

SOP 02. ANNEX 1. SELECTION OF PRIORITY SPECIES

Prioritization and determination of target species are based on the following criteria:

1. *Orthodox seeds*

Seeds that retain their viability after drying and can therefore be conserved in the gene bank.

2. *Rare species*

Species that are often difficult to find (due to restricted distribution areas or being threatened locally, nationally, or globally) and have low productivity, with fruits rarely reaching physiological maturity.

3. *Economically important species*

Species with economic value that are used locally, nationally, and/or internationally by users (breeders and farmers) and are targeted for introduction into cultivation.

4. *Endemic or indigenous species*

Native species or those with a distribution area limited to a specific region and not introduced from other areas.

5. *Seeds unavailable on a large scale*

Seeds that are not yet conserved in the gene bank, are not available in commercial seed lists, and/or are not currently under cultivation.

6. *Species used in research*

Species targeted by the Suceava Gene Bank or those prioritized by project partners.

After the species are selected, the following analyses are conducted:

1. Morphological, physiological, and phenotypic analysis of the selected species, as well as the morphology and physiology of their seeds.
2. By consulting the herbarium samples available at the Plant Genetic Resources Bank (BRGV) and their labels, phenotypic variations, phenological data, and distribution areas (GPS coordinates) of the target species can be highlighted.
3. Through documentation from specialized materials and by contacting experts, updated information can be obtained regarding the potential for collection in specific areas, the density and abundance of target taxa, the presence of degraded or degrading habitats, the list of threatened species, environmental data etc.