Regional Hubs

The Integrated Breeding Platform (IBP) has evolved into a broadly tested suite of tools and services to address the real needs of crop breeders in developing countries, by enabling them to access the best practices in modern breeding in a centralised, integrated and practical manner. Now in its second phase of development, the IBP Team shifts its attention to address the deployment and maintenance of the platform with measures to ensure sustainability. The IBP offers to users a consolidated package of tools (i.e. the Breeding Management System, or BMS), high-quality technical support, modular training and professional services. These services will mainly be delivered by IBP Regional Hubs instituted in target regions.:

- IBP HQ
- IBP Hubs
- Local staff/Partners
- Future IBP Hub
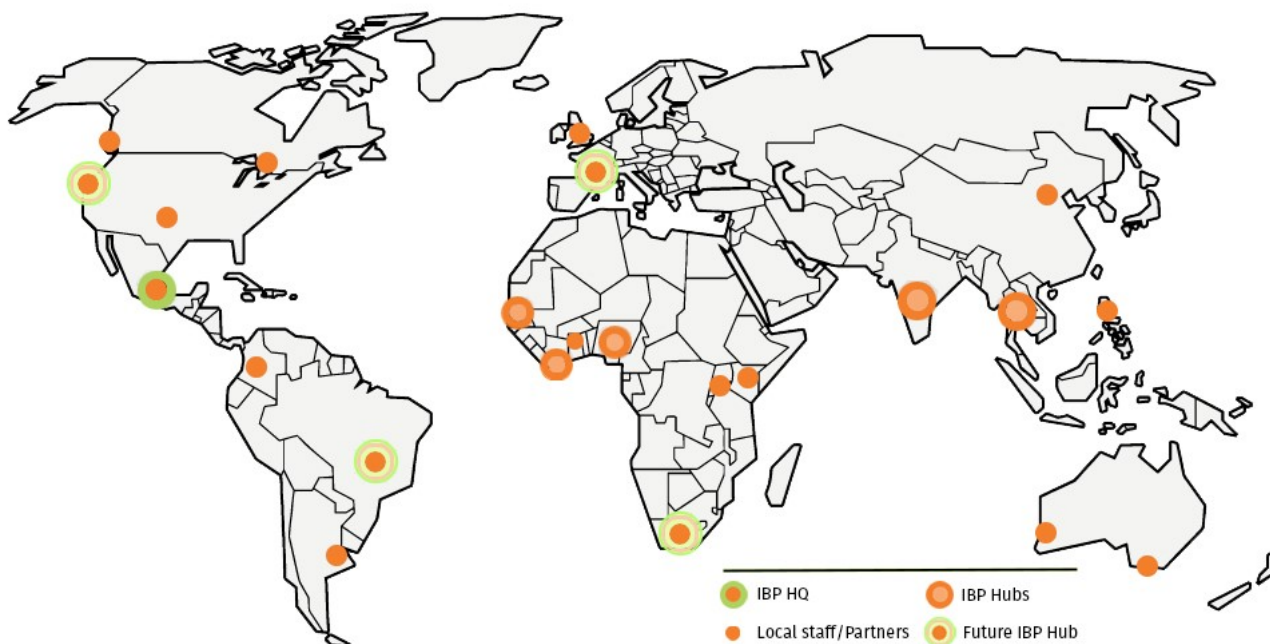
Networks of collaboration

Institutions or programmes hosting **Regional Hubs** are privileged partners of the IBP who are working together as part of dynamic regional networks. They provide support in the use of modern tools (BMS) and services, mainly through capacity building, technical support and crop-specific expertise. Their role is to champion the IBP in their region and to facilitate adoption by new users, having themselves integrated its methods to their day-to-day activities. Hubs also play a key role in interacting directly with local users to inform the development of new functionality and usability features consistent with their expressed needs.

The **IBP Central Team** coordinates strategy and service delivery with key staff established at each hub and oversees the continuous improvement of the tools, thus ensuring a vital collaboration throughout hub networks.

Why establish hubs?

Regional hubs take advantage of established relationships among local users and institutes:

- same time-zone and common language;
- strong proximity relationships with local users to provide a personalised service based on mutual trust, respect and cooperation;
- reduced costs, mainly for training activities;
- direct and constant feedback between institutions and local breeders to nurture a sense of ownership and accountability in development efforts;
- affiliation to regional networks to tap into an extended basin of expertise and best practices;
- bridging the gap in technology and breeding techniques for programmes and institutions of the developing world.

Integrated Breeding Platform
Today's tools for tomorrow's crops

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Hub Services

Regional hubs predominantly focus on providing support to breeders from local institutes and national programmes in developing countries, who can obtain the informatics tools (BMS) and have access to related professional services free of charge. The IBP's Breeding Management System is available for companies working for crop improvement, as well as for Universities in developed countries who would like to integrate it to their curriculum at a concessionary price.

Hub assistance to breeders therefore consists mainly of three categories of support:

Technical Support for BMS

Implementation

Assistance in downloading, installing and getting started with the BMS will be provided by the IBP Central Team.

Customisation

Companies can invest in a modular, scalable and customisable solution.

Operations

Hubs will assist users with the day-to-day use of the BMS, in identifying suitable analytical approaches and in the basic interpretation of results.

Education

Field Management

Data Management

Statistical Analysis (phenotyping and genotyping)

Molecular Breeding

E-Learning and online curricula

Professional and comprehensive educational activities and materials, with access to updated online resources.

Professional Support Networks

Communities of Practice

Online resources and other support channels

Small grants programme for genotyping support

Networks facilitating interaction with peers through different means accessible through the platform, to help create new partnerships, exchange information and address common issues . Also, breeding assistance for the application of molecular markers.

> " I have gained a new understanding of modern breeding... this knowledge and use of BMS tools should be replicated and integrated in national programmes. It will simplify our job and day-to-day work. –
> Abraham Attah Shaibu, PhD Student and Rice Breeder at National Cereals Research Institute Badeggi (Nigeria), Participant in an IBP course on integrated breeding "

A contribution to food security

Hubs incite collaborations and the formation of multifunctional teams through partnerships, capacity building and crop-specific communities of practice.	The IBP strongly encourages its users to make their data available to the broader public community, which it supports with incentives such as better prices, benefits, customization, etc.
The Breeding Management System (BMS) make clearer interpretation of results and derive better breeding decisions, all with one suite of applications that seamlessly work together.	Thus the IBP contributes to the improvement of food security by increasing breeding efficiency in developing countries and accelerating the creation and delivery of new varieties.

> " Ultimately, the IBP's contribution to food security through crop improvement can only have a positive attendant impact in the livelihoods of smallholder farm families who depend upon these food crops. —
> Dr Jean-Marcel Ribaut, IBP Director "

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Integrated Breeding Platform (IBP)

The Integrated Breeding Platform (IBP) improves the capacity of plant breeders for innovation, primarily in developing countries, by providing them complete software solutions, breeding services, genetic materials and related crop information, making it the most comprehensive source for best practices in plant breeding. IBP professionals are also available to provide training and technical support.

Breeding Management System (BMS)

The IBP Breeding Management System (BMS) is a comprehensive and easy-to-use software suite designed to help plant breeders conduct their routine activities with more efficiency. It combines information management, data analysis and decision-support tools that accommodate common breeding schemes, from conventional breeding through increasing levels of marker use, providing all the tools they need in just one place.

Find this and more at: www.integratedbreeding.net