

Progresses made by the Prunus WG in the 2014-2015 period as referred to the ECPGR Terms of Reference of the Working Group Chairs

A.1. AEGIS-related tasks

- a. identifying gaps or redundancies in the European Collection;
- b. promoting inclusion of valuable accessions into the European Collection;

Under PRUNDOC project, more than one-hundreds plum (*P. domestica* and *P. insititia*) traditional varieties, native to Europe, endowed with valuable rusticity and/or qualitative traits, were well described for their FPD (First priority Descriptors) traits and documented with fruit pictures. About 40 of them have been genotyped with a common set of SSR markers. Harmonized C&E description and knowledge of their allelic profile will allow identification of duplicates, if any. PRUNDOC being completed, they will be proposed for inclusion in AEGIS.

- c. monitoring implementation of genebank standards;

In collaboration with ECPGR Secretariat, the Prunus-specific standards (PGS) for genebank management document has been developed, soon available on the ECPGR website. The WG participated also to the compilation of templates for field genebanks prepared by the ECPGR Secretariat.

- d. setting priorities for characterization/evaluation;

FPD (First priority Descriptors) and SPD (Second Priority descriptors) have been developed for Peach and are on the way of being completed for plum.

- e. setting priorities for regeneration;
- f. sharing responsibilities for any of the above-mentioned tasks;
- g. any other aspect that can improve the quality, efficiency and utilization of the Collection.

2. Oversight of Associate Members' European Collection management Make a critical technical assessment of annual reports for a given crop genepool, provided by the Secretariat upon consolidation of Associate Members' reports. The WG Chair is expected to make suggestions, in consultation with the Secretariat, on possible corrective measures, capacity building activities and/or collaborations with identified Associate Members.

A.2. Other tasks 3.

The Prunus WG chair has timely provided information to the WG members on various ECPGR events, initiatives, opportunities.

4. In the framework of a workshop organized in Firenze on March 2015 and sponsored by the COST Action FA1104 'Sustainable production of high-quality cherries for the European market' , (<https://www.bordeaux.inra.fr/cherry/>), the WG Chair has involved members of Prunus WG among the in vitro/cryo experts. Prunus members participated and supported the organization of the workshop, whose aims are in line with the scope and objectives of ECPGR.

5. The WG chair has initiated and coordinated the preparation and submission of PRUNDOC project (funded) in the framework of the first call for proposals (2014) and coordinated the preparation and submission of EU.CHERRY project (2015), focusing *P. avium* (cherry), whose approval is pending.

7. The Chair contribute to the relevant sections of the ECPGR annual reports and reports to the Steering Committee when prompted by the Secretariat, providing accounts on progress made, including an assessment of what has and has not been achieved considering the crop genepool Phase strategy and workplan, identifying the constraints in reaching the planned objectives.

Although scoring positively the new mode of operation of ECPGR, participation of Prunus WG members to various initiatives is rather weak, with exception of a few pro-active people. This means that some activities/commitments have rested almost completely on Chair's shoulders. Greater participation is found during the calls for proposals, showing how this is an important driver to try to accomplish the initiatives useful to the development of the WG