



## Genetic Resources are our Heritage

Perhaps the most important of all Oman's natural resources is its wealth of genetic diversity. Underpinning the Earth's life-support system, genetic resources provide immense value and benefits for humankind. The effective preservation, conservation and management of these precious resources is essential to global food security, sustainable development and the livelihoods of millions of people across the world.

Genetic resources are divided into four: animal, plant, marine and microbial.

### The Marine World



Omani clownfish are found in two distinct groups - Mirbat in Dhofar and Masirah.

Marine sponges, corals and invertebrates harbor diverse and unique bacterial strains that have potential for future biotechnological projects.

### The Plant World



There are many different wheat varieties in Oman, including: Cooley, Missany and Sarraya. These varieties contain genetic characteristics that make them resistant to heat, drought and diseases.

### The Animal World



There are many breeds of goats in Oman and each has distinct characteristics. Local breeds include: Albatinah, Aljabal Alakhdar, Dhofari and Sahrawi.

### The Microbial World



Yoghurt is made from milk with the help of a bacteria called *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* subsp. *Bulgaricus*.

There are many more bacteria yet to be discovered and their potential value to the world is immense.