The Quaker International Oat Nursery (QION) is a collaborative effort among oat breeders from more than twenty research institutions worldwide who share the most productive oat breeding lines with each other, along with their scientific knowledge. QION breeders openly help each other develop new oat varieties that are resistant to diseases and environmental stresses, and ensure seed diversity to secure healthy harvests year after year.

As the only global oat seed-sharing cooperative, the QION continues to improve the quality and productivity of oat crops around the world – with ongoing efforts to develop new programs, share innovative ideas and improve the viability of local crops worldwide.

**The QION Model for Seed Sharing**

- **Produce**
  - Oat lines (seeds) are grown
  - Seed quality and characteristics are analyzed by oat breeders

- **Contribute**
  - Oat seed lines are contributed by all QION nursery collaborators
  - Newer participating breeders may not have seeds to share, but they will receive seeds to help them establish their research programs

- **Evaluate**
  - Oat growth is evaluated in the field
  - Data is collected on the quality of the grain
  - Pedigrees are shared and best lines are identified

- **Benefit**
  - Best oat seed lines are shared globally
  - Public research groups are able to grow plants that are resistant to diseases and environmental stresses
  - Oats remain primarily a locally grown grain
  - Harvests are healthy year after year