

O-36 (220)**GENETIC RESOURCES OF FRUIT TREES IN THE NORTH OF IRAN:
MORPHOLOGICAL AND MOLECULAR DIVERSITY**

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North of Iran has a long history of cultivation of temperate and subtropical fruits. Wild types and local cultivars of many fruit trees such as pear, persimmon, pomegranate, olive, chestnut, medlar, apple, nut and stone fruits are scattered around the coastal and mountainous areas of the north of Iran in provinces such as Golestan, Mazandaran, Gilan, Ardabil and Azarbaijan. For different purposes such as breeding, germplasm conservation and cultivar improvement; the natural repository of fruit trees in this part of country should be characterized. From the last decade, in Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute of Iran (ABRII), Branch of North Region, morphological characteristics and different molecular markers such as SSR, ISSR and AFLP have been used for genetic diversity analyses of many fruit trees. Here, the results of those studies on genetic diversity of some fruit trees grown in the north of Iran, such as local pear, olive and chestnut using morphological characteristics and molecular markers will be presented.

Keywords: Fruit landraces, Genetic diversity, Germplasm conservation