

## **Terms of Reference (TORs) of AEGIS Advisory Committee**

### **Introduction**

AEGIS is an initiative that is complex in nature, multi-country/institutional, multi-disciplinary and multi-year with clear objectives and outputs. Considering that a dedicated body providing oversight would substantially benefit the planning and management of this operation, the ECPGR Steering Committee decided to establish an Advisory Committee. The following strategic and technical terms of reference (TORs) have been agreed upon by the Steering Committee through an exchange of emails during the first part of 2009.

### **Strategic TORs**

1. To provide strategic oversight over the establishment and operation of AEGIS.
2. To provide guidance to the ECPGR Secretariat and the AEGIS Coordinator on how AEGIS should evolve and be implemented as well as providing advice on seeking support at the governmental and international levels to facilitate the implementation of AEGIS.
3. To provide comments on strategic draft documents prepared by the ECPGR Secretariat and to propose solutions for strategic problems.

### **Technical TORs**

4. To provide technical oversight to the Secretariat with respect to project proposal development and project implementation to ensure optimal benefits for the AEGIS members.
5. To give advice on how financial resources that are needed for the implementation of AEGIS could be mobilized.
6. To provide technical oversight over the implementation of the AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS; see more specific TORs below) and to guide and advise the WGs regarding its actual implementation.
7. To assume an oversight role in the implementation of the Competitive AEGIS Grant Scheme. Specific responsibilities for this TOR are listed below.
8. The Advisory Committee, based on information received from the WGs and the Secretariat, will make recommendations to the Steering Committee regarding the status of implementation of AQUAS.

### **Specific TORs related to AQUAS**

With respect to providing oversight over the implementation of AQUAS, the Committee will assume the following responsibilities:

- a. Comment on the draft generic operational standards prepared by the Secretariat;
- b. Approve the template of an operational genebank manual, as drafted by the Secretariat and agreed by the Working Groups;
- c. Comment on the agreed minimum standards, as drafted and agreed by the Working Groups, especially from a “between crops” perspective;
- d. Give advice on the minimum requirements of the record keeping system, to be implemented by the Associate members of AEGIS;
- e. Give advice on the reporting system, as organized by the Working Groups. Comment on the actual reports and inform Steering Committee, as appropriate;
- f. Give advice on issues related to the monitoring of the AQUAS, make proposals for capacity building and send recommendations to the Steering Committee.

### **Specific TORs related to the Competitive AEGIS Grant Scheme**

With respect to providing oversight to the implementation of this Scheme the Committee will:

- a. Approve the call(s) for proposals;
- b. Contribute to the review and selection process;
- c. Evaluate the results of each call for proposals and report to the ECPGR Steering Committee on the basis of information provided by the Secretariat; and
- d. Advice on opportunities of acquiring additional funds for the Scheme.

The Committee mainly operates via email correspondence. However, the ECPGR Secretariat might be requested to organize meetings, when necessary and feasible.

The AEGIS Advisory Committee is composed of a number of individuals selected on the basis of their personal expertise, based on a proposal made by the Secretariat and endorsed by the Steering Committee. The AEGIS Advisory Committee elects its Chair, who will have also a coordinating function within the Committee. The members of the Advisory Committee will serve until the end of Phase VIII of ECPGR (i.e. the end of 2013). In case of need for replacement, the Secretariat will make a proposal to the Steering Committee for endorsement.

Following endorsement by the ECPGR Steering Committee, as of September 2009 the AEGIS Advisory Group consists of:

- 1) Dave Astley
- 2) Ladislav Dotlacil
- 3) Anke van den Hurk
- 4) Vladimir Meglic
- 5) Gert Poulsen
- 6) Jan Engels, AEGIS Coordinator (ex officio Secretary)

ECPGR Secretariat  
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