

International Oat Workers' Code of Ethics For Oat Germplasm Exchange

*As approved by the members of the 6th International Oat Conference, 13/11/2000
at Lincoln, New Zealand.*

In past decades, oat workers worldwide have generously shared their oat germplasm with colleagues to enhance oat breeding and research. However, plant variety protection and patent mechanisms focus attention on property rights afforded developers/owners of germplasm materials. The purpose of this code is to encourage the continued exchange of oat germplasm by recognizing these rights and by codifying the obligations of persons receiving unreleased oat germplasm. I, therefore, agree to support the following principles:

- Owners, as well as originating breeders, stations, or companies have property rights to unreleased oat germplasm such as pure lines, early generation lines or populations, bulk populations, breeding stocks, or genetic stocks. These rights are not waived with the distribution of seeds or plants of any of these unreleased materials. In this context "released" materials include named cultivars or breeding or genetic stocks described in an official statement of release.
- The owner/breeder, in distributing seeds of plant materials of unreleased oat germplasm, grants permission for their use (1) in trials under the recipient's control, and (2) as parents for making crosses for use in basic research or for selection leading to the development of cultivars. **Use of unreleased germplasm for which written approval from the owner/breeder is required include:** selecting from the stock; induction of mutations; insertion of recombinant DNA; production of somaclones; use in backcrosses for addition of a gene(s) controlling a specific trait; testing at outlying locations; use as parents in commercial F1 hybrids or as components in synthetic or multiline cultivars; or seed increases and release as a cultivar.
- The recipient of unreleased seeds of plant material shall make no secondary distribution of the germplasm without the permission of the owner/breeder.
- The recipient of unreleased materials shall take precautions to prevent unauthorized transfer or theft of seed of these materials from field nurseries or seed inventories.
- The owner/breeder of unreleased oat germplasm stocks may waive, in writing, any of the above restrictions or may impose additional restrictions.
- Retention and use of the germplasm accompanying this statement indicates your agreement with the policies set forth in the statement.

I agree to follow the policies set forth in the INTERNATIONAL OAT WORKERS' CODE OF ETHICS FOR OAT GERMPLASM EXCHANGE:

Name (printed)

Signature

Date

Title Institution/Station/Company

Address
