

MINUTES OF THE EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME/GENETIC

RESOURCES ALLIUM WORKING PARTY

held at

National Vegetable Research Station, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, UK.

on

25 & 26 February 1982

Present: Dr A Andrasfalvy - Hungary
Dr D Astley - (Secretary), UK
Dr G de Bakker - UNDP, Geneva, Switzerland
Professor N L Innes - (Chairman), UK
Ir Q P van der Meer - The Netherlands
Ir D H van Sloten - IBPGR, Rome, Italy

The working party was welcomed to the NVRS by the Director, Professor J K A Bleasdale.

The afternoon of 25 February was spent in a general discussion of the document prepared by Dr Astley, "Points for discussion in the development of a workplan". The group invited Mr B D Dowker and Dr P C Crisp to join the discussion on the principles and priorities of collection for Allium on the morning of the 26 February.

The following items are for action:

1. The Allium Working Party recognise that Israel is a contributing member of the European Cooperative Programme and feel it appropriate to invite a representative to participate in future planning and discussions which take place.

✓ Action: Dr de Bakker

2. Dr Andrasfalvy agreed to approach informally Allium specialists in Comecon countries to obtain information on the location of collections held there. In addition he would seek information on the level of documentation in these collections and the descriptors used. The questionnaire utilised in the collection of data for the Allium World Status Report to be sent to Dr Andrasfalvy by Dr Astley.

Action: Dr Astley and Dr Andrasfalvy

3. Dr de Bakker agreed to make a more formal approach to the Comecon countries, including the USSR. Questionnaires to be supplied by Dr Astley to Dr de Bakker.

✓ Action: Dr Astley and Dr de Bakker

4. Ir van Sloten agreed to supply information from the IBPGR Vegetable Crop Directory on Allium collections throughout Europe, thus expanding the list submitted by Astley, Innes and van der Meer to IBPGR.

Action: Ir van Sloten

5. It was agreed to promote the use of the IBPGR descriptor list for Alliums to be published in 1982. Initially the Passport and Characterisation data should be a priority for cataloguing collections.

18 MAR 1982

18/3/82

6. Dr de Bakker indicated that UNDP funds may be available to finance individuals from IPF countries in Europe to carry out specific tasks, eg. documentation of collections.
7. The group agreed that, though desirable, a Central Information Unit will only become possible with the standardised cataloguing of collections and free availability of data.
8. Dr de Bakker suggested that one way of promoting cooperation and gathering information would be to hold the second meeting of the Working Party in a Comecon country, probably Hungary. Dr Andrasfalvy agreed to draw up a list of Allium specialists in Comecon countries who could be invited to attend the meeting by the ECP/GR. The UNDP would cover the costs of travel for these scientists.

Action: Dr Andrasfalvy

9. The group recognised certain priority areas for the collection of Allium material in Europe. These were:

Finland and northern USSR - vegetatively propagated onions
 Norway - shallots
 Greece - old onion varieties and A. ampeloprasum
 Italy)
 France) - onion varieties
 Spain)
 Turkey)
 Yugoslavia) - onion varieties + A. ampeloprasum + wild species
 Bulgaria)
 USSR)

10. The importance of the collection of local land races, old varieties and modern varieties throughout Europe was recognised. The group asked the three Allium breeders present to draw up a list of contacts in Eucarpia who would identify priorities within their own countries.

Action: Dr Andrasfalvy, Mr B Dowker and Ir van der Meer (Chairman)

11. Two main strategies for the collection of material were identified:

- i) Purchase of varieties from seed companies and growers to be organised through the seed trade or extension services. The UNDP would be prepared to consider proposals for finance to cover the purchase of old and new varieties.
- ii) Collection of material in the field, ie. wild species, land races or varieties from small scale family seed companies.

12. The involvement of specialists in identifying priorities (10) would provide a ready-made coordination network to organise 11 (i) at a local level. Efforts could be directed through groups which are active already eg. Nordic, Mediterranean and Comecon groups.

13. The Working Party recognised the need for coordination with IBPGR on collecting in the IPF countries of Europe. The IBPGR have missions planned in certain countries in the foreseeable future, eg. a 3 year Mediterranean programme to collect wild Brassica.

14. An ad hoc group (Ir van der Meer, Dr Andrasfalvy and Dr Astley) was asked to draw up proposals to initiate collecting activities. These proposals to form the basis of a document to be presented to the Governing Body of ECP/GR by Dr de Bakker.

Action: Ir van der Meer (Chairman), Dr Andrasfalvy, Dr Astley

15. The Working Party agreed to follow IBPGR recommendations for centres in Europe for the long term storage of Alliums.