



International frameworks to access and use genetic resources

## PRO GRACE final conference

October 10, 2025

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# TOPICS FOR TODAY

**About Bejo**

**Use of genetic resources in plant breeding**

**Bottlenecks in accessing and using genetic resources**

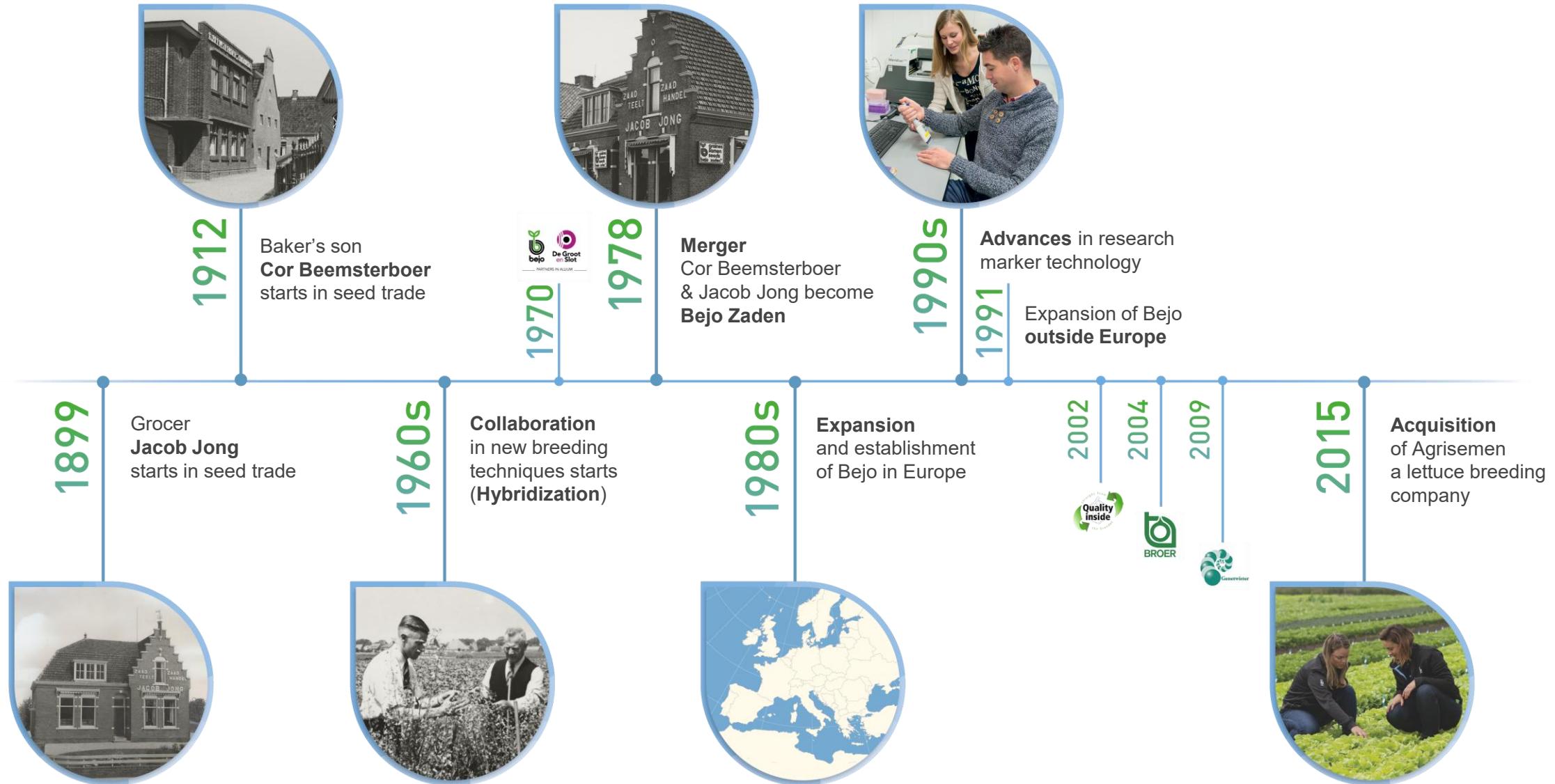
**Legal and regulatory environment**

**Working with genetic resources – examples from practice**

# About Bejo



# EXPLORING SINCE



# TODAY



**2,200**

Employees  
worldwide



**Broad  
assortment**

**40+**  
crops

**1000+**  
varieties



**Organic  
Program**

**35+**  
crops

**170+**  
varieties



**Breeding,  
production &  
sales**

**around  
the world**

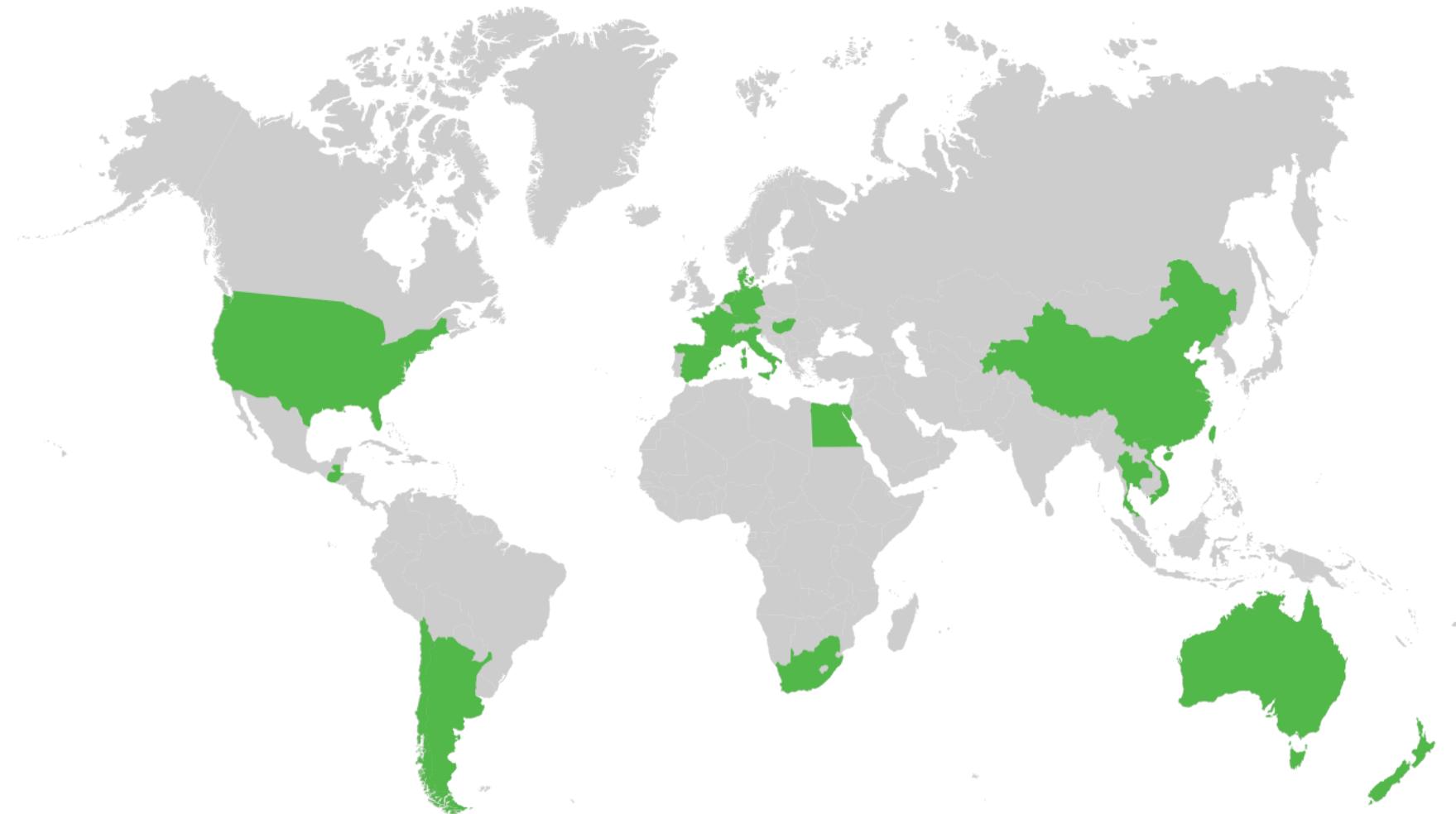


# THE WORLD OF BEJO



**Breeding stations**

# THE WORLD OF BEJO



**Production fields**

# THE WORLD OF BEJO



**Sales offices**

# THE WORLD OF BEJO

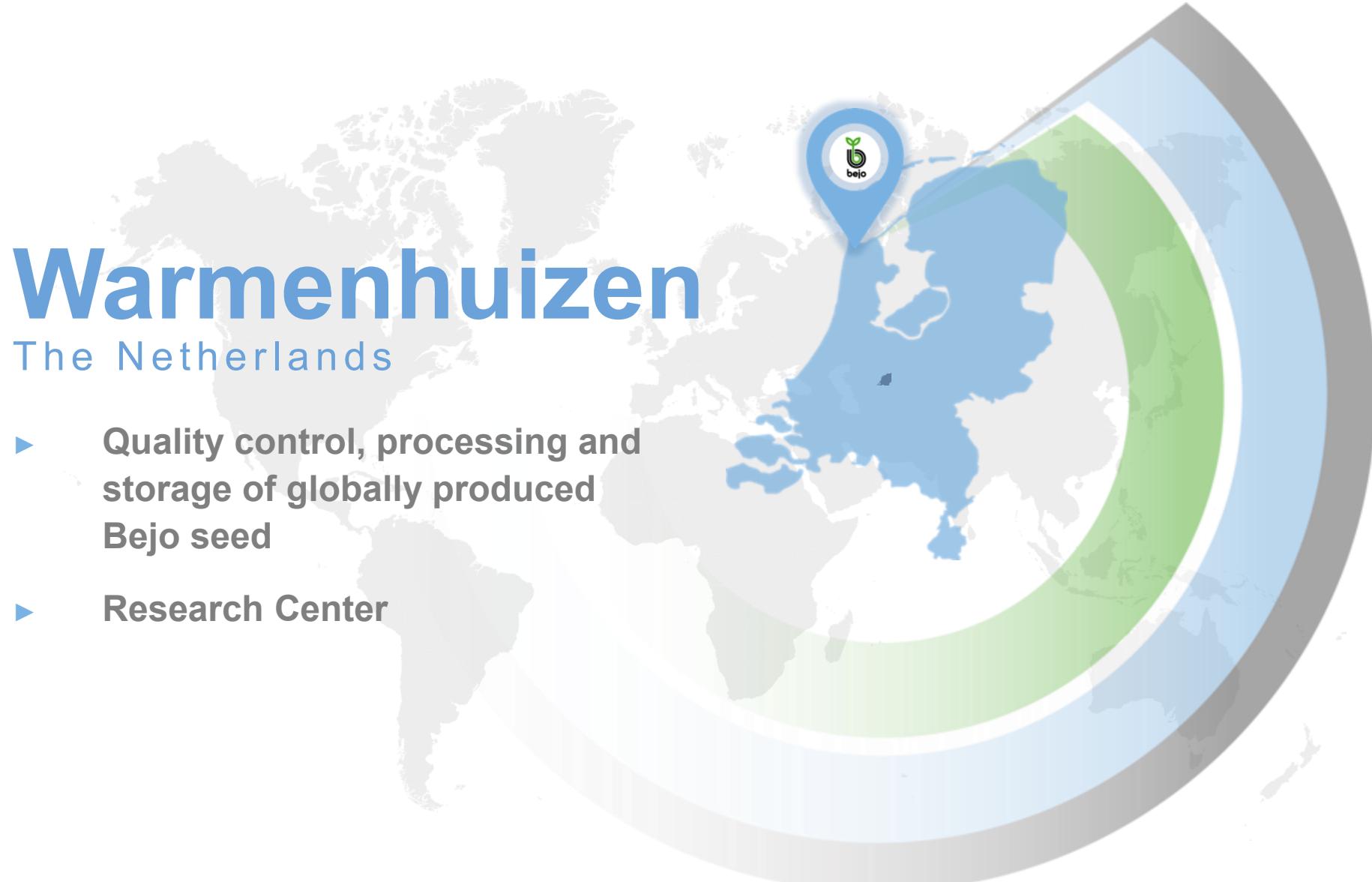


**Sales activities**

## Warmenhuizen

The Netherlands

- ▶ Quality control, processing and storage of globally produced Bejo seed
- ▶ Research Center



BRASSICAS



ROOTED  
CROPS



ALLIUM



FRUIT CROPS



LEAFY CROPS



**AN INNOVATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL  
FAMILY COMPANY**

**RESEARCH, BREEDING, PRODUCTION, TREATMENT  
AND SALES OF PREMIUM QUALITY SEEDS**

**RESPECT FOR NATURE, PEOPLE AND  
ENVIRONMENT**

**GLOBALLY LEADING IN OPEN FIELD  
VEGETABLE CROPS**

**OUTSTANDING QUALITY**

# Use of genetic resources in plant breeding



# VARIETY DEVELOPMENT CYCLE



# Genetic resources used in commercial breeding

- Depends on the crop...

But in general terms:

90-95% of GRs used are modern varieties (i.e. commercial PGR)

5-10% of GRs use are non-commercial PGR



Genebank material  
Research material  
Landraces  
Wild relatives

# Bottlenecks & regulatory frameworks



How much information is available on the PGR?

How easy/difficult it is to work with the PGR?

How can the PGR be accessed and used?

## **Importance of pre-competitive research:**

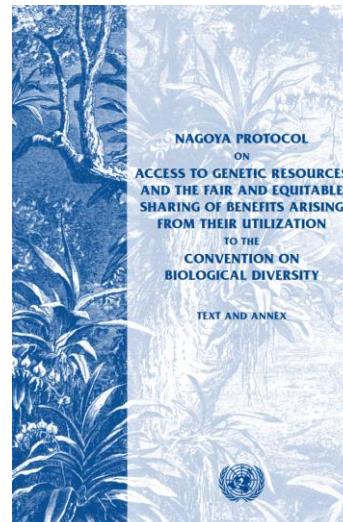
- Research projects focusing on defined traits
- Joint characterization efforts
- Joint efforts for pre-breeding

# LEGAL & REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Multiple legal frameworks co-exist at multiple levels



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



20.5.2014

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 150/59

REGULATION (EU) No 511/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL  
of 16 April 2014

on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and  
the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union

(Text with EEA relevance)



**The International Treaty**  
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**NATIONAL ABS LAWS**

# LEGAL & REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

## Legal reality:

- BEJO crops – 40+ vegetable crops
- Treaty Annex I – only 7 vegetable crops are covered: asparagus; beet; brassicas; carrot; beans; eggplant; potato
- For 30+ crops – CBD/NP/national ABS laws apply



## Practical implications:

- Difficult to navigate the legal complexity in a pragmatic way
- Some material we have to avoid using
- For genebank accessions, we almost only access from CGN where everything comes with SMTA

**Conservation of GRs is of key importance for plant breeding**

**Genebanks are very valuable partners**

**Genetic resources should be available for use in research & breeding**

**Conditions for access, use and benefit sharing should be workable**

# WHAT DO WE DO?

## Bejo supports conservation efforts at national & regional level



# EVA

European Evaluation Network

**Bejo is part of the carrot evaluation network**

**Financial support  
Regeneration of material on request**

## Bejo uses the SMTA & fulfills its obligations



CATEGORY\_NEWS

### Dutch seed company Bejo pays into Benefit-sharing Fund

December 3, 2020

The Dutch vegetable seed company Bejo has made a payment to the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). This is because Bejo has developed a commercialised product using material obtained from the Multilateral System of the ITPGRFA through the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN).

# WHAT DO WE WISH FOR?

**Have only one system for PGRs – Treaty Annex  
I should cover all PGRs**

**Pragmatic approach allowing for the use of  
PGRs in commercial plant breeding**

**Predictable, workable, business-friendly  
framework for ABS**

**Mutual respect & trust and good collaboration  
between actors within the PGR community**



# QUESTIONS?



Exploring nature  
never stops