

# Arctic seed bank inaugurated

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, dug into a frigid Arctic mountainside to protect the world's seeds in case of a global catastrophe, has the capacity to house samples from all the world's 1,400-plus existing seed banks

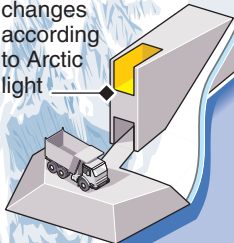
North Pole



NORWAY

Surrounding permafrost will continue providing natural refrigeration if cooling systems fail

**Entry:** Illuminated with artwork that changes according to Arctic light



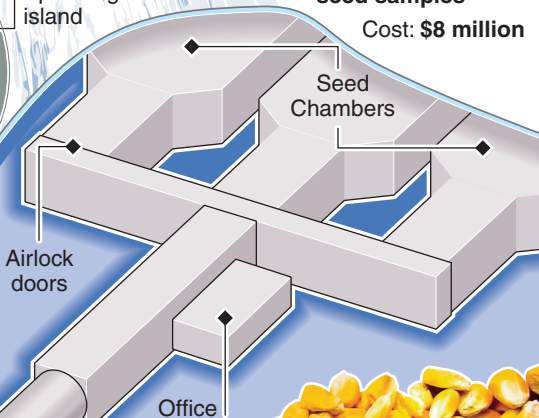
**Svalbard archipelago:**

Vault built 120m inside mountain on Spitsbergen island

**SVALBARD GLOBAL SEED VAULT**

Capacity: **4.5 million seed samples**

Cost: **\$8 million**



Vault situated about 130m above current sea level. It will not flood if Greenland's ice sheet melts



**Seeds, stored at -18 degrees C, could last thousands of years**