.g. by implementing user-friendly solutions for data input in order to record, archive and evaluate passport and characterisation data.



List of partners

- » Nursery Matthias Schott
- » Bavarian State Institute for Viticulture and Horticulture
- » Bavarian Fruit Centre GmbH & Co. KG
- » Botanical Gardens of the University of Bonn
- » BUND Guldental
- » Federal Office for Agriculture and Food
- » Federal Plant Variety Office, Testing station Wurzen
- » ESTEBURG - Fruit Growing Centre Jork
- » Nursery Friedersdorf, Müller & Twisselmann GbR
- » Town of Hagen (a.T.W.)
- » Fruit-Arboretum Olderdissen
- » Hermann Cordes nursery KG
- » Hochschule Geisenheim University
- » Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences
- » Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences, Schlachters Experimental Station for Fruit Growing
- » Jens Meyer Kuhlrade
- » Julius Kühn-Institut, Institute for Breeding Research on Fruit Crops
- » Competence Centre for Fruit Production – Lake Constance
- » State Institute for Agriculture and Horticulture of Saxony-Anhalt
- » State Department of Agricultural Affairs of Hessa
- » State Research Institute for Agriculture and Fishery Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania
- » Administrative Office of the Kyffhaeuser district
- » Triesdorf Agricultural Education Centre
- » Chamber of Agriculture of the state North Rhine-Westphalia
- » Nonprofit Association: Teaching and Research Institution for Horti- and Arboriculture
- » Walnut specialist Lochwald-Riednuss GbR
- » Kyffhäuser and Southern Harz Nature Parks
- » Nut nursery Klocks
- » Trust foundation of Upper Lusatia
- » Communal Fruit Manufacturer Niederkaufungen
- » Fruit mother Orchard Rhineland ORG GmbH
- » Cuxhaven ‚Bien Galgenberg‘ fruit variety conservation site
- » Saxon State Office for Environment, Agriculture and Geology
- » State Education and Research Institute for Viticulture and Fruit growing Weinsberg
- » City of Witzenhausen
- » Thuringian State Office for Agriculture and Rural Areas
- » Walnutmastery Böllersen
- » Association for the Upper Middle Rhine Valley World Heritage Site

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Institute for Breeding Research on Fruit Crops

www.deutsche-genbank-obst.de





Initial situation

In Germany, beside the JKI at its Institute for Breeding Research on Fruit Crops in Dresden-Pillnitz, other federal and state institutions maintain collections of fruit species and cultivars. In addition, many non-governmental organisations have preserved old fruit cultivars. These cultivars, together with their wild varieties, provide the basis for breeding new fruit cultivars that are adapted to changing climate conditions (e.g. drought stress) or resistant to diseases. At the same time, old cultivars serve as central elements of our cultural heritage, that needs to be preserved in a sustainable and efficient way.

Until 2007, however the manifold activities in collecting and conserving plant genetic resources in fruit in Germany were uncoordinated. If that was not be changed it was to be expected that a high percentage of the same common cultivars would be preserved in many collections, while other cultivars would only be present in few or at worst in only one collection and was one the verge of being unretrievably lost if a collection or collector would cease to exist.



Mission and current tasks

In 2007, the German Fruit Genebank (GFG) was founded in order to secure fruit genetic resources in Germany in the long term and efficiently and to use them for research, breeding and fruit-growing and landscaping purposes. This national network for the conservation of fruit genetic resources operates in a decentralised manner so that governmental and non-governmental organisations can intertwine their activities, learn and profit from each other. This idea to establish a decentralised gene bank network which is open to all different kinds of partners is a novel approach in conserving plant genetic resources.

The central coordination of the national gene bank network lies in the hands of the researchers of the Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) at its location in Dresden-Pillnitz, where the JKI manages its own extensive fruit gene bank. Coordination is carried out on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). There are currently seven collection networks in the GFG for apple, cherry, strawberry, plum, Rubus, pear and wild fruit species networking a total of 38 partners managing 86 collections.



Under the supervision of the German Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE), cooperation agreements have been drawn up and signed in order to establish the GFG-network.

The following genebank collection networks have been established and make up the German Fruit Genebank (GFG) up to this day:

- » German Genebank Apple
- » German Genebank Cherry
- » German Genebank Strawberry
- » German Genebank Plum
- » German Genebank *Rubus*
- » German Genebank Pear
- » German Genebank Wild fruit species

The GFG is supported by both federal and state institutions as well as districts and cities. All information obtained on the varieties in all collections is recorded in a database and accessible for the general public via the internet-platform hosted by the JKI under

www.deutsche-genbank-obst.de

