

Working Group on Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp)

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 First meeting of a Working Group on Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp within Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network held in Wageningen, the Netherlands, June 14-16, 2006	The following reports have been presentend: Flax national inventories:ITA,LVA,PRT,ROM,SVK, LIA Internatinal Flax Data Base, Hemp national inventories:CZE,GER,HUN,ITA, LVA,LIA,NLD,POL,PRT,ROM, International Hemp Data Base	This goal was fully completed	100
Milestone 2 Making new format of IFDB for sending passport and characterization data in Excel after the meeting in Wageningen	The new structure of IFDB was created just after the meeting in Wageningen in 2006	This goal was fully completed	100
Milestone 3 Sending the new structure to all flax collection holders	The new structure was sent just after the meeting in Wageningen to all Fibre Crops Group members by e-mail and the passport as well as the E/CH process was started	This goal was fully completed	100
Milestone 4 Sending the passport as well as the characterization data of the respective European gene banks according to the new IFDB structure. Plan: NLD,DEU,HUN,CZE, ROM,ITA – end 06; POL,SVK,LVA-end 07;PRT-mid.08;LTU - end13	Already sent: passport (P), evaluation/ characterization data (E/CH) CZE (2053P),GER(2317P), HUN(418P),LVA(66P), NLD(939P,888E/CH),POL(990P)	This goal was completed partly, missing data: ITA, SVK	cca 78
Milestone 5 How to deal with translation of Russian names	Recommended to find an uniform method to transcribe any non “Arabic word” The contribution to this discussion was prepared by Helmut Knüpfer	This goal can be considered to be completed yet with regard to the presented discussion	100

	<p>and Lorenzo Maggioni. Summarized answer from Helmut Knüpffer and Lorenzo Maggioni as follows: "There is no generally agreed transcription system. However in 1988 (Rogalewicz et al*), the former COMECON group on PGR Documentation had suggested to use the British Library Transliteration System. This system is available via internet": http://www.bl.uk/collections/east_european/translit.html#lctranslit. This recommendation can still be considered valid, as there is no generally agreed system. Helmut Knupffer also recommended to keep the original labels with the cyrillic writing for future reference. *Rogalewicz, V. (ed.), H. Knüpffer, V.A. Kornejcuk, I.G. Lozanov, D.B. Plotnikov, J. Serwinski and I.A. ©vytov, 1988: Paspportnye deskriptory me³dunarodnoj bazy dannyh geneticeskich resursov stran-clenov SEV; Passport descriptors of the COMECON International Database of Genetic Resources. - Výzkumný ústav rostlinné výroby, Praha-Ruzyne. 26 pp.</p>		
<p>Milestone 6 Compiling tabular information on safety duplication</p>	<p>The requested information have been sent by CGN/NLD,RCA/HUN, ISCI/ITA,AGRITEC/CZE,IPK/GER, INF/POL</p>	<p>This goal was completed partly, missing data from: PRT,LVA,LIA,PRT, LVA,LIA,SVK,ROM</p>	<p>55</p>
<p>Milestone 7 ECP/GR project proposal</p>	<p>The Czech - Germany -Slovak project proposal "Development of a reference implementation for access to and management of a Central Crop Database (Linum ssp.) based on open source internet technology" has been submitted to the Steering Committee. Unfortunately this proposal has been refused by the Steering Committee during its meeting in Riga and the budget was allocated to the AEGIS project.</p>	<p>This goal has not been completed not due to our guilt</p>	<p>0</p>

b. Contribution to the four ECP/GR priorities for Phase VII	
1. Characterization/evaluation (including modern technologies) Except the traditional E/CH methods to start to use modern technologies of evaluation based on the DNA analysis and Digital Image Analysis. Czech flax collection has been partly evaluated by the Digital Image Analysis (DIA) focused on the floral morphology especially in order to detect passport duplicates with the aim to judge similarity or dissimilarity of the accessions. The research project using DIA for the seed morphology evaluation is being submitted now. Similar work is carried out in Germany and Italy.	
2. Task sharing Regarding to the last standardized reporting format from Wageningen, June 14 – 16, 2006 the works detecting redundant germplasm have been started and first passport duplicates have been detected via Digital Image Analysis for example in the Czech National Collection. Some capacity for safety duplication has also been offered in the Research Institute for Crop Production Prague – Ruzyně.	
3. <i>In situ</i> /on-farm conservation and development This task is not considered to be the subject of Fibre Crops WG activities	
4. Documentation and information With regard to the discussion pointed to the passport and E/CH data in Wageningen 2006, new passport as well as E/CH IFDB structure was created and sent to the WG members. Some controversial descriptors like ACCENUMB versus IFDBNUMB were clarified and some of them excluded from the previous structure. Evaluation process has been started again.	
c. Relevance (regional / international)	
Did your work and/or outputs have inter-regional dimension? (if it did, give precisions) IFDB has an international character. Unfortunately it is still not available yet on line. This topic was the aim of the refused project. Now IFDB is possible to load on http://www.agritec.cz . The basic information concerning flax and hemp are reachable on http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/Workgroups/Flax_Hemp/Flax_Hemp.htm#IFDB .	
d. Lessons learnt (recommendations)	
Which lessons learnt are also relevant for other Working Groups? This task was not the subject of mutual discussion.	
II. ANALYSIS	
a. Bottlenecks	
What were the experienced bottlenecks?	How do you plan to solve the bottlenecks?
To get the IFDB “on - line” available finally	To try to submit the previous unsuccessful project again and to persuade the Steering Committee that it is of the most importance. Also to allocate the respective budget for it within the Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network
b. Internal support needed (Secretariat, Steering Committee, other Working Groups, etc.)	
As above mentioned the Internal support is needed very urgently, especially with the view that this support has not been still carried out in connection with further IFDB and IHDB development. The previous proposed project was by the Steering Committee refused and the progress in this branche is unthinkable without the respective financial support. There is hardly any capacity in AGRITEC Ltd. to cover these activities with the own staff. It is supposed to look for some expert in software and computer branche with the help of German or Dutch experts to carry out the work on further IFDB and IHDB development and to try both databases to be reachable “on – line”.	
c. External resources needed (collaboration, external funding)	
It is supposed also to look for an external resources. AGRITEC Ltd. is willing to provide an input in kind and to look for some other possibilities of funding, for example common project on genetic resources or similar activities.	