

GENE BANK

The gene banks are a type of bio-repository which preserves genetic materials. This involves the freezing of sperm or eggs or embryonic cells in cold storage. Among the various method of storage, the cryopreservation is most commonly used technique (called *Cryobank*) that involves the preservation of sperm, egg or the embryo in liquid nitrogen. The gene banks are important for maintaining and preventing the loss of biodiversity. This diversity is important for survival of endangered wild animals and some farm animals of proven genetic worth and of rare breeds.

Applications:

1. The gene bank materials can be used in breeding programs in ase of genetic problems such as genetic defects, inbreeding etc.
2. To reconstruct a breed in case of extinction or loss of a substantial number of animals.
3. To preserve the endangered wild animals.