

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS & PLANT BREEDING
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
NAGALAND UNIVERSITY, MEDZIPHEMA
SYLLABUS & COURSE CONTENTS OF Ph. D. in Plant Breeding & Genetics

Sl.No.	Course No.	Course title	Credit hrs.
1.	GPB-601	Plant genetic resources and their utilization	2+0
2.	GPB-602	Advances in quantitative genetics	2+1
3.	**GPB-603	Genomics in crop improvement	2+1
4.	**GPB-604	Cellular and chromosomal manipulation in crop improvement	2+1
5.	**GPB-605	Advanced plant breeding systems	2+0
6.	GPB-606	Crop-evolution	2+0
7.	GPB-607	Breeding designer crops	1+1
8.	GPB-608	Advances in breeding of major field crops	3+0
9.	GPB-609	Microbial genetics	2+1
10.	GPB-610	<i>In situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation of germplasm	2+1
11.	GPB-691	Doctoral seminar I	1+0
12.	GPB-692	Doctoral seminar II	1+0
13.	GPB-699	Doctoral research	45

***Compulsory for Ph.D. programme*

Revised PhD syllabus GPB Department

GPB 601 PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES AND PRE-BREEDING 2+0

Theory

UNIT I

Historical perspectives and need for PGR conservation; Importance of plant genetic resources; Taxonomical classification of cultivated plants; Gene pool: primary, secondary and tertiary; Centres of origin and global pattern of diversity; Basic genetic resources and transgenes.

UNIT II

Principles, strategies and practices of exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation and cataloging of PGR; Plant quarantine and phytosanitary certification; Germplasm introduction and exchange; Principles of in vitro and cryopreservation.

UNIT III

Germplasm conservation- in situ, ex situ, and on-farm; short, medium and long term conservation strategies for conservation of orthodox seed and vegetatively propagated crops; Registration of plant genetic resources.

UNIT IV

PGR data base management; Multivariate and clustering analysis, descriptors; National and international protocols for PGR management; PGR for food and agriculture (PGRFA); PGR access and benefit sharing; Role of CGIAR system in the germplasm exchange; PBR, Farmers rights and privileges; Seed Act, sui generis system; Geographical indicators, Intellectual property; Patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets.

UNIT V

Journey from wild to domestication; Genetic enhancement- need for genetic enhancement; Genetic enhancement in pre Mendelian era and 21st century; Genetic enhancement and plant breeding; Reasons for failure in genetic enhancement; Sources of genes/ traits- novel genes for quality.

UNIT VI

Distant Hybridization: Inter-specific, inter-generic hybridization, scope and limitations, techniques to overcome the limitations; Gene transfer tools and techniques into cultivated species; Validation of transferred genes and their expression.

UNIT VII

Post-genomic tools for genetic enhancement of germplasm; Prebreeding through chromosome manipulation; Application of biotechnology for Genetic Enhancement-Achievements.

UNIT VIII

Utilization of genetic resources, concept of core and mini-core collections, genetic enhancement/Prebreeding for crop improvement including hybrid development.

GPB 602 ADVANCED BIOMETRICAL AND QUANTITATIVE GENETICS 2+1

Theory

UNIT I

Basic principles of Biometrical Genetics; Selection of parents; Advanced biometrical models for combining ability analysis; Simultaneous selection models; Use of Multiple

regression analysis in selection of genotypes; Designs and Systems; Selection of stable genotypes.

UNIT II

Models in stability analysis - Pattern analysis - Additive Main Effect and Multiplicative Interaction (AMMI) analysis and other related models; Principal Component Analysis.

UNIT III

Additive and multiplicative model -Shifted multiplicative model; Analysis and selection of genotypes; Methods and steps to select the best model - Biplots and mapping genotypes.

UNIT IV

Genetic architecture of quantitative traits; Conventional analyses to detect gene actions - Partitioning of phenotypic/genotypic variance – Construction of saturated linkage maps, concept of framework map development; QTL mapping-Strategies for QTL mapping - desired populations, statistical methods; Marker Assisted Selection (MAS) - Approaches to apply MAS in Plant breeding - selection based on markers - simultaneous selection based on marker and phenotype - Factors influencing MAS; Heritability of the trait, proportion of genetic variance, linkage disequilibrium between markers and traits and selection methods.

Practical

Working out efficiency of selection methods in different populations and interpretation - Biparental mating – use of software in analysis and result interpretation - Triallel analysis– use of software in analysis and result interpretation - Quadriallel analysis – use of software in analysis and result interpretation - Triple Test Cross (TTC) – use of software in analysis and result interpretation - Advanced biometrical models for combining ability analysis - Selection of stable genotypes using stability analysis; Models in stability analysis Additive Main Effect and Multiplicative Interaction (AMMI) model - Principal Component Analysis model - Additive and multiplicative model - Shifted multiplicative model -Analysis and selection of genotypes - Methods and steps to select the best model - Selection systems - Biplots and mapping genotypes. Construction of linkage maps and QTL mapping - Strategies for QTL mapping; statistical methods in QTL mapping; Phenotype and Marker linkage studies.

GPB 603 GENOMICS IN PLANT BREEDING 2+1

Theory

UNIT I

Introduction to the plant genome- Plant nuclear genomes and their molecular description - The chloroplast and the mitochondrial genomes in plants - Genome size and complexity.

UNIT II

Establishment of plant genome mapping projects - Genome mapping and use of molecular markers in plant breeding; Strategies for mapping genes of agronomic traits in plants- Approaches for mapping quantitative trait loci; Map based cloning of plant genes.

UNIT III

Regulation of Plant gene expression -Functional genomics – Expression Analysis using Microarrays – Transposon tagging and Insertional mutagenesis- methods and significance- Diversity Array Technology.

UNIT IV

Genome sequencing in plants–Principles and Techniques; Applications of sequence information in plant genome analyses; Comparative genomics– Genome Comparison Techniques- Classical and advanced approaches.

UNIT V

Detection of Single Nucleotide Polymorphism; TILLING and Eco- TILLING; Role of transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics in linking genome and phenome; Importance of understanding the phenotypes for exploiting the outcome of genomic technologies- Knock out mutant studies and high throughput phenotyping.

UNIT VI

Concept of database development, management and bioinformatics; Plant genome projects and application of bioinformatics tools in structural and functional genomics.

Practical

Chromosome analysis in major field crops -Fluorescence in situ hybridization - Comparative genomic hybridization – Comparative analysis of plant genomes using molecular markers – Genetic map construction using molecular markers – Mapping major genes using molecular markers – QTL mapping in plants – Comparison across mapping populations – Understanding the need genetic algorithms in QTL mapping – Plant Genome Databases – Computational tools to explore plant genome databases – Comparative genomics – Comparison of genome sequences using tools of bioinformatics- Advanced genomic technologies: TILLING and Eco-TILLING – DNA Array Technology – Linking genome sequences to phenotypes: Tools of transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics.

GPB 604 MOLECULAR AND CHROMOSOMAL MANIPULATIONS 2+0 FOR CROP BREEDING

Theory

UNIT I

Organization and structure of genome – Genome size – Organization of organellar genomes – Nuclear DNA organization – Nuclear and Cytoplasmic genome interactions and signal transduction; Transcriptional and Translational changes, Inheritance and expression of organellar DNA; Variation in DNA content – C value paradox; Sequence complexity – Introns and Exons – Repetitive sequences – Role of repetitive sequence.

UNIT II

Karyotyping – Chromosome banding and chromosome painting; Tracking introgressions using FISH, GISH, localization and mapping of genes/genomic segments; Distant hybridization - Role of polyploids in crop evolution and breeding - auto and allopolyploids.

UNIT III

Applications of cytogenetical methods for crop improvement; Location and mapping of genes on chromosomes: deficiency method; Interchange- genetic consequence,

identification of chromosomes involved and gene location; balanced lethal systems, their maintenance and utility; Multiple interchanges-use in producing inbreds, transfer of genes- linked marker methods; Duplication - production and use; Inversions and location of genes; B/A chromosome translocations and gene location.

UNIT IV

Trisomics- types, production, breeding behavior and location of genes, use of balanced tertiary trisomics in hybrid seed production; Monosomics methods of production, breeding behavior and location of genes; Intervarietal substitutions-allelic and non-allelic interactions; Telocentric method of mapping.

UNIT V

Barriers to interspecific and intergeneric hybridization- Behaviour of interspecific and intergeneric crosses; Totipotency of cells – Morphogenesis: in vivo and in vitro – Meristem culture – anther and pollen culture – ovule, ovary, embryo and endosperm culture – protoplast isolation and culture – protoplast fusion, Different pathways of in vitro morphogenesis – organogenesis and somatic embryogenesis; in vitro mutant/somaclone selection for biotic and abiotic stresses.

GPB 605 ADVANCES IN PLANT BREEDING SYSTEMS 2+0

Theory

UNIT I

Facts about plant breeding before the discovery of Mendelism; Evolutionary concepts of genetics and plant breeding - Flower development and its importance; genes governing the whorls formation and various models proposed; Mating systems and their exploitation in crop breeding; Types of pollination, mechanisms promoting cross pollination.

UNIT II

Self- incompatibility and sterility – Types of self incompatibility: Homomorphic (sporophytic and gametophytic) and heteromorphic - Breakdown of incompatibility - Floral adaptive mechanisms - Spatial and temporal - Genetic and biochemical basis of self-incompatibility; Sterility: male and female sterility – Types of male sterility: genic, cytoplasmic and cytoplasmic-genic; Exploitation in monocots and dicots, difficulties in exploiting CGMS system in dicots – Case studies and breeding strategies; Nucleocytoplasmic interactions with special reference to male sterility – Genetic , biochemical and molecular bases.

UNIT III

Population formation by hybridization - Types of populations – Mendelian population, gene pool, composites, synthetics etc.; Principles and procedures in the formation of a complex population; Genetic basis of population improvement.

UNIT IV

Selection in self-fertilizing crops; Creation of genetic variability selection methods - Selection methods: mass selection, pureline selection, pedigree method (selection in early generations vs advanced generations); Backcross, polycross and test cross.

UNIT V

Selection in cross fertilizing crops – Polycross and topcross selections, Mass and recurrent selection methods and their modifications –Mass selection: grided mass

selection, ear to row selection, modified ear to row selection; Convergent selection, divergent selection; Recurrent selection: Simple recurrent selection and its modifications (restricted phenotypic selection, selfed progeny selection and full sib recurrent selection) - Recurrent selection for general combining ability (GCA) – Concepts and utilization - Recurrent selection for specific combining ability (SCA) – usefulness in hybrid breeding programmes - Reciprocal recurrent selection (Half sib reciprocal recurrent selection, Half sib reciprocal recurrent selection with inbred tester and Full sib reciprocal recurrent selection); Selection in clonally propagated crops – Assumptions and realities.

UNIT VI

Genetic engineering technologies to create male sterility; Prospects and problems - Use of self- incompatibility and sterility in plant breeding – case studies; - Fertility restoration in male sterile lines and restorer diversification programmes - Conversion of agronomically ideal genotypes into male steriles – Concepts and breeding strategies; Case studies - Generating new cytonuclear interaction system for diversification of male steriles - Stability of male sterile lines – Environmental influence on sterility– Environmentally Induced Genic Male Sterility (EGMS) –Types of EGMS; Influence on their expression, genetic studies; Photo and thermo sensitive genetic male sterility and its use in heterosis breeding - Temperature sensitive genetic male sterility and its use heterosis breeding -Apomixis and its use in heterosis breeding - Incongruity – Factors influencing incongruity - Methods to overcome incongruity mechanisms.

GPB 606 CROP EVOLUTION 2+0

Theory

UNIT I

Origin and evolution of species; Centres of diversity/origin, diffused centres; Time and place of domestication; Patterns of evolution and domestication-examples and Case studies.

UNIT II

Domestication and uniformity – Characteristics of early domestication and changes – Concept of gene pools and crop evolution; Selection and Genetic drift - Consequences.

UNIT III

Speciation and domestication – The process of speciation – Reproductive isolation barriers – Genetic differentiation during speciation – Hybridization - speciation and extinction.

UNIT IV

Exploitation of natural variation – Early attempts to increase variation – Distant hybridization and introgression- Inter-specific, inter-generic hybridization, scope and limitations, techniques to overcome the limitations; Gene transfer into cultivated species, tools and techniques; Validation of transferred genes and their expression; Controlled introgressions.

UNIT V

Processes in crop evolution and stabilization of polyploids, cytogenetic and genetic stabilization; Genome organization – Transgenesis in crop evolution – Multifactorial genome – Intragenomic interaction – Intergenomic interaction – Genome introgression.

UNIT VI

Methods to study crop evolution - Contemporary Methods – Based on morphological features – Cytogenetic analysis – Allozyme variations and crop evolution – DNA markers, genome analysis and comparative genomics.

UNIT VII

Evolutionary significance of polyploidy, Evolution of crop plants through ploidy manipulations; polyploids: methods, use of autopolyploids; haploidy-method of production and use; allopolyploids- synthesis of new crops; - Case studies – Cereals – Pulses – Oilseeds – vegetables, Fibre crops - Plantation crops – Forage crops – Tuber crops – Medicinal Plants.

GPB 607 BREEDING DESIGNER CROPS 2+1

Theory

UNIT I

Breeding of crop ideotypes; Genetic manipulations through recombination breeding, genomics and transgenics for physiological efficiency, nutritional enhancement, special compounds-proteins, vaccines, gums, starch and fats.

UNIT II

Physiological efficiency as a concept, parametric and whole plant physiology in integrated mode; Physiological mechanism of improvement in nutrient use efficiency, water use efficiency, osmotic adjustment, photosynthetic efficiency, stay green trait and its significance in crop improvement.

UNIT III

Improvement in yield potential under sub-optimal conditions by manipulating source and sink, canopy architecture, plant-water relationships, effect of suboptimal conditions on cardinal plant growth and development processes, enhancing input use efficiency through genetic manipulations.

UNIT IV

Breeding for special traits viz. oil, protein, vitamins, amino acids etc.; Concept of biopharming and development of varieties producing targeted compounds, nutraceuticals and industrial products; Success stories in vaccines, modified sugars, gums and starch through biopharming

UNIT V

Biosafety management, segregation and isolation requirements in designer crop production and post-harvest management

Practical

Demonstration of plant responses to stresses through recent techniques; Water use efficiency, transpiration efficiency, screening techniques under stress conditions such as electrolyte leakage, TTC, chlorophyll fluorescence, canopy temperature depression, stomatal conductance, chlorophyll estimation, heat/drought/salt shock proteins.

GPB 608 ADVANCES IN BREEDING OF MAJOR FIELD CROPS 3+0

Theory

UNIT I

History, description, classification, origin and phylogenetic relationship, genome status in cultivated and alien species of major cereals, millets and non cereal crops like Rice, Wheat, Maize, Pearl millet, Sorghum, Pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, arid legumes and other forage crops etc.

UNIT II

Breeding objectives in rice, wheat, maize, pearl millet, sorghum, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, arid legumes and other forage crops etc. Genetic resources and their utilization; Genetics of quantitative and qualitative traits.

UNIT III

Breeding for value addition and resistance to abiotic and biotic stresses.

UNIT IV

Conventional (line breeding, population improvement, hybrids) and other approaches (DH Populations, Marker Assisted Breeding, Development of new male sterility systems), transgenics.

UNIT V

National and International accomplishments in genetic improvement of major field crops and their seed production.

GPB 609 MICROBIAL GENETICS 2+1

Theory

UNIT I

Nature of bacterial variation; Molecular aspects of mutation; Episomes and plasmids; Gene mapping in bacteria; Life cycle of bacteriophages; Genetic fine analysis of rII locus; Circular genetic map of phage T4; Transposable elements; Gene manipulation; Biochemical genetics of Neurospora and Saccharomyces; One gene - one enzyme hypothesis.

UNIT II

Regulation of gene activity in prokaryotes; Molecular mechanisms of mutation, repair and suppression; Molecular chaperones and gene expression; Genetic basis of apoptosis.

UNIT III

Transgenic bacteria and bioethics; genetic basis of nodulation, nitrogen fixation and competition by rhizobia, genetic regulation of nitrogen fixation and quorum sensing in rhizobia; genetics of mitochondria and chloroplasts.

Practical

Preparation and sterilization of liquid and agar bacterial nutrient media; Assessment of generation time in the log-phase bacterial cultures. Handling of microorganisms for genetic experiments; Isolation of rhizobia from nodules; Gram staining of rhizobial cells; Examination of polyhydroxy butyrate (PHB) production in rhizobia; Demonstration of N₂fixing nodules/bacterial inoculation in the legume- Rhizobium symbiotic system. Induction, isolation and characterization of auxotrophic and drug resistant mutants in bacteria; determination of spontaneous and induced mutation frequencies; Discrete bacterial colony counts for the preparation of survival curves and determination of LD50

of a mutagen. Tn-mediated mutagenesis; Analysis and isolation of plasmid DNA; Curing of plasmids.

GPB 610 IN SITU AND EX SITU CONSERVATION OF GERMPLASM 2+1

Theory

UNIT I

Concept of natural reserves and natural gene banks, In situ conservation of wild species in nature reserves: in situ conservation components, factors influencing conservation value, national plan for in situ conservation; in situ conservation of agro-biodiversity on-farm; scientific basis of in situ conservation on-farm, building on-farm conservation initiatives, implementation of on-farm conservation, management of in situ conserved genetic diversity on-farm, enhancing benefits for farmers from local crop diversity.

UNIT II

Ex situ conservation: components, plant genetic resources conservation in gene banks, national gene banks, gene repositories, preservation of genetic materials under natural conditions, perma-frost conservation, guidelines for sending seeds to network of active/working collections, orthodox, recalcitrant seeds- differences in handling ,clonal repositories, genetic stability under long term storage condition.

UNIT III

In vitro storage, maintenance of in vitro culture under different conditions, in vitro bank maintenance for temperate and tropical fruit crop species, spices, tubers, bulbous crops, medicinal and endangered plant species, conservation of embryos and ovules, cell/suspension cultures, protoplast and callus cultures, pollen culture, micropropagation techniques, problems, prospects of in vitro gene bank.

UNIT IV

Cryopreservation- procedure for handling seeds of orthodox and recalcitrants- cryoprotectants, dessication, rapid freezing, slow freezing, vitrification techniques, encapsulation/dehydration techniques, national facilities, achievements, application of cryopreservation in agriculture, horticulture and forestry crops. Problems and prospects; challenges ahead.

Practical

In situ conservation of wild species –case studies at national and international levels- ex situ techniques for active and long-term conservation of collections- Preparation and handling of materials, packaging, documentation; design of cold storage modules- Conservation protocols for recalcitrant and orthodox seeds; Cytological studies for assessing genetic stability, in vitro cultures- embryo, cell/suspension cultures, pollen cultures, study of cryotank facility and vitrification techniques, visit to NBPGR/NBAGR - study using fruit crops and other horticultural crops.