

ECPGR CUCURBITS Working Group

Progress report for the period June 2006 – June 2008

I. RESULTS			
a. Comparison of workplan (milestones) versus results obtained			
Workplan (milestones)	Which results have been obtained?	Which aims/goals have not been (fully) reached?	Completeness ratio (%)
Milestone 1 Prepare a proposal for a cucurbits project to be presented to the next EU Genetic Resources Programme	The proposal was presented in June 2006. Not funded.	--	100
Milestone 2 Organize a full WG meeting at the beginning of 2008	The Meeting will be organized in October		On going
Milestone 3 Task sharing First steps how to implement AEGIS: - Prepare a survey on different aspects of collection management as a preparation for standards. Send it to all members -To produce a draft document for defining the standards for quality - Promote safety-duplication of each collection under long-term conservation conditions	Survey sent to the members Not yet Letters with the estimated cost have been agreed for the collections of Israel and Bulgaria	Survey has to be sent again. Some members did not reply To arrange the safety duplications	100% On going 50%
Milestone 4 Documentation -Modify the structure of the database: add a new field indicating if the accession belongs to the Most Appropriate Accessions -Add new taxonomy on <i>Cucumis</i> -Up load information about core collection on the database	Completed Not done Data are being prepared	Information is not still up loaded	100% On going 50%

<p>-Ask for new passport and characterization data</p> <p>-Upload of characterization data</p>	<p>Information was requested but most partners did not reply</p> <p>Data of 60 accessions of cucumber, including photos have been up loaded</p>	<p>Data not received</p> <p>New characterization data are being prepared for to be up loaded</p>	<p>50%</p> <p>On going</p>
<p>Milestone 5 Characterization and evaluation</p> <p>-To produce MDL for <i>Momordica</i> and <i>Lagenaria</i></p> <p>-Reminder the utilization of MDL to members</p> <p>-Characterization trials conducted</p>	<p>Contact with experts in <i>Momordica</i> and <i>Lagenaria</i> were established for the development of the descriptors. The first draft of the descriptors for <i>Lagenaria</i> has been produced</p> <p>Done</p> <p>Characterization trials conducted in the genebanks</p>	<p>No answer from the expert on <i>Momordica</i>.</p>	<p>50%</p> <p>100%</p> <p>100%</p>
<p>Milestone 6 <i>In situ</i> and on farm conservation</p> <p>-To compile information about on farm conservation on cucurbits crops</p> <p>-Cultivation in organic conditions</p> <p>-Descriptors for organic cultivation are being developed together with organic farmers</p>	<p>Not done</p> <p>Cultivation of accessions of melon and pumpkin has been conducted at the UPV</p> <p>First draft of the descriptors for pumpkin are being produced</p>		<p>0%</p> <p>On going</p>

b. Contribution to the four ECP/GR priorities for Phase VII
<p>1. Characterization/evaluation (including modern technologies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum descriptor lists agreed for melon, cucumber and watermelon. Descriptors for <i>Cucurbita</i> genus and other minor cucurbits are in progress. - New characterization data of <i>Cucumis sativus</i> have been up loaded in the ECCUDB
<p>2. Task sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration of some members of the WG with seed companies for regeneration - Collaboration with organic farmers to define descriptors for organic farming - Experts from Israel and Turkey collaborate in the definition of descriptors for minor cucurbits
<p>3. <i>In situ</i>/on-farm conservation and development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accession from Spain are being cultivated in organic growing conditions for testing its adaptability to this type of cultivation
<p>4. Documentation and information</p> <p>The ECCUDB is being improved by up loading characterization data</p>
c. Relevance (regional / international)
<p>Did your work and/or outputs have inter-regional dimension? (if it did, give precisions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The availability of the passport data in the ECCUDB is very valuable in order to improve the use of genetic resources of cucurbits by users. Additionally, it will help the rationalization of cucurbits genetic resources in EU. <p>The common use of the minimum descriptor lists developed will help for the standardization of characterization data on cucurbits</p>
d. Lessons learnt (recommendations)
<p>Which lessons learnt are also relevant for other Working Groups?</p> <p>A major concern is the low level of participation of the Working Group members. It is necessary to encourage their participation.</p>

II. ANALYSIS	
a. Bottlenecks	
What were the experienced bottlenecks?	How do you plan to solve the bottlenecks?
1. Members of the Working Group are not enough involved in the activities of the Working Group	Send regularly emails remaindering agreements
2. Lack of time and money for conducting some activities, specially for the members more involved	More affective task-sharing activities
3. Some members of the WG are not involved in Genetic Resources. Actions taken for the WG to solve this problem have been unfruitful.	No solution, as the National Coordinators select the representative for a WG without any consultation with the WG
b. Internal support needed (Secretariat, Steering Committee, other Working Groups, etc.)	
Support from the Secretariat is obtained when needed	
c. External resources needed (collaboration, external funding)	
More money from National Programmes	