



The « Unité de Recherche Génomique Info », abbreviated as URGI, is a research unit in genomics and bioinformatics at the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA). It is dedicated to plant and crop parasites. The URGI research activity covers genome structure and its dynamics.

URGI hosts a bioinformatics platform, which belongs to the French national network of bioinformatics platforms (ReNaBi). Platform services cover database design, software engineering, data integration, and user support.

Main missions

- Develop an information system for genetics and genomics data of plant and fungi
- Maintain a repository with integrated data for plant and fungi of interest for INRA
- Provide a support for large collaborative project (data management, genome annotation, and data analysis)
- Provide tools, training and expertise for its users
- Provide computer resources

URGI has established a quality control process to meet the requirements and specificities of a research unit hosting a platform service. As part of its activities, the management team is committed to ensure competences and availability of personnel and equipments. The staff is committed to satisfy its users and to continuously improve their satisfaction. Each member is engaged in the quality process to achieve the following objectives:

0. To improve the control of platform processes and the quality of the offered services
 1. To provide robust software and databases
 2. To provide robust computer resources
 3. To provide up to date high quality data
 4. To manage bioinformatics for large collaborative projects
 5. To improve user support
 6. To share skills among platform agents
 7. To obtain a national and an international visibility

Head responsibilities

As head of the URGI and scientific manager of the URGI platform, I have to integrate the requests from the unit, the INRA, and platform users. I take the pledge to:

- promote a culture of quality to improve the working methods,
- nominate a quality moderator to implement the quality policy and assist him/her,
- establish, annually, a consultation with platform members to ensure that quality objectives have been achieved,
- ensure that human and material resources are sufficient to:
 - carry out the platform missions
 - adapt the platform missions to the demands of users according to the evolution of their needs and our resources.

Hadi Quesneville
Head of URGI and Scientific manager of URGI platform