

Characterisation of Cereals held in the Backweston genebank

This project has provided morphological characterisation descriptors for selected cereal crop accessions that are stored in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's genebank in Backweston, Co. Kildare. Accessions of barley, wheat and oats were grown out on field plots and their various traits were observed, recorded and characterised according to internationally agreed descriptors sets for the respective crops during their growing cycle. The completion of the descriptors according to an international format produces a universally understood "language" for plant genetic resources data and allows for a reliable, efficient means for information storage, retrieval, and communication, and furthermore will facilitate the long term utilisation of the crop germplasm held in the Backweston genebank. The descriptor sets used in the project were approved and published by [Bioversity International](#), an independent international scientific organisation.

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