

FROZEN SEEDS IN A FROZEN MOUNTAIN

Feeding a Warming World

On the 26th February 2008, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault opened its doors, and one of the world's most fascinating and ambitious projects to conserve the future of our food supply was underway. To huge media attention, over 100 million seeds were placed in the Vault that day, since joined by another 50 million.

Crop diversity is the natural biological foundation of every meal eaten every day, everywhere. This first anniversary event will draw leading figures from the many spheres of influence with which crop diversity intersects, to examine how these frozen seeds lie at the heart of our response to the challenges facing our food supply, particularly as our climate changes, and to explore why this unique and irreplaceable resource is still at risk.

Indicative program

25th

16.30 Visits to the Svalbard Polar Museum and to Coalmine (site of first Svalbard's first seed storage)

18.30 Welcome Reception & Opening Talk

26th

9-9.30 Formal welcome by Norway's Minister of Agriculture and Food, Lars Peder Brekk

9.30-11.30

Crop diversity – what is it, why it matters, and why it's at risk

Climate change – its impacts, our food supply, new timelines

11.30-15.00 Lunch

Tour of Svalbard Global Seed Vault, hosted by Norway's Minister of Agriculture and Food, Lars Peder Brekk and Executive Director of Global Crop Diversity Trust, Cary Fowler

15.00-17.30 Presentations:

Freezing seeds – a humanitarian issue?

Crop diversity - Where development, environment and agriculture fail to meet

Roundtable discussion

19.00 Dinner

Dinner talk

27th

9.00 – 11.00 Presentations:

The politics of urgency – the challenges of addressing future crises today

Roundtable discussion

Conclusions