

Checklist for the implementation of the AEGIS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at national level

Signature of the MoU

1. Country is **member of ECPGR**.
2. Country is **Party to the Treaty** or is otherwise willing to make plant genetic resources for food and agriculture under its jurisdiction available under the conditions of the Treaty.
3. For the purposes of this MoU, country identifies the Government official or person or public entity representing the country, which has been appointed by its Government. The level at which the MoU should be signed, should be adequate to carry the commitment of the Government for the establishment of AEGIS and the fulfillment of the responsibilities set out in the MoU.
4. A true copy of the MoU is signed and returned to Bioversity International and/or the original can be signed at any time by a duly authorized official at the Headquarters of Bioversity International.

Establishment of Associate Members Agreements

1. Government **extends the mandate** of the ECPGR National Coordinator to act also as National Coordinator for AEGIS at the national level, and provides appropriate support.
2. **National coordinator identifies and encourages** appropriate public, private and civil society institutions located within the country, to become **Associate Members of AEGIS**.
3. **Associate Membership Agreements** are established between the National Coordinator and Associate Members in the form set out in the Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding. Each signed AEGIS - Associate Membership Agreement is deposited with the National Coordinator and a copy is sent to the Director General of Bioversity International.

Designation of accessions to be registered for the European Collection

1. National Coordinator **promotes and coordinates with the Associate Members** concerned the designation of European Accessions.
2. Associate members, **in consultation with the National ECPGR Coordinator, identify, from among the accessions** they hold, those accessions that are free from any third party obligations or restrictions and meet the selection requirements adopted by the ECPGR Steering Committee, to be proposed for registration as **European Accessions**.
3. National Coordinator, **in consultation with the Associate Members, proposes** to the ECPGR Crop Working Groups/Networks, through the ECPGR Secretariat, **lists of accessions for registration** as **European Accessions**. The discretion to propose accessions lies with the individual member of AEGIS; accessions must meet the selection requirements adopted

- by the ECPGR Steering Committee and be **free from any third party obligations** or restrictions.
4. National Coordinator, after considering the recommendations by the ECPGR Crop Working Groups/Networks, ensures that **accessions are registered as European Accessions**, notifying such European Accessions to the European Plant Genetic Resources Search Catalogue (EURISCO), through the National Inventory System.

Management of the European Collection

1. National Coordinator **serves as the focal point** for interactions with the ECPGR Crop Working Groups/Networks and for the implementation of the Crop Conservation Work Plans within his/her country with the participating institutions.
2. National Coordinator **promotes and coordinates with the Associate Members concerned the development and management of the European Collection.**
3. Associate Members **ensure the long-term conservation** of their **European Accessions** according to agreed minimum standards.
4. Associate Members may participate in and / or facilitate **supporting activities** such as regeneration, viability testing and others organized by the respective ECPGR Crop Working Group for the crop/species in question.
5. Associate Members ensure as soon as possible **safety-duplication of their European Accessions** in agreed conditions, under black-box arrangements as appropriate, at another Associate Member genebank, possibly in a different country, and/or at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.
6. Associate Members **record public domain accession-level information** through the National Inventory System and EURISCO, as well as make available non-confidential characterization and evaluation data through the relevant ECPGR Central Crop Database (ECCDB) or such other system as may eventually be developed for this purpose.
7. Associate Members **facilitate access to and availability of their European Accessions** and related information, using the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) for Annex I crops and the same terms and conditions for non-Annex I crops (for purposes of research, breeding and training for food and agriculture) with the explanatory note, as agreed upon by the ECPGR Steering Committee.
8. Associate Members **provide and/or manage**, in accordance with AEGIS approved standards, **such conservation related services as the Associate Member may offer.**

Responsibilities of the ECPGR National Coordinator as a member of the ECPGR Steering Committee

1. Contribute to **oversee the operation of AEGIS**, to approve the administrative budget of AEGIS, and to promote the mobilization of the funds required.
2. Approve the contents of the **Crop Conservation Work Plans**, and oversee their implementation. See that the work plans can be implemented for the part where they rely on national activities.

3. **Adopt minimum agreed standards** for the management of the European Collection on a crop gene pool specific basis.

Responsibilities of the members of the ECPGR Working Groups/Network Coordinating Groups

1. Based on the nomination by the respective National Coordinator, **serve as delegate representative(s) of their country** for the specific crop conservation, documentation and coordination activities that are agreed by each specific ECPGR Working Group/ Network Coordinating Group.
2. Contribute to the adoption of **crop-specific criteria** for the selection of accessions to be proposed for registration as European accessions.
3. Contribute to help **identifying and making recommendations** to the participating countries regarding the accessions proposed for **registration as European Accessions**. It is recommended that the selection of MAAs be made in such a way that the list of MAAs will evolve over the years rather than to try to produce a “final list” at once. This means that “only” accessions that are of a known origin to a given country or that have been bred/created in a given country will be accepted as “genetically unique”. Gradually, more accessions will be considered and added to the list if they have been “proven” as genetically unique.
4. Contribute to prepare and coordinate the implementation of **Crop Conservation Work Plans**.
5. Contribute to **propose minimum agreed standards** for the management of the European Collection on a crop gene pool specific basis for adoption by the ECPGR Steering Committee.
6. Contribute to organize and implement a **reporting and monitoring system** at the crop level, related to the quality of the European collection (AQUAS).