

**Minutes for the Joint Meeting Between
the AEGIS Steering Committee and
the AEGIS Project Partners
22 June, 2005, IPGRI, Maccarese, Rome**

Introduction

During the start up phase of the AEGIS project it became clear that there was a need to clarify the vision for an integrated genebank system in Europe, to visualize the benefits and to address the policy issues. It was therefore decided to establish a Local AEGIS Task Force at IPGRI in March 2005. The members are Birgitte Lund, Ehsan Dulloo, Jan Engels, Jozef Turok and Lorenzo Maggioni. Furthermore, it was decided to have an increased involvement of the AEGIS Steering Committee (SC) in the project.

The first task of the Local AEGIS Task Force was to formulate a draft of a 'Vision Paper' with input from the SC. This draft should be shared and discussed with the Project Partners. It was therefore decided that extraordinary meetings should be held. The SC should start to have a meeting on 20 June to discuss the draft of the 'Vision Paper' presented to them by the Local AEGIS Task Force. This meeting would be continued for half a day on the 21 June to agree on how to present to and discuss this with the Project Partners. Ahead of the June meetings the preliminary draft had also been distributed to the Project Partners.

Among the purposes of the June meetings was to ensure that a common understanding is obtained of what we all ultimately want to achieve through the AEGIS project and to plan next steps. Furthermore, the purpose to hold this joint meeting between the AEGIS Steering Committee and the Project Partners was to share and discuss the Vision Paper.

Welcoming

The participants were welcomed by Lorenzo Maggioni, the ECP/GR Secretariat, Birgitte Lund, the AEGIS Project Manager and Eva Thörn, the Chair on the AEGIS Steering Committee (SC). Eva was chair of the joint meeting between the AEGIS Steering Committee and the Project Partners.

(List of participants, see Appendix 1).

Minutes including all appendices which have been referred to in this text, are available on the AEGIS home page: www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/AEGIS/AEGIS.htm

Presentations

The presentations given at the meeting are briefly listed below in chronological order according to the agenda.

(The Agenda, see Appendix 2).

Update on the Trust

An update on the Global Crop Diversity Trust was given by Brigitte Laliberte on the eligibility principles, criteria, and conservation activities.

Inform the Project Partners about the joint meeting between the AEGIS Steering Committee and the Trust

Eva Thörn informed the project partners about the joint meeting between the AEGIS Steering Committee and the Global Crop Diversity Trust. (See “*The report of the joint AEGIS and Trust meeting*”).

The ‘Vision Paper’ presented by the SC to the Project Partners

Eva Thörn presented on behalf of the Steering Committee the vision paper to the project partners. (*The power point presentation, see Appendix 3*).

Brief update from each of the crop working groups

- ***Allium***: Joachim Keller gave an update on behalf of Dave Astley. (*The power point presentation, see Appendix 4 and Appendix 5*).
- ***Avena***: Christop Germeier gave an update. (*The power point presentation, see Appendix 6*).
- ***Brassica***: Noortje Bas gave an update. (*The power point presentation, see Appendix 7*).
- ***Prunus***: Ken Tobutt gave an update. (*The presentation, see Appendix 8*).

Presentation “Mutual interest as a basis for European genebank collaboration”

Chris Kik gave a presentation on the mutual interests for implementing collaboration between European genebanks. (*The power point presentation, see Appendix 9*).

Discussions and next steps for the Project Partners

Based on the AEGIS Project Document referring to points 4.1. to 4.9., Frank Begemann outlined the tasks for the Project Partners to be solved during the next and final year of the AEGIS project. Briefly described:

4.1. Different models of the European integrated genebank system to be analyzed with pros and cons for the respective crops;

- 4.2. Propose organizational structures;
- 4.3. Identify legal elements. Raise questions which need to be considered;
- 4.4. Most Original Sample or Most Appropriate Sample and best ways of identifying material to be designated to the system. Include cost implications, e.g. staff time;
- 4.5. Compile draft guidelines if existing otherwise develop. These guidelines should be crop specific. Liaise with the ECP/GR crop WG;
- 4.6. Task for the Secretariat;
- 4.7. The system applied to other crops. From the project partners experience is this 1:1 transferable to e.g. *Malus* and could it be representative to all crops of this kind or is the system not applicable. Project partners to give their vision;
- 4.8. Task for the Secretariat;
- 4.9. The draft cooperation agreement (would be drafted by the Secretariat) but the project partners suggest elements to be included. Consult with institutions and authorities in home countries.

Discussions and Recommendations

The 'Vision Paper'

During the discussion between the Steering Committee and the Project Partners on the 'Vision Paper' issues were raised and recommendations given by the project partners. These issues were written in a separate document. (*Issues raised during discussion of the "Vision Paper", see Appendix 10.*)

Decision:

- Recommendations given by the Project Partners during the joint discussion should be included in the 'Vision Paper'.
- The Vision Paper should be redrafted in July by the Local AEGIS Task Force with all comments obtained during the AEGIS June meetings.
- The redrafted version of the Vision Paper will then be sent to the AEGIS Steering Committee in end of July / beginning of August.
- The Vision Paper before finalizing will then be sent to the Project Partners for further comments and agreement in August 2005.
- The Vision Paper will then go through the ECP/GR Secretariat to the ECP/GR Steering Committee for their comments.
- The finalized version of the Vision Paper should be available in the beginning of the autumn for different purposes.
- The finalized version of the Vision Paper should be sent to the Trust and the EU when available.
- The Vision Paper should be used at the national, regional and international level.

The Crop Working Groups

- *Allium*: A new term was introduced, activation energy, i.e. money or funds (see Appendix 5).
- *Avena*: It was recommended that duplicates should be traced only on advanced cultivars.

- *Brassica*: It was recommended that the AEGIS *Brassica* sub crop group should be extended from *B. oleraca* also to include also *B. napus*.

Next steps for the Project Partners with regard to the “Final Report”

Recommendations:

- The Project Partners consult and involve the ECP/GR crop working group members and consider contacting NGOs.

A **time frame** was set up with regard to the outlined tasks for the Project Partners with regard to the “**Final Report**”:

Decision:

- A first draft of the final report from each of the respective AEGIS crop sub groups to be sent to the ECP/GR Secretariat preferably before the end of 2005 but no later than 31 January 2006;
- Final report from the respective crop working groups has to be completed in May 2006;
- Final report to be sent to the ECP/GR Steering Committee in due time before the ECP/GR Steering Committee mid-term meeting summer 2006;
- Final Project Partner meeting probably in June/July 2006 before the ECP/GR Steering Committee mid-term meeting.

Conclusion

It was valuable to have this joint extraordinary meeting between the AEGIS Steering Committee and the Project Partners. Constructive discussions took place based on the Vision Paper, which was appreciated, and a shared opinion on how to move on during the final year of the project was obtained and with more clear vision for the future.