



SAVE Head Office:

Joseph-Belli-Weg 5, D-78467 Konstanz/Germany  
Website: <http://www.save-foundation.net>

E-mail: [office@save-foundation.net](mailto:office@save-foundation.net)  
Network: <http://www.agrobiodiversity.net>

## Synonym Register of Fruit Variety Names

The enormous amount of known fruit and berry varieties and the almost unmanageable diversity of historical and regional names in different languages make conservation work difficult, especially cross-border cooperation and the transfer of knowledge as well as exchange of plant materials. On the one hand, many of the widely distributed fruit varieties have different local names,



even in regions and countries with the same language. On the other hand, the same name is used to describe different varieties or variety groups (collective names such as Schafnase, Heubirne etc). The correct classification can only be undertaken by experts, this is because pomological knowledge is required in order to compare the fruits. The synonym lists and registers already in existence are often incomplete and are generally only for a restricted geographical region or a few languages.

This project, commissioned by the SAVE Foundation, to create a multi-lingual register of variety names and synonyms is an ambitious and, in this form in Europe, unique and exemplarily project that has needed many years of detailed work to build a register that will make future cooperation and conservation noticeably easier. The presently available online “dictionary” will help the variety conservationists to quickly and simply find the correct description of a variety and its synonyms in the partner language. An imperfect first version is available at URL <http://www.fruit-net.info>, navigation point “Synonymregister”. Thus confusion and duplication will be avoided and an important impulse for the conservation beyond state and language boundaries will be founded. The project is undertaken with the agreement of Bioversity International (the former FAO-Institute IPGRI) Rome.

Funding provided by the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, in the context of the Carpathian Project, and a large anonymous donation has already been used to compare and enter some 17,000 names and synonyms for over 7,300 varieties of apple in English, French, German, Russian and Czech language. Every entry is accompanied by various details and is completed with a literature source. Additionally 1,400 names and synonyms of 222 plum varieties have been recorded.

The development of further fruit and berry sorts as well as other languages depends upon both the availability of experts and also the financial means to undertake such extremely time consuming work. Also desirable would be the linking of the variety names with description and picture databases.