
NWO Vici Seeds4Ever: Protection of stored mRNAs to ensure seed survival

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

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Funder: Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)

Template: For grants awarded before 1 January 2020 - Data Management Plan NWO (English)

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Grant number: 17047

Project abstract:

Seeds are a major staple food and the commodity for crop production. Seed storage is essential for the conservation of biodiversity and crop production. To grow into crops seeds need to germinate and for this the translation of seed stored messenger (m) RNAs is absolutely required. Seed stored mRNAs can survive for many years, which is surprising considering their short half-life times in metabolically active cells. Lack of knowledge on how seed mRNAs are protected is a major limitation to understanding what makes seeds long-lived. The aim of Seeds4Ever is to elucidate how seed stored mRNAs are protected. mRNAs in dry seeds are associated with ribosomes and my group recently discovered that these mRNA ribosome complexes are associated with stress granule proteins. Stress granules are cytoplasmic foci that contain all the factors required for translation, but translation is on hold. I hypothesise that seed stored mRNAs are protected in stress granules. To test this hypothesis I will explore the cellular localisation of seed stored mRNAs (in dry seeds and in wet seeds of the soil seed bank; WP1 and WP2) and functionally analyse the role of stress granules in mRNA protection and seed longevity (WP3). I will determine at which position ribosomes bind the seed stored mRNAs and investigate the mechanisms of mRNA selection for storage (WP4). Moreover, the seed industry suffers economic losses due to the often short shelf-life of primed seeds (pre-germination required to ensure germination). Seeds4Ever will provide markers that will help to improve seed treatments so that longevity is no longer shortened (WP5). Seeds4Ever will bring seed longevity research from the physiological to the cellular and molecular level. Findings of Seeds4Ever will be of great fundamental interest but also valuable for conservation of biodiversity in gene banks and ecological settings, and for the seed industry.

Last modified: 13-05-2019

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General information

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17047

- No

Description of the data

The generated data will consist of:

- Confocal images
- RNAseq data
- Phenotypic data (mainly germination percentages, calculated based on images and an excel script)

All data will be stored will be digital. In all the case the non-processed data will be stored

Data storage during the project

The laboratory of Plant Physiology provides short-term storage facilities. These include personal network drives that are regularly backed-up and, if more storage space is required, a central server with secured access will be provided. Additionally external hard-drives for short-term storage of very big datasets (RNAseq data) are available.

Generated raw RNAseq data will be deposited at SRA (Sequence Read Archive).

- Yes
- Yes

Updating of the data will be performed outmatically and is in hands of the ICT department of Wageningen University and Research.

The costs of the data management on the personal network drives is part of the accountcosts per employee. These are covered by the department. Additional hard-drives can be ordered from the material costs of the project, when required.

Archiving of data after the project

I aim to have full and free accessibility of all generated data. Therefore, we will publish, as much as possible, in well-established open access journals and include all raw datasets as supplementary data. As indicated above, the RNAseq datasets will be stored in SRA and released directly upon publication of the research papers describing the experiments.

- Yes

Yes, if the repository provides such a PID we will use it to make our data findable

The data will be archived for at least 10 years after ending the project

Network drives and data storage facilities are offered by the Laboratory of Plant Physiology. There will be no additional costs for this Vici project specifically.

Standards and Metadata

All the lab work will be recorded in an e-lab journal. This e-lab journal is linked to the data bases in which data will be stored. This set-up will guarantee that the data will be traceable, accessible and reusable.

Making data available

- No

The data will be made available when published. Everything that is published will therefore be available after the project, the remaining will be made available as soon as it has been published.

The only reason for making the data available after a certain period, as I can see at this moment, will be delayed publication.

- No