



The « Unité de Recherche Génomique Info », abbreviated as URGI, is a bioinformatics research unit for studies of plant and pest genetics and genomics at the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA). The URGI research activity covers both (i) genome structure and dynamics and (ii) information systems architecture.

URGI hosts a bioinformatics platform, which belongs to the National Institute of Bioinformatics (IFB), the French node of the Elixir European infrastructure for computational biology. Platform services cover databases improvement, data integration, support for bioanalysis, and user support.

Main research objectives

- Develop an information system for genetics and genomics data of plant and fungi integrated to the world-class repository network.
- Analyse (epi-)genome structure, dynamics and evolution.

Main platform missions

- Maintain a repository with strategic integrated data for plant and fungi of interest for BAP, SPE, and EFPA INRA divisions.
- Provide a support for large collaborative project (data management, genome annotation, and data analysis).
- Provide tools, pipelines, training and support around URGI fields of expertise.
- Provide computer resources.

URGI has established a quality control process to meet the requirements and specificities of a research unit hosting a platform service. As part of its activities, the management team is committed to ensure competences and availability of personnel and equipments. The staff is committed to satisfy its users and to continuously improve their satisfaction. Each member is engaged in the quality process to achieve the following objectives:

0. To improve the control of Unit processes
1. To improve the quality of the offered services
 - a. To provide robust software and databases
 - b. To provide robust computer resources
 - c. To provide up-to-date consistent data
2. To manage bioinformatics for large collaborative projects
3. To improve user support
4. To improve staff skills
5. To improve the national and international visibility

Head responsibilities

As head of the URGI, I have to integrate the requests from the unit and from the INRA. I take the pledge to:

- promote a culture of quality to improve the working methods,
- nominate a quality moderator to implement the quality policy and assist him/her,
- ensure that human and material resources are sufficient to carry out the unit missions,
- ensure the existence of proper and regular consultations with platform members to ensure the best fit of the platform missions to the demands of users.

Hadi Quesneville, Head of URGI