

PGR Forum, Euro+Med PlantBase and Mansfeld's Database: serving the crop wild relative user community

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The Euro-Mediterranean region is an important centre for the diversity of crop wild relatives. Crops, such as oats (*Avena sativa*), sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*), apple (*Malus domestica*), annual meadow grass (*Festuca pratensis*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), arnica (*Arnica montana*), asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*), lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*), and sage (*Salvia officinalis*) etc., all have wild relatives in the region. The European Community funded project, PGR Forum ([www.pgrforum.org](http://www.pgrforum.org)) is building an online information system to provide access to crop wild relative data to a broad user community; including plant breeders, protected area managers, policy-makers, conservationists, taxonomists and the wider public. The system will include data on uses, geographical distribution, biology, population and habitat information, threats (including IUCN Red List assessments) and conservation actions. This information is vital for the continued sustainable utilisation and conservation of crop wild relatives. Two major databases have been utilised as the backbone to a Euro-Mediterranean crop wild relative catalogue, which forms the core of the information system: Euro+Med PlantBase ([www.euromed.org.uk](http://www.euromed.org.uk)) and Mansfeld's World Database of Agricultural and Horticultural Crops (<http://mansfeld.ipk-gatersleben.de>). By matching the genera found within the two databases, a preliminary list of crop wild relatives has been produced. Around 20,000 of the 30,000+ species listed in Euro+Med PlantBase can be considered crop wild relatives, i.e. those species found within the same genus as a crop. The list is currently being refined by implementing a priority ranking system based on the degree of relatedness of taxa to the associated crop.