

# About the IBP

## Fact Sheet

Integrated Breeding Platform  
deployment solutions

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### WHO WE ARE

The Integrated Breeding Platform (IBP) is a **not-for-profit entity** whose mission is to help accelerate the delivery of new crop varieties, in the context of an increasing demand for food and unprecedented environmental challenges. It does so by **providing IT tools, crop breeding services and training to breeders, especially those in developing countries**, so that they may fully join in the global effort towards achieving food security in the context of climate change. We believe that access to the right tools and opportunities will help breeders achieve more efficiency in crop improvement, and therefore have a concrete and direct impact on their specific local environments and markets. We are your partner for better breeding. Consult with us to find a solution at any level of your breeding program:

### WHAT WE OFFER

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#### We specialize in IT for breeding

- **Software:** The **BMS Pro**, our core product, is a software solution to manage breeding data across all phases of the crop improvement cycle. It includes applications to manage trials, nurseries and seed inventory, run statistical analyses, and support breeding decisions through the gradual integration of genetic markers. It keeps a safe, standardized and centralized record of institutional data from one generation to the next, and lets breeding networks and teams build knowledge, facilitate teamwork and secure institutional memory.
- **Technical support:** Service packages can be purchased for continued maintenance & troubleshooting, user workshops, software configuration, data migration and more. The **IBP Help Desk** also provides basic assistance for initial download & installation issues. Our team can also assist with more specialized IT services such as institutional deployment, third-party tool integration, and software development.

#### We provide plant breeding expertise

- **Breeding products:** Our website offers registered users predictive markers, germplasm with crop ontologies, genomics information, and location and climate maps. Our users also benefit from negotiated rates with a network of preferred service providers for genotyping, and physiological components and trait analysis.
- **Breeding mentorship and consultancy:** Our consultants can be assigned to specific institutions for added expertise on agronomy, phenotyping, molecular breeding or breeding methods. We accompany them in improving their phenotyping practices, and in gradually integrating markers and other modern genotyping methods.

#### Capacity development distinguishes us

- **Professional training:** Our IT and breeding experts are available to provide training on how to optimise the use of the BMS and other data management technologies, as well as on implementing better breeding practices (from introductory to advanced levels). Courses cover the topics of breeding, molecular breeding, data management, advanced statistical techniques; phenotyping and experimental station management.
- **Community resources:** our website provides complementary open source software, publications, peer forums, online tutorials, and job, event and course postings. We periodically organize trainings and webinars for public institutions in target developing countries, and course material is available for lecturers willing to include the BMS into university curricula.

#### Accessibility for maximum impact

Everyone is welcome to register as a member on our website, where they will have access to all of its community resources, open source versions of the BMS, and basic Help Desk services for free. Fees apply to proprietary components of the BMS, for specialized services such as dedicated training or IT consulting, and for IT equipment provision (servers, cloud, internet, etc.). Differentiated prices and discounts then apply depending on an institution's size, location and activities, evaluated on a case by case basis:

- institutions in developing countries can have parts or all of their service quote subsidized, i.e. costs are covered by donor or public funds, pending their availability;
- institutions pick and choose themselves any other paid services they want added to their package.

## HOW WE ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY

Our activities are mainly sustained thanks to the generous support of various donors, our main contributor for the past 8 years being the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Our strategy to complement this revenue stream is composed of four elements:

- We are establishing commercial activities targeted at clients in regions and markets with the capacity to pay, so that any income derived can be reinvested in the ongoing development of our tools and services. These commercial activities are led and funneled through [VSN International Limited](#), a UK-based company who has been supplying data analysis software for the biological and life sciences market worldwide for more than 30 years.
- Regional presence and support is ensured by partner institutions who have taken on the role of IBP Hub in their respective regions and for their specific crop expertise. We also train scientists to be able to provide support on the BMS and other data management tools, and embed them at key breeding institutes and universities so that they may help their host institution modernize their practices and technologies, all the while working together as part of an extended regional team.
- On the longer-term, we hope that this critical mass of bio-informatics specialists, trained by the IBP and partners, will be able to take on the development and maintenance of software in plant breeding institutes, bringing their use to new heights. Our ambition is to foster the development of 'agri-preneurs', start-ups and local jobs that will contribute to the professionalization of IT services geared at the agricultural sector.
- We work closely with universities and other institutions with an educational vocation, to have them include the use of data management tools in their curricula, effectively training the next generation of scientists who, in turn, will bring this knowledge into their professional life, to the benefit of their future employers.

## WHERE WE ARE, AND WHERE WE'RE GOING

With +5000 registered members and online followers, +500 individual users of our software and 27 partner institutions currently deploying it across its breeding programs, there is now considerable evidence that our continuing success is demand-driven and sustainable. We are now looking to scale up this effort to more countries and institutions, namely by finding new ways and resources to invest in capacity development, job creation and breeding expertise. Better data management and modern breeding methods will make for better research, which in turn will generate better crops for farmers to have impact on local food security. Together with our partners, we can build on our achievements and momentum to exponentially accelerate the performance of the agricultural sector globally.



“The digital revolution is well underway across Africa and we are proud to contribute in making it happen.”  
— Dr Jean-Marcel Ribaut, IBP Director

### For more information:

Global Deployment  
[deployment@integratedbreeding.net](mailto:deployment@integratedbreeding.net)

Capacity Development  
[learning@integratedbreeding.net](mailto:learning@integratedbreeding.net)

Communications  
[pr@integratedbreeding.net](mailto:pr@integratedbreeding.net)

[www.IntegratedBreeding.net](http://www.IntegratedBreeding.net)



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