

# Appreciating Agricultural National Assets

*International Year of Basic Science for Sustainable Development*

Agricultural Research Council  
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# Theme: Appreciating Agricultural National Assets

- A national asset is a resource of economic value and permanent value belonging to a country. National Assets form the basic institutions of any country from the beginning of humankind.
- Countries rely on stores of National Assets to rebuild economies after a war or national disaster, and they are critical to the recovery, survival and resilience of the different sectors of the economy. Therefore, National Assets are an integral part of the country's balance sheet and provide a future benefit.
- In agriculture, National Assets guarantee current and future prospects for food security and sovereignty and stability of the country. This is paramount for national peace, stability and poverty reduction.
- In South Africa, they have made an important contribution to the agricultural sector's ability to withstand drought, floods and national pest outbreaks for more than a hundred years.

National Assets refer to: **Gene banks/ Germplasm/ Biological Assets/ Collections:** Blood banks, Serum & Antigen Banks, Semen, Oocytes, Seeds, Live Trees, Livestock); Insect Collection, Yeasts, Fungi, Bacteria, OIE Reference Laboratories, Tick Museum, Post Entry Quarantine Facilities, etc.

**Overall objective:** Showcase the role of Agricultural National Assets as valuable basic building blocks of agricultural Research and Development. The events will focus on three programs:

1. **Breeding** –outlining the breeding process to the development of a cultivar/ breed/ intellectual property, to commercialization process to ensure access as well what is such contribution to sustainability of food production and market influences
2. **Integrated Pest & Disease Management** – riding the COVID-19 publicity wave, the focus will be on climate change effects on diseases incidents, particularly recent outbreaks of locusts and other diseases
3. **Natural Resources Management** – Soil Health and Conservation Agriculture are key to sustainable food production and increasing of food production.



## Events

1. **National Science Week 2022** – engaging schools all over the country presenting on asset's role to food production and sustainable development
2. **Seminars/ Webinars** – interaction between scientists, farmers and government officials – where farmers and other stakeholders are presenting progress on their joint development projects based on the current theme. Competitions will be held to identify the best performing project
3. **Conference** – An ARC-wide Conference & Exhibition will be held towards towards the end of the IYBSSD period (June 2023) to showcase all the activities around the utilization of national assets and their direct contribution to sustainable development.
4. **Media** – The marketing theme to the ARC in the year is about appreciating the national assets and the message on article or interview will focus on that and the IYSSD theme.
5. **Sciences Expos** - On-campus tours - where science happens to ensure national food security and curbing diseases

