Safe conservation of germplasm is essential for its present and future utilization in crop improvement programs.

**Facilities for germplasm conservation**

**Short-term store**
- Maintained at 18-20°C temperature and 30-40% relative humidity (RH), used for temporary holding of seeds.

**Medium-term store**
- Maintained as active collection at 4°C temperature and 30% RH.
- Seeds are stored in aluminium cans.
- Seed viability can be maintained above 85% for 15-20 years.

**Long-term store**
- Maintained as base collection at -20°C temperature.
- Seeds are vacuum sealed in aluminium foil packets.
- Seed viability can be maintained above 85% for 50 years or more.

**Safety of conserved germplasm**
- Genebank is designed on modular principle to withstand natural disasters and is equipped with all safety and security measures.
- To maximize longevity, and quality pre-dried seeds are packed in moisture-proof containers and stored in cold stores.
- Three regional genebanks, at Niamey, Niger; Nairobi, Kenya and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe were established to cater research needs of African countries.

**Seed drying room**
- Maintained at 15°C temperature and 15% RH for drying seeds.
- Seeds are dried to 8-9% moisture content for medium-term conservation and to 4-7% moisture content for long-term conservation.

**Seed biology laboratory**
- Seed laboratory is used for conducting germination and seed health tests.

**Field genebank**
- Non-seed/less-seed producing wild species of sorghum and pearl millet are maintained as live plants in the field genebank.

**Glasshouse**
- Wild relatives of non-seed producing groundnut maintained as live plants in glasshouse.

**Vacuum sealing of seeds for long-term conservation and safety duplication.**

**Boxes containing seed for shipment to Svalbard Global Seed Vault, Norway.**

**External view of Svalbard Global Seed Vault, Norway.**

**Testing the viability of stored germplasm.**

**Non-seed/less-seed producing pearl millet wild species maintained in field genebank.**

**Field**
- Sufficient precision field space is available for regeneration, characterization and evaluation of germplasm accessions.

**Genebank modules.**

**Medium-term store of regional genebank, Niamey.**

**Sufficient precision field space**
- Available for regeneration, characterization and evaluation of germplasm accessions.

**Safely duplicated over 110,000 accessions of six mandate crops and five small millets at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (SGSV), Norway**

**ICRISAT’s scientific information:**
- EXPLORE/it.icrisat.org