



“Variety-Savers.Net” available as a pilot version!

The publicly accessible Ark centres in the European Ark-Network “Arca-Net” fulfil the function of providing the general public with the opportunity to experience endangered livestock breeds and cultivated plants and thus raise awareness for the value of agrobiodiversity. However, conservation depends on the many thousands of breeders and keepers who with a high level of, often unrecognised, engagement carry out the difficult task of keeping the breeds and varieties alive. In order to provide these people with a platform that will enable them to network internationally and across language barriers, it was decided at the 4th European Seminar on Agrobiodiversity last year to develop a multi-lingual network. Now the pilot version is available: <http://variety-savers.net>.

The network is still being built up and it still has many steps to take before it is fully functional. However, interested people are requested to join the network and to send their comments and suggestions on how the website can be improved. In order to prevent the network being filled with spam, registration for the network is necessary. For the initial application as “not yet a member”, click on the top right box, fill it out and wait for email confirmation. You will be asked to provide some basic information and, on the basis of this, your membership will be confirmed. Confirmation will take place within office hours, so be patient if you sign up in the evening or at the weekend! You will enter a password that you choose to make changes and add to your profile. The use of this website is free.

So that Variety-Savers is available for networking with conservation colleagues across language barriers, the service “Google Translate” has been built in. However, in order to search for a breed or variety in a different language, one must still use the correct name in the other language in order to find it. Once found, the profile of this Variety-Saver can be translated using the Google function. The result is not always perfect but enough for understanding. Over time, the “help” and “FAQ” pages will be updated to include answers to the problems that arise.

=> and now you should go and register to take part in this unique network!

<http://variety-savers.net>

