

MASC Natural Variation and Comparative Genomics- 2006 Subcommittee Report
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The newly-restructured subcommittee on Natural Variation and Comparative Genomics includes two working groups.

The **Natural Variation Working Group** has been established to identify technological and resource issues which are needed for progress in analysis of *Arabidopsis* natural variation. In addition, conceptual opportunities for improved understanding of fundamental processes in plant biology will be considered.

The **Comparative Genomics Working Group** has been established to consider priorities for future research in *Arabidopsis* Comparative Genomics in order to identify conceptual and technical goals as well as recommend species which will optimize progress towards these research goals.

Finally, this subcommittee also inherits responsibilities of the former subcommittee on Genetic Resources which dealt with forward and reverse genetics, natural variation, and comparative genomics. Although much progress has been made by the International *Arabidopsis* 2010 Initiative on many of these issues, further consultation regarding possible future needs is ongoing. Members of each working group are in contact by e-mail and aim to produce recommendations and summary documents before the end of 2006.