

# Report of the Steering Committee

*Seventh meeting  
29 June and 4-5 July 1998  
Braunschweig, Germany*

**L. Maggioni** and **T. Gass**, editors





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## European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR)



### Report of the Seventh Steering Committee Meeting

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## 1. Introduction

The seventh meeting of the Steering Committee of the European Cooperative Programme on Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR) was held on 29 June 1998 and from 4-5 July 1998 in Braunschweig, Germany. The meeting was attended by representatives of all the 32 member countries of ECP/GR, as well as by observers from seven non-member countries, ASSINSEL, FAO, IPGRI, NGB and an NGO representative. The list of participants is included in Annex I. The meeting was held in conjunction with the European Symposium on PGRFA, which provided a number of recommendations for consideration by the Steering Committee (Annex II).

The meeting was chaired by Dr. W. Himmighofen of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Germany and co-chaired by Dr. M. Pencic of the Maize Research Institute, F.R. Yugoslavia. The agenda was adopted after a number of changes. The items discussed are listed in Annex III.

## 2. Report of Phase V of ECP/GR

A preliminary End of Phase V report was presented by the ECP/GR Coordinator. An overall account of the implementation of the new structure of the Programme, as approved in Nitra (1995), was given. The main achievements reached by the Working Groups and *ad hoc* groups were schematically summarized. Comments were made on the operation of the Programme, on the basis of the IPGRI Secretariat experience. Emphasis was placed on the need for increased secretarial staff support, in order to maintain a reasonable level of efficiency in the coordination of the Networks. It was also suggested that a better definition of the role of Working Group members and Chairs could improve their effectiveness in the Group as well as their role as representatives within their respective countries. The evaluation of the organization of Working Group meetings showed the generally very positive appraisal made by Working Group members during the last five years. Replies by National Coordinators to a questionnaire on the effectiveness of ECP/GR in achieving its objectives also showed a good level of satisfaction (see Annex VII). During the presentation of the preliminary financial report it was noted that most countries who joined ECP/GR during Phase V had regularly sent their contributions. However, a number of larger countries from the former Soviet Union were unable to join Phase V. This was the cause of a mismatch between the initially foreseen budget (TCC, Bulgaria, 1993) and the revised budget for Phase V. An expected negative balance of US\$ 45,900 at the end of Phase V was presented as a realistic result, provided all the countries who joined ECP/GR sent their outstanding contributions. As a solution to reducing the expected negative balance of Phase V, it was proposed not to completely spend the funds of Phase IV, of which approximately US\$ 40,000 still remain uncommitted in June 1998.

The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation for the transparent report of Phase V. Reduced spending, as far as possible, of remaining Phase IV funds, was approved as the most reasonable way to minimize the negative balance. A recommendation was

made that all outstanding contributions are sent as soon as possible. A few amendments to different parts of the preliminary report were provided to the Secretariat. These were incorporated and the revised report was distributed to all the National Coordinators before the end of the meeting. The revised report was approved by the Steering Committee and is included as Annex IV in this report.

### **3. Continuation of ECP/GR: Phase VI**

On 29 June 1998, the ECP/GR Coordinator presented three options for Phase VI of ECP/GR. A first round of discussions revealed that some countries would have difficulties in significantly raising their annual contributions to ECP/GR. It was agreed that the opportunity should be taken to review objectives and mode of operation of the Programme to further raise its effectiveness in addressing the broad range of topics covered by the GPA despite a possible stagnation of the budget.

During the Symposium, two task groups met on several occasions to draft a list of revised objectives and mode of operation for Phase VI. These two task groups submitted a joint text to Plenary on 4 July 1998. After a lengthy discussion of the submitted text, the Secretariat was asked to incorporate agreed changes and to provide a revised text. During the afternoon, further task groups developed recommendations on: 1) the structure of the Networks and their terms of reference; 2) general indicators or objectives for the crop Networks.

On the basis of the recommendations made by the above mentioned task groups and the Plenary, the coordinating Secretariat redrafted the proposal for Phase VI, as contained in Annex V, and re-submitted it to the Plenary.

The Steering Committee agreed that the proposal would be used to rapidly seek the necessary government approval for this proposal and funding for the implementation of Phase VI. A reservation was made by the Belgian delegate, who explained that in Belgium the budget for ECP/GR in 1999 had been already approved at the same level as 1998 and therefore no increase would be possible until the following year.

The possibility to convert the budget to Euros at the 1 January 1999 exchange rate to the dollar was left to the discretion of the Secretariat.

The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation to IPGRI in its role of Coordinating Secretariat for the implementation of the Programme during Phase V. The mandate for IPGRI to act as Coordinating Secretariat for the Programme was unanimously extended to Phase VI.

## 4. Objectives and mode of operation

### 4.1 Introduction

The formulation of the objectives for Phase VI of ECP/GR is based on the following underlying context and principles, recognized by the Steering Committee:

- ?? the role played by ECP/GR for the last 18 years in developing a pan-European collaboration on PGR;
- ?? the experience gained in coordinating collaborative efforts in a cost effective way;
- ?? the significant results obtained by the Programme;
- ?? the willingness for increased international collaboration present at national level;
- ?? international cooperation as essential to the success of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) which is an integral part of the FAO Global System for plant genetic resources;
- ?? the need for implementation of the GPA in harmony with the objectives formulated in Chapter 14G of Agenda 21 and in compliance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international agreements;
- ?? the role of ECP/GR as the platform to facilitate the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in the European region as part of the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources;
- ?? the specific characteristics of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) which are fundamental for food security;
- ?? the great interdependence of countries with regard to PGRFA.

### 4.2 Objectives

The original objectives of ECP/GR include the creation of a system to promote direct contact between National Programmes and institutions involved in crop genetic resources activities. ECP/GR is to promote the unhindered exchange of crop genetic resources and related data. Consequently, up-to-date information on genetic resources is to be made easily available to users. ECP/GR is also a framework in which joint activities such as documentation, collecting expeditions, characterisation and evaluation of germplasm are implemented.

These activities reflect the role of ECP/GR as the platform to facilitate the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, at the European level. As such, they are an important input for the development of sustainable agriculture.

The following objectives characterize Phase VI of ECP/GR:

- ?? to facilitate the long-term *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- ?? to facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- ?? to strengthen links between all plant genetic resources Programmes in Europe and promote the integration of countries which are not members of ECP/GR;

- ?? to encourage cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders;
- ?? to increase the planning of joint activities including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies;
- ?? to encourage the sharing of conservation responsibilities for PGRFA in Europe;
- ?? to increase awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use; and
- ?? to seek collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives.

### **4.3 Mode of Operation**

The networking structure of the Programme, adopted in Nitra (1995) is reaffirmed by the Steering Committee<sup>1</sup> (Figure 1). This structure is overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of National Coordinators nominated by participating countries. The EC and all European countries contributing to the core budget are invited to nominate a representative as full member of this Committee. ASSINSEL, FAO, IPGRI, Euro-MAB, NGB and an NGO representative are invited as observers (Figure 2). The Programme operates through Networks in which activities are carried out either in the framework of Working Groups or as *ad hoc* actions. The Steering Committee has the overall responsibility for the Programme.

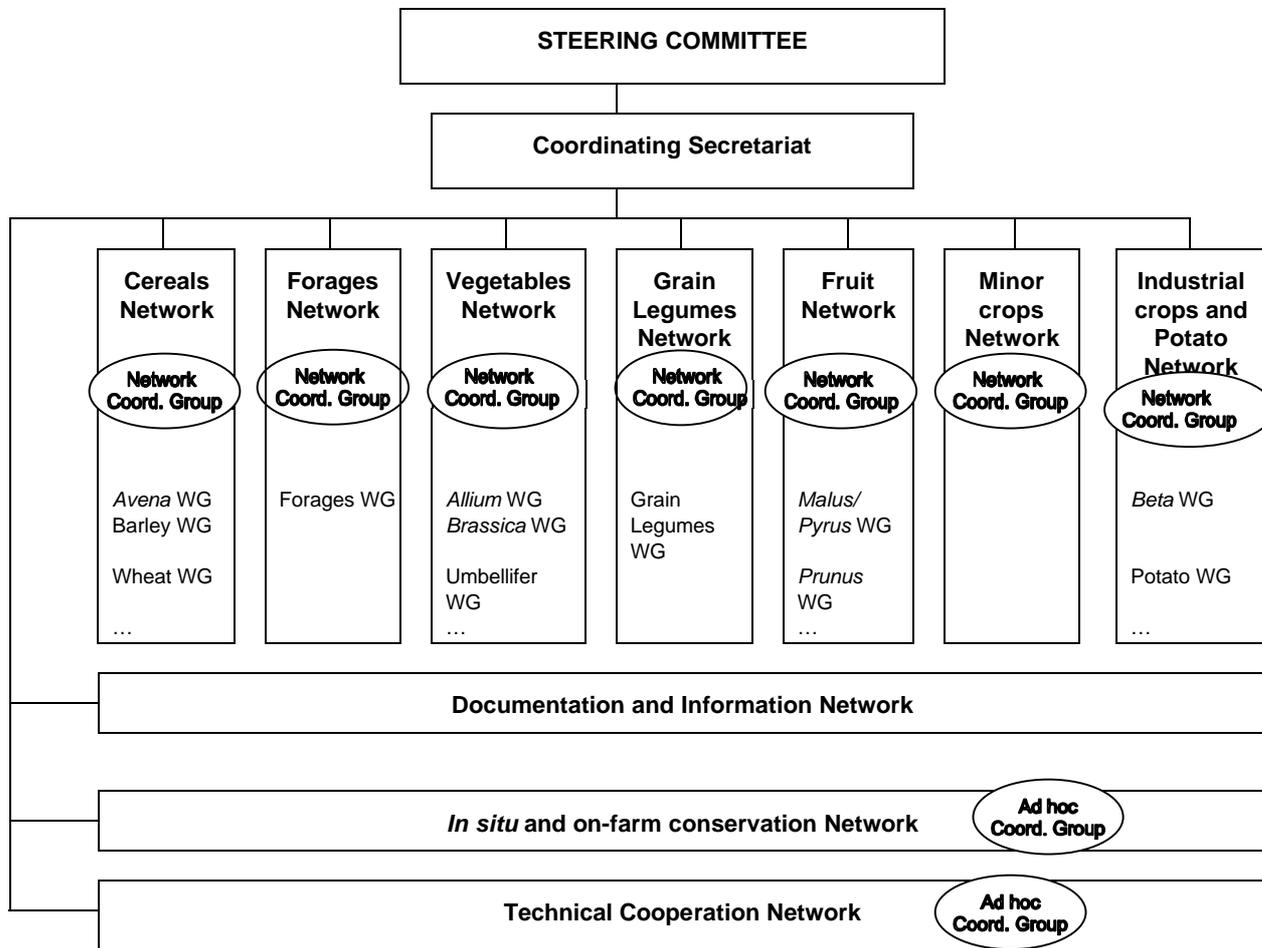
#### **4.31 Role of the Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee makes decisions regarding the general scope of the Networks and the establishment or continuation of Working Groups and approves the Programme's budget. The Steering Committee periodically reviews the overall Programme and progress made by the Networks. On the basis of such reviews, the Steering Committee defines the priority activities to be funded through its core budget and the complementary activities for which additional funding has to be sought outside the core budget. The Steering Committee mandates the Coordinating Secretariat to carry out its decisions.

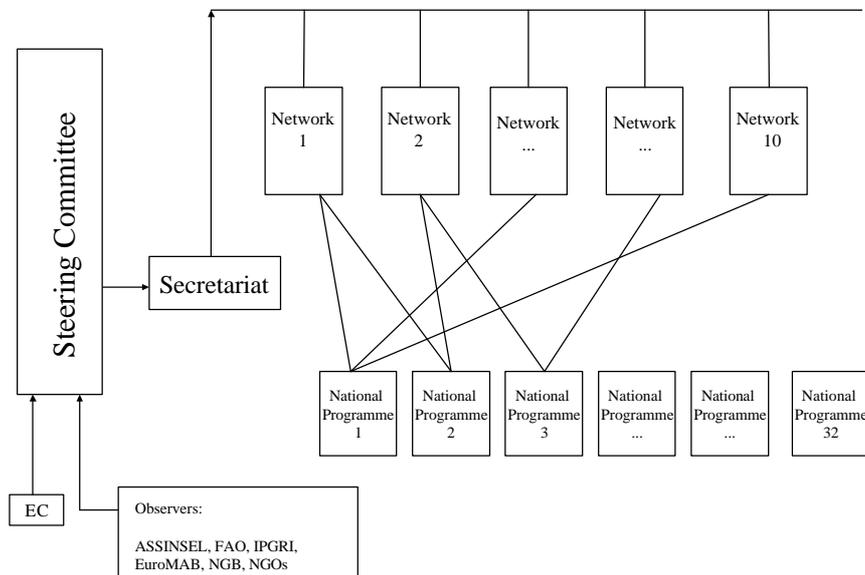
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<sup>1</sup> IPGRI/FAO. 1996. International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources: Preparatory process for Europe. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute/Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy.

Figure 1. Operational structure of ECP/GR, Phase VI.



**Figure 2. Interaction of National Programmes with the Networks and the Steering Committee**



#### 4.32 Coordinating Secretariat

The Coordinating Secretariat is currently provided by IPGRI as requested by the Steering Committee. The responsibilities of the Coordinating Secretariat are:

- ?? to ensure implementation of the Programme in accordance with the mandate given by the Steering Committee;
- ?? to coordinate the activities carried out in the framework of the Programme;
- ?? to be responsible for the financial management of the Programme;
- ?? to provide technical and financial reports to the Steering Committee for approval;
- ?? to provide support to the Working Groups and ensure that the agreed workplans are carried out;
- ?? to provide support to Network Coordinating Groups and, where necessary, to assist in preparing evaluation of Network activities and the formulation of workplans and priorities;
- ?? to initiate *ad hoc* activities in accordance with guidance provided by the Steering Committee;
- ?? to gather and distribute information;
- ?? to assist in the formulation of project proposals for joint activities;
- ?? to search for donors to support particular elements of workplans and *ad hoc* activities;
- ?? to provide a link with other regions;
- ?? to contribute to raising public awareness.

#### **4.4 The role and functioning of Networks**

Discussions on the role and functioning of the Network took place in view of the fact that a significant level of implementation of the Programme's objectives has been achieved for a number of crops. The Steering Committee has received an increasing number of proposals for the establishment of new Working Groups and recognizes the necessity to address more effectively the broad range of areas covered by the Global Plan of Action on PGRFA. In view of the unlikely prospect of a significant increase of member countries' contributions to the Programme, the Steering Committee agreed on the following changes in the mode of operation of the Network.

##### **4.41 Structure and functioning of the crop Networks**

To achieve greater coordination within the Crop Networks during Phase VI, *Network Coordinating Groups* will be activated to establish priorities for action for the extended range of crops covered by the Network. These self-organizing coordinating groups, will be composed of Working Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs or Database managers. The Network Coordinating Groups will work closely with the Secretariat, to which they will submit proposals for activities and review progress, achievements and future workplans. In the case of crops for which no Working Group yet exists, or in the case of Networks in which no activities have been carried out in the past, the Network Coordinating Groups can initiate *ad hoc* actions and may propose the establishment of a Working Group to the Steering Committee. The Network Coordinating Group will strive for a balanced regional participation in the Networks' activities. The Working Group Members ensure effective links between ECP/GR and the respective stakeholders at the national level.

The main implementation of the Networks' activities continues to be through *Working Groups*. These Working Groups will no longer necessarily meet several times during a given phase. However, the respective Chairs and Vice-Chairs will ensure that both attending and corresponding members are involved in the planning and implementation of the crop specific workplans. The main vehicle for facilitating action for any given crop are focused meetings of a restricted number of Working Group members and resource persons as necessary.

##### **4.42 New Working Groups**

The Steering Committee received proposals for the establishment of Working Groups on wheat, umbellifers, *Beta*, potato and *Pleurotus*. On the basis of the scope of the Global Plan of Action and the importance of these crops in the European context, the proposals on wheat, umbellifers, *Beta* and potato were approved.

##### **4.43 Participation in Working Groups**

In the case of a meeting involving the whole Working Group, the participation through either attending or corresponding members will be determined by priorities established

at the national level<sup>2</sup>. As a consequence of the increased number of Working Groups and the re-scaling of the funding categories (Table 4, Annex V), the quota for attending members are now as follows:

A	4
B	5
C	6
D	7
E	8

In the case of the Nordic countries it has been agreed that the Nordic Gene Bank will nominate two attending members to each Working Group to represent all the Nordic countries. It is agreed that the Secretariat can welcome to the meeting self-funded corresponding members as long as the overall size of the Group remains conducive to working effectively.

#### 4.44 Structure and activities of thematic Networks

Thematic Networks are intended to support the crop Networks by addressing issues common to several or all of the crop Networks. Within the thematic Networks, activities will be carried out primarily through *ad hoc* actions. Initially it is not foreseen to establish Working Groups within the thematic Networks.

#### 4.45 New activities within thematic Networks

During the European Symposium on PGRFA it was recommended to ECP/GR to initiate activities within the existing Networks on 'In situ and on farm conservation' and on "technical cooperation". The Steering Committee requests the Secretariat to establish *ad hoc* coordinating groups with precise objectives, workplans and possible achievements in these areas during Phase VI, and submit proposals to the Secretariat. Furthermore, a proposal was received from the Documentation and Information Network for a number of activities. The Steering Committee approves the proposal in principle, but the number of events which will be held is subject to budget availability.

An offer made by ZADI, as an input in kind to ECP/GR, to take care of the management of the European Information Platform was gratefully taken into consideration by the Committee. A discussion followed on the appropriateness of having the Platform located at one institute rather than at the Secretariat. Overall the Committee didn't express clear support for this offer.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Gass, T., G. Kleijer, M. Waldman and E. Frison, editors. 1995. Report of the Technical Consultative Committee. Sixth meeting, 21-23 September 1995, Nitra, Slovakia. European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR), International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

<sup>3</sup> The issue was subsequently rediscussed by correspondence with the Secretariat. Expressions in favour of the offer came from Italy, while the offer was considered unacceptable by the representatives of Denmark, France, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland.

#### 4.46 Working Groups priorities

The Steering Committee expressed the intention of elaborating a system to analyze and compare the progress made by the different Working Groups and to clarify the goals to be achieved. As a result of a brainstorming session, a task force started to elaborate a matrix for guidance to Working Groups in setting their priorities. The intention would be to distinguish minimum and additional tasks that Working Groups should plan to undertake in different areas of activity (conservation, documentation, collecting, characterization and evaluation, etc.). A preliminary matrix was circulated within the Steering Committee. A revised version is included in this report as Annex VII. This text remains provisional and needs to be further discussed by the Steering Committee.

### 5. Complementary Programme Modules

The Steering Committee noted with great interest the proposal of the Secretariat to have complementary activities as separate programme modules funded from various sources. It requested the Secretariat to further elaborate this element on the basis of the draft proposal for Phase VI of ECP/GR and of the Symposium recommendations. It was suggested that the following schedules, that were already active during Phase V of ECP/GR (refer to proposal for Phase VI, Annex V), be initiated immediately:

- ?? Emergency actions;
- ?? Cooperation with EU-funded projects;
- ?? Training activities.

As a result of the recommendations of the Symposium, the following themes could be taken in consideration for funding within additional complementary modules:

- ?? Surveying and inventorying PGRFA;
- ?? Compiling crop specific regeneration guidelines;
- ?? Supporting planned and targeted collecting;
- ?? Expanding the characterization, evaluation and number of core collections to facilitate use;
- ?? Studying genetic diversity to analyze comparative genetic diversity in wild relatives and their respective crop gene pools;
- ?? Undertaking genetic enhancement of pre-breeding gene pool via base-broadening;
- ?? Inventorying and monitoring legal framework of seed production and distribution in Europe.

## 6. Sharing of responsibilities

T. Gass introduced the subject of sharing of responsibilities by briefly outlining the presentation made on this subject during the Symposium<sup>4</sup>. In order to make progress in the widely recognised need for the sharing of responsibilities in the European region, the Steering Committee:

- ?? encourages the Working Groups which have developed proposals for the sharing of responsibilities to elaborate on these and seek to implement them;
- ?? encourages all Working Groups to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the various options for sharing responsibilities for their respective crop, including the technical conditions to be fulfilled;
- ?? requests the Secretariat, in consultation with a small task force of experts from the member countries, to prepare a questionnaire to be sent to the institutes through the National Coordinators. This should result in an overview of the present situation and possibilities envisaged at national/institutional level.
- ?? requests this task force to analyse the results of the questionnaire and to prepare an outline for the next meeting of the Steering Committee to guide curators, institutes and ECP/GR Networks, in making appropriate and effective choices in order to share responsibilities for the conservation and utilisation of PGRFA within the European region.

P. Mulvany commented that NGOs might wish to participate in the sharing of conservation responsibilities provided that the system developed would not reduce local access to the collections and that the loss of unique material through excessive rationalization be avoided.

## 7. Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs)

Following the recommendation during the Symposium on PGRFA for the Steering Committee to consider the promotion of MTAs among genebanks in Europe, this issue was discussed on 4 July 1998.

After carrying out an inventory of institutions within ECP/GR member countries to determine which had introduced MTAs, it appeared that some, but not all, of the British institutes holding PGRFA collections had done so, and that CGN, The Netherlands had announced its intention to introduce MTAs within a few months. The text of CGN's MTA was distributed and discussed. L. Visser of CGN explained that the three main objectives of the introduction of the MTA was to clarify the status of CGN's collections; to prevent appropriation of CGN's germplasm by third parties, and to guarantee feedback on evaluation data. Some minor discussion points with breeding companies, i.e. on the interpretation of "essentially derived" and on the embargo period of

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<sup>4</sup> Gass, T. and F. Begemann 1998. International efforts to sustain *ex situ* collections: conceptual aspects. *In*: Proceedings of a European Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Braunschweig, 30 June - 4 July 1998. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy (in press)

evaluation data remained to be solved. CGN's motivation for the introduction of the MTA was the upcoming privatization of CPRO-DLO, in which CGN is integrated, and its sensitization on the issue by the NGOs with which it collaborates in the Community Biodiversity Conservation and Development Programme.

Dick van Sloten of IPGRI stressed that CGIAR institutes had already been using MTAs for several years, and also mentioned that it would be very expensive to bring infringement of MTAs before a court, but that the most successful way to react to infringement would probably be to seek publicity. Patrick Heffer of ASSINSEL mentioned that alleged infringements earlier this year concerned public institutions and not private companies.

After some discussion in the Working Group and then in Plenary, it was decided to request that the ECP/GR Secretariat, in collaboration with experts, distribute among institutions of the ECP/GR member countries a consolidated text regarding MTAs for further discussion and suggestions for its further improvement. Such an approach should result in a text which could be used by the institutions involved as a model to compose their own MTA. In general, the need for an agreed MTA model, for use by genebanks, was agreed and its wide and immediate circulation was endorsed by the Steering Committee<sup>5</sup>.

## **8. Other business**

### ***8.1 Participation of a representative of NGOs on the Steering Committee***

Following the recommendation made by the Working Group on "On-farm Management and improvement of PGR" of the European Symposium on PGRFA and emphasized by the NGOs, the Steering Committee agreed to invite a representative of the NGOs to all its meetings. It was specified that this invitation was valid for only one representative per meeting.

Patrick Mulvany (ITDG), representing the emerging European NGO agricultural biodiversity network, welcomed the invitation. He clarified that NGOs were undergoing a process over the next year to further develop linkages between various European NGOs working on agricultural biodiversity issues, one result of which would be agreement on a nominated person who would fulfil this role in future. With regard to this Steering Committee meeting, he said he would provide feedback to European NGOs after having checked the status and confidentiality of the information with the Secretariat.

### ***8.2 Statement received from EURO-MAB***

A statement was received from Natalia Rybianets, on behalf of EURO-MAB, and was read to the Steering Committee. This communication recommends that the Steering Committee takes into account the implementation of the GPA in the field of *in situ*

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<sup>5</sup> Should this document be finalized before the present report is ready for wide distribution, it will be included as an additional annex.

conservation and on farm management and conservation of PGRFA. Closer contacts between the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources (ECP/GR) and the MAB-structures are encouraged. The full document is included in Annex VI.

### ***8.3 Number of participants per country in the Steering Committee***

This issue was raised by the Secretariat, who finds it increasingly difficult to agree on the participation of multiple delegations at Steering Committee meetings. It was agreed that, in some cases, individual Steering Committee Members do not have experience in the full breadth of issues discussed and that therefore the attendance of a second participant from the same country would be useful. It was agreed that, while first making full use of the complementarity of technical and policy capacities among country representatives, a second participant from the same country could participate in exceptional cases.

### ***8.4 Date and venue of next Steering Committee meeting***

An offer from the Israeli participant to host the Mid-term Steering Committee meeting in Israel was welcomed. In order to maintain the offer within affordable cost, Miriam Waldman informed the Committee that she would seek additional funding from private companies and from the Israeli Academy of Sciences. The Secretariat will remain in contact with Dr Waldman to clarify the cost implications for the organization of this meeting. The Mid-term meeting of the Steering Committee is tentatively planned for Spring 2001.

## **9. Conclusion**

Both the present report and the Proposal for Phase VI of ECP/GR were approved by the Steering Committee.

The Committee expressed its thanks to the hosting institute (BAZ), and to all staff involved in the patient and accurate assistance offered to ECP/GR in the organization of the Steering Committee meeting.

## Annex I: List of participants

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Seventh meeting of the Steering Committee of ECP/GR

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## **Annex II: Recommendations of the European Symposium on PGRFA**

During the European Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, a number of Working Groups met in separate sessions to discuss various items of the agenda, with the intention of drafting a set of specific recommendations for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Full reports of the conclusions reached by the different Working Groups can be found in the report of the Symposium. A summary of the recommendations drafted by each Working Group is given below:

### **1. Institutions and Capacity Building: National Programmes**

*Chairs: M. Lefort and V. Ryabchoun*

A long discussion took place during the Plenary session, after three interesting presentations. It highlighted questions on:

- ?? financial sources and systems or mechanisms for the implementation of National Programmes;
- ?? appropriate legal frameworks for the conservation and use of PGR, and particularly the role of Plant Breeders' Rights within these frameworks;
- ?? the role of the European Commission regarding conservation and sustainable use of PGR.

Also, the review of the progress made in Europe for the implementation of the GPA<sup>6</sup> highlights developments in the consolidation of all aspects of National Programmes, either scientific or technical, economic, legal and social.

### **2. Capacity-building and Training**

*Chairs: L. Withers and N. Maxted*

It is recommended that:

- ?? A PGRFA training opportunities database be maintained and made widely accessible within the region, e.g. through the Internet.
- ?? Mechanisms be explored to (i) mobilize further training resources through raising awareness in universities and research institutions to the need for involvement of more scientists in PGRFA training and the introduction of PGRFA elements into training curricula at all levels; (ii) to network organisations and individual trainers offering PGRFA training within the region to encourage professional exchanges, collaboration and complementary approaches.

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<sup>6</sup> Gass, T. and F. Begemann 1998. International efforts to sustain *ex situ* collections: conceptual aspects. *In*: proceedings of a European Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Braunschweig, 30 June - 4 July 1998. International Plant genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy (in press).

- ?? Both the opportunities and the constraints presented by language diversity be taken fully into account in planning and executing training activities to maximise the impact of PGRFA training offered by Europe both within the region and globally.
- ?? Efforts be made to enhance and diversify training provided in the region, and to base decisions on the extent, levels, topics and approaches taken in training on an ongoing assessment of needs, opportunities and constraints.
- ?? Mechanisms be explored to increase the total funding available for PGRFA training through diversifying approaches to national and international funding sources and coordination of efforts to aggregate modest contributions and inputs in-kind.
- ?? Milestones and indicators relevant to training and national PGRFA programme implementation be developed and that impact assessment of training and capacity-building be carried out periodically in order to optimise the targeting of training efforts and resources over time, and in response to changing needs and opportunities.

### **3. In Situ Conservation and Development: a) Wild Relatives of Cultivated Crops**

*Chairs: V. Heywood and E. Firat*

1. It is recommended that a list is made of existing examples of *in situ* conservation projects for conservation of PGRFA in Europe and neighbouring regions, and a database of project details established.
2. Action should be taken to build upon the Council of Europe catalogue of wild relatives of European cultivated plants (Heywood and Zohary 1995) by checking and supplementing the information therein on a national basis. New fields to be added should include: detailed in-country distribution, ecology, breeding system, crossing information, population dynamics and IUCN category of threat.
3. The ECP/GR *In situ* and on-farm conservation Network should compile and issue, from various existing sources<sup>7</sup>, a consolidated list of guidelines for the practical implementation of PGRFA conservation and these should be issued as a booklet.

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<sup>7</sup> e.g. the following references:

- Council of Europe. 1979. Bern Convention. Council of Europe, Strasbourg. (available on Internet at <http://www.microresearch.be/isha/JUR/bernconv.htm>)
- Given, D.R. 1994. Principles and Practice of Plant Conservation. Timber Press, Oregon.
- Heywood, V.H. and D. Zohary (eds). 1995. A Catalogue of the Wild Relatives of Cultivated Plants Native to Europe. *Flora Mediterranea* 5:375-415.
- Heywood, V.H., G.B. Ingram and L. Olivier. 1993. Report on Workshop IV.6 Managing Protected areas to Conserve Genetic Resources. *in* IV World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, Caracas, Venezuela, February 1992. IUCN, Gland.
- Hoyt, E. 1992. Conserving wild relatives of crops (2<sup>nd</sup> edn.). IBPGR-IUCN-WWF.
- MAB. The Seville Strategy for Biosphere Reserves. MAB, UNESCO, Paris (available on Internet at <http://www.unesco.org/mab/home/stry-1.htm>)
- Maxted, N., B.V Ford-Lloyd and J.G Hawkes. 1997. Plant Genetic Conservation: the in situ approach. Chapman & Hall, London.
- Valdés, B., V.H. Heywood, F. Raimondo and D. Zohary (eds.). 1997. Conservation of the Wild Relatives of European Cultivated Plants. *Bocconea* 7.

4. Links should be established with other organizations (e.g. MAB, FAO, DIVERSITAS, IUCN, etc.) that have competence in this area to promote and facilitate mutual benefits.
5. The amount of genetic diversity that may duplicated between the wild relatives and their related crops should be investigated.
6. There is a need to research the relative costs of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of species' populations.
7. The workshop recognized that *in situ* conservation of wild relatives and on-farm conservation are two distinct but related subjects. Therefore it recommended that two separate but allied working groups be formed, although certain species or situations may be of interest to both working groups, e.g. forage and weedy species.
8. To assist countries in determining priorities for *in situ* conservation, the workshop recommended that the following criteria be considered:
  - ?? is the target species/ecotype/population threatened nationally, regionally or globally?
  - ?? does the species occur in a recognized protected area?
  - ?? is the species subject to environmental legislation at a national, regional or global level that requires conservation action?
  - ?? if the species does not occur in a recognized protected area, does it occur in an area where ownership/control/access can be gained and monitoring undertaken?
  - ?? is it a 'keystone', 'umbrella', 'flagship' or culturally important species?
  - ?? is it a component of an ECP/GR or other crop network?
  - ?? the ecogeographical range or specificity of the species;
  - ?? population size, structure and whether isolated, marginal, introgressed;
  - ?? the breeding system and phenological characteristics of the species;
  - ?? once priority species have been determined, an effective strategy is to conserve those that occur in the same ecosystem or habitat, i.e. give priority to the conservation of sites that are rich in species of wild relatives.
9. The workshop recommends that an *ad hoc* meeting be held to assess work at a national level to review project experiences, identify further conservation, research and training initiatives, coordinate research and training priorities at a European level, and that the meeting should involve the participation of representatives of EUFORGEN and DIVERSITAS. The workshop further recommends that invitations to the *ad hoc* meeting are extended through Europe and neighbouring regions in view of the close biogeographical links between Europe and the Mediterranean region.
10. The workshop recognizes that due to severe threats to many wild relatives in certain European countries, emergency survey and inventorying is required and it therefore requests IPGRI to assist in strengthening national programmes in these areas.

#### **4. *In situ* conservation and development b) On farm management and improvement of PGRFA**

*Chairs: N. Arrowsmith and P. Marum*

The Working Group recommends that:

1. An ECP/GR thematic network on on-farm management for PGRFA be activated and relevant activities be included in the crop networks in the workplan for Phase VI in order to fully implement Activity 2 of the GPA in Europe;
2. To this end ECP/GR should establish a temporary Task Force existing up until the first meeting of the thematic Network, with good knowledge of on-farm management and representing both the formal and informal sectors;
  - the mandate of this Task Force would be to draft terms of reference for the first meeting of the on-farm management thematic Network;
  - The Task Force would provide the Network with the most important issues raised by on-farm management;
  - The Task Force should use various ways to communicate its ideas and proposals with a larger audience so that strategies and new initiatives for an ECP/GR on-farm management programme can be established;
3. The work programme of the thematic Network include a number of issues that were identified by the participants of the Working Group, such as:
  - the problem of definitions;
  - the need for minimum descriptors lists for on-farm management;
  - inventory of on-farm management experiences;
  - improvement of communication and information exchange within and between different sets of actors;
  - case studies of experiences of formal and informal sector cooperation on the different elements of GPA Activity 2;
  - the need to document farmers' knowledge and plant traits of interest in on-farm management for inclusion into the Central Crop Databases;
  - identifying training needs, involving the informal sector wherever possible.
4. ECP/GR identify mechanisms for improving relations between formal and informal sector institutions. One such mechanism could include inviting European NGO representation in the ECP/GR Steering Committee and the ECP/GR Networks;
5. National programmes should develop activities relating to on-farm management in collaboration with the informal sector.

#### **5. Sustaining *ex situ* collections. The rationalization of regenerating methods, how far can we go.**

*Chairs: M. ?erne and N. Stavropoulos*

Gaps in implementing the GPA:

- ?? the lack of sufficient funding for research in the direction of the rationalization of regenerating methods can delay and slow down this process;

- ?? the lack of storage facilities, regeneration facilities and human resources can be a real barrier in the implementation of the GPA.

Areas in which additional participation or work is needed:

- ?? the coordination of research on inexpensive and effective methods to reduce the cost of regeneration should be promoted by different programmes at the regional, national and international level. Training should be provided once the methods have been identified;
- ?? involve private breeders and NGO's and the formal sector to assist in regeneration schemes with better scientific competence, infrastructure and funding.

What should be done in the near future to implement the GPA in the area of rationalization of regeneration methods:

- ?? complete and adopt protocols and guidelines for the regeneration of PGRFA;
- ?? provide training in the use of protocols and guidelines;
- ?? prioritize PGRFA on a species level;
- ?? regeneration is an essential prerequisite for the utilization of PGRFA and the benefit for the breeders and agricultural community. Therefore it needs to be declared as one of the priorities in future work.
- ?? due to a lack of facilities, funds, human resources etc. at the national level, regional aspect needs to be explored to facilitate regeneration.

## **6. Utilization of plant genetic resources**

*Chairs: D. Cooper and M. Suurn?kki*

Main recommendations to ECP/GR:

ECP/GR should ensure that adequate attention is given to facilitating the use of the plant genetic resources in Europe, and in particular:

- (a) the crop Working Groups should examine the need, by crop and geographical area, for genetic enhancement, including base-broadening and, where such needs are identified, formulate modalities for undertaking and/or supporting the necessary activities;
- (b) the crop Working Groups should continue to develop core collections, and related approaches to optimise use, using the Central Crop Databases;
- (c) the Steering Committee should facilitate collaboration between the public, private and informal sectors, especially to address issues of (i) funding of these activities, including those of a long-term and public-good nature, and (ii) accessibility of genetic resources and material resulting from these activities.

## **7. Seed Production and Distribution**

*Chair: R. Schachl and L. H?mm?*

- ?? the ECP/GR Secretariat should put forward information about various options in implementing Paragraph 203.e of the GPA, including the gathering of data about national case studies, and to study their effectiveness in achieving its objectives.
- ?? ECP/GR should develop criteria for identification of landraces and obsolete varieties to be marketed, and criteria for the identification of landraces and obsolete varieties which are threatened.
- ?? ECP/GR should identify barriers and lack of incentives to marketing landraces and obsolete varieties in accordance with Paragraph 209 of the GPA.
- ?? besides seed legislation measures, ECP/GR should also discuss supportive measures within the general agricultural concept.

## 8. Collecting

*Chairs: P. Perrino and N. Stavropoulos*

**The Working Group proposes the following actions:**

- ?? Further collecting in unexplored areas and for which there are indications that there is high genetic erosion. The experts participating in the Working Group suggest collecting:
  - a) **wild genetic resources** in the various centres of primary or secondary diversity existing in the European region and perhaps in other areas proposed by country experts.
  - b) **landraces and other domesticated germplasm** in the same areas or perhaps in other areas proposed by country experts.
- ?? Within these areas priority actions for sites and species should be decided by National Programmes and facilitated or supported by ECP/GR following the recommendations of the GPA and those of the suggested *ad hoc* Working Group of experts and/or an *ad hoc* ECP/GR Workshop. In particular, crop specific priorities may be proposed by existing Working Groups or Networks operating under the ECP/GR Programme, while multicrop collections could be proposed by National programmes and prioritized by existing Networks or an ECP/GR *ad hoc* group of experts.

## 9. Underutilized Crops

*Chairs: A. Della and L. Gusmano*

- a) To seek, through a questionnaire, the view of European countries referring to national concern about, among others, the following main points:
  - what species are considered within this group;
  - which are in danger of genetic erosion;
  - which are considered of priority;

- degree of expertise for the species included.
- b) To carry out an inventory of the existing platforms dealing with the conservation and sustainable utilisation of genetic resources of these underutilised crops.
- c) To establish links among ECP/GR and other related Networks, particularly with the "MEDUSA" Network.

## **10. Collaboration with other regions**

*Chairs: F. Begemann and Eva Thörn*

Suggestions for additional activities:

1. Information exchange
  - joint use of newsletters;
  - merge of databases i.e. crop, thematic;
  - directory of NGO activities, including activities related to disaster situations;
  - link information globally; i.e. via EIARD- Infosys, clearing-house mechanism;
  - information on training opportunities;
  - "seed" directories prepared by SADC/GTZ/CBDC and others could be made available.
2. Training
  - training in policy issues;
  - training in scientific and technical issues.
3. Disaster situations
  - contact with relevant bodies within Europe.
4. Joint research
5. Seed distribution
  - networks needed to improve distribution of seed and information particularly in Africa.

By reflecting these items, the ECP/GR mandate to "facilitate the implementation of the GPA.." should be kept in mind.

## **11. Information systems**

*Chairs: I. Faberova and B. Visser*

- ?? Each country should develop a well-functioning National information system on PGRFA, which should eventually become accessible through Internet.
- ?? Data provided to this system should conform to regionally agreed standards. Also, data need to be validated as well as regularly updated.

- ?? National information systems and decentrally managed databases should be accessible via the ECP/GR information platform. A relational structure of databases, linked to agreed standards, is recommended rather than the establishment of a single "mega-database".
- ?? User-friendliness should be given high priority to promote utilization of PGRFA and in the interest of raising public awareness.
- ?? Training of Database managers remains an important objective and services by the Internet Advisory Group should be continued.
- ?? Access to germplasm related information (passport, characterization, and -as far as possible - evaluation data) should remain free of charge.

## **Annex III: Agenda Items discussed by the Steering Committee and list of background documents**

### **Agenda items discussed**

- ?? Opening statements by representatives of the host country and IPGRI
- ?? Election of Chair and co-Chair
- ?? Adoption of the Agenda
- ?? Preliminary End of Phase report
- ?? Proposal for Phase VI of ECP/GR
- ?? European symposium on PGRFA. Expectations and involvement of the Steering Committee
- ?? Review of the objectives, structure and modus operandi
- ?? Evaluation of Network activities and recommendations for further actions
- ?? Sharing of conservation responsibilities for PGRFA in Europe
- ?? Complementary ECP/GR modules to implement the Leipzig GPA
- ?? Working Groups priorities ("milestones")
- ?? Material Transfer Agreements
- ?? Other business
- ?? Conclusion

### **List of background documents made available by the Secretariat to the Steering Committee**

- ?? Preliminary End of Phase V Report
- ?? Proposal for a Phase VI of ECP/GR
- ?? Sharing of conservation responsibilities for PGRFA in Europe,
- ?? Draft letter of notification
- ?? Draft Trusteeship Agreement
- ?? Proposal for Complementary Modules
- ?? Evaluation of Network activities and recommendations for future actions
  - Appraisal of Working Group meetings during Phase V
  - Forages Network
    - a) Internal Mid-term (progress?) report-1996 (*Petter Marum*);
    - b) Internal Mid-term report-1998 (*Petter Marum*);
    - c) Report (Part I, Appendix I, Appendix II and Appendix VII) of the Sixth meeting of a Working Group on Forages, 6-8 March 1997, Beitostøl, Norway.
  - Vegetables Network
    - a) *Allium* Working Group, Chair's report - (*Dave Astley*);
    - b) Draft report (Part I) of a Working Group on *Allium*, Sixth meeting, 23-25 October 1997, Plovdiv, Bulgaria;
    - c) Umbellifer Group report - (*Dave Astley*);
    - d) Activities and achievements of the ECP/GR *Brassica* Working Group - (*Lorenzo Maggioni*). Paper presented at the ISHS Symposium on Brassicas, 23-27 September 1997, Rennes, France.
  - Fruit Network
    - a) Supplement to the report of the *Malus/Pyrus* Working Group First Meeting - (Wye College);

- b) Draft report of an Extraordinary meeting of the ECP/GR *Prunus* Working Group and the Second Coordination Meeting of the Project Gen Res 61, 13-15 November 1997, Zaragoza, Spain.

Cereals Network

- a) Progress Report of the Wheat *ad hoc* Group - (*Iva Faberova and Annick le Blanc*);
- b) Draft report (Part I) of the Fifth meeting of a Working Group on Barley (Alterode/Gatersleben, Germany 10-12 July 1997);
- c) Draft report (Part I) of the Fifth meeting of a Working Group on *Avena* (Vilnius, Lithuania, 7-9 May 1998).
- ?? Proposals received by the ECP/GR Secretariat for the establishment of additional Working Groups and recommendations for the initiation of *ad hoc* activities (see also Annex V):
- Proposal for a Working Group on Wheat - (*Annick Le Blanc and Iva Faberova*);
  - Proposal for a Working Group on Umbellifers - (*Dave Astley*);
  - Proposal for a Working Group on *Pleurotus* - (*Giuseppe Venturella*);
  - Proposal for a Working Group on *Beta* - (*Lothar Frese*);
  - Proposal for a Working Group on Potato - (*Roel Hoekstra*);
  - Proposal for activities within the Documentation and Information Network - (*Internet Advisory Group*) .

**Annex IV: Report of Phase V of ECP/GR**

## Annex V: Proposal for Phase VI of ECP/GR

### *Introduction and background*

The European Cooperative Programme for Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP/GR), as it was originally called, was established as a UNDP/FAO project in 1980, following the recommendation of EUCARPIA. As of 1983, European countries requested IPGRI to provide overall coordination for the Programme. At that time, the Programme was funded to 50% by its participating countries and to 50% by UN agencies, although since 1986, ECP/GR has been fully funded by its members. In 1998, 32 European countries participate actively in the Programme.

Phase V of ECP/GR was initiated in 1994 for a duration of five years. In 1995, the Steering Committee of ECP/GR decided to modify the Programme's structure to enable it to catalyse a broader range of activities in the region. At the subsequent FAO Regional Meeting on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Nitra, Slovakia, 1995), European countries agreed that: "...the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks, the basis of which are active national programmes, be used as the platform to facilitate the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the European region as part of the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources".<sup>8</sup>

The context within which ECP/GR is implemented has changed during the past five years:

- ✍ Phase V has been marked by a number of international policy events which have given more visibility and accountability to ECP/GR (i.e. the ICPPGR Process and the Leipzig Conference; the negotiations of the International Undertaking on PGRFA; Conferences of the Parties to CBD; etc.);
- ✍ The number of ECP/GR member countries has increased from 26 countries (Phase IV) to 32 and is likely to increase further in the future;
- ✍ Within countries, the interest in genetic resources activities is growing. Consequently, countries wish to send representatives to many of the ECP/GR Working Group meetings;
- ✍ Representatives of the private sector (ASSINSEL) have been invited to attend the Steering Committee meetings and the Working Group meetings as observers. This participation is considered very valuable;
- ✍ The non-governmental sector has expressed interest in being associated more closely with the Programme. At its Seventh meeting, the Steering Committee invited NGOs to send one representative to its meetings;
- ✍ An EU genetic resources programme was initiated in 1994. ECP/GR has interacted closely with this programme through a range of activities. In particular, ECP/GR has facilitated the participation of institutions from non-EU countries in projects funded under the Programme EC 14676/94.
- ✍ The past five years have seen significant changes in the area of communication/documentation technology. Despite a relatively moderate availability of funds in institutes managing the European Central Crop Databases, and at the ECP/GR Secretariat, the Programme has adapted to these changes

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<sup>8</sup> IPGRI/FAO. 1996. International Technical Conference on PGR: Preparatory Process for Europe. IPGRI/FAO, Rome, Italy.

(relational databases were established, Internet access was provided to the Databases, an ECP/GR central home page was established, etc.); and

✂ The past five years have been marked by an increased economic gap between countries situated at opposite extremes of economic development in the region.

### ***Impact of the Programme since its establishment in 1981***

When assessed against its objectives, ECP/GR has had a significant impact in a number of areas:

- ✂ Since its establishment, ECP/GR has contributed significantly towards raising the awareness of policy makers and the agricultural research community on the importance of conserving genetic resources. This has led *inter alia* to an increase in plant genetic resources related activities in the region and an increase in the number of countries participating in the Programme.
- ✂ The Programme has led to a considerable level of coordination of collecting and conservation activities and to the submission of a large number of collaborative project proposals to funding agencies, such as the European Commission.
- ✂ ECP/GR has stimulated a high willingness to cooperate beyond national boundaries in matters related to plant genetic resources (e.g. development of regeneration guidelines, exchange of data and germplasm).
- ✂ It has played an important role in stimulating the establishment of national coordination structures on plant genetic resources, as illustrated by the active participation of the countries within the region in the preparatory process leading up to the FAO International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held in June 1996 in Leipzig.
- ✂ During initial phases of the Programme and again during Phase V, ECP/GR has played an important role as an information hub in matters relating to training opportunities and the identification of suitable candidates for training courses.
- ✂ It has facilitated a better international access to collections through documentation systems that have been established within its framework and which are increasingly available through a common access point on the Internet <sup>9</sup>.
- ✂ It has led to a relatively high degree of harmonization of characterization activities on a crop-by-crop basis, by facilitating the preparation of international descriptor lists.
- ✂ It has promoted the use of a wider range of diversity in breeding and has supported the development of international evaluation projects and the establishment of core collections.
- ✂ It has facilitated consensus on strategic and policy matters in a very heterogeneous region (e.g. in fora such as the FAO Commission on Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture).
- ✂ It has promoted alliances between strong and weak countries, by bringing together researchers on a more informal basis, or by actually supporting the collaboration of east European institutes in EU- projects.

It should be noted that the above-mentioned impact cannot be attributed to the Programme alone. ECP/GR has been a successful catalyst in a context in which highly motivated individuals and institutions have carried conservation concerns forward. It is these persons and institutions, and the activities which they agreed to contribute as an input in kind, that ultimately constitute the core of the Programme.

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<sup>9</sup> European Information Platform on Crop Genetic Resources (<http://www.cgiar.org/ecpgr/platform/index.htm>)

A number of areas exist in which ECP/GR has only partially achieved an impact. These areas are challenges for European cooperation on PGRFA and need to be addressed in the near future:

- ✍ For budgetary reasons, ECP/GR has focused on those crops which are important to the region's agriculture, for which Europe holds valuable *ex situ* collections, and for which no other regional initiative existed. The changes made in 1995 to broaden the Programme's structure (see Report of Phase V) were not accompanied by increases in funding, instead the funding to the Programme remained stable during the five years of Phase V. Consequently, a number of important crops and themes are yet to be adequately covered.
- ✍ Although a concept is being developed to possibly establish decentralized European Collections, ECP/GR has only partially succeeded in facilitating a real prioritization of conservation activities (identification and safety duplication of unique material, reduction of redundancies, etc.). Actual sharing of collections still remains rare.
- ✍ The shifting of breeding activities from the public to the private sector has, to some extent, detached the breeders from the genetic resources collections. ECP/GR has only partially succeeded in counterbalancing this trend. A more intensive utilization of genetic resources through renewed and enhanced cooperation between breeders and genebanks is essential to a sustainable regional conservation effort.
- ✍ More needs to be done to stimulate a long-term commitment of countries towards plant genetic resources conservation. Genebanks have been built, national strategies have been put in place to address plant genetic resources conservation, staff have been trained, but a low level of operating funds shows that the strategic nature of plant genetic resources has not yet been recognized in many countries.

### *The continuation of ECP/GR*

Strong recommendations have been received from National Coordinators, from the ECP/GR Working Groups, and recently during the European Symposium on PGRFA<sup>10</sup>, that the Programme be continued and that it be developed further in the sense of the above-mentioned "Nitra-recommendation".

It is widely agreed that ECP/GR should primarily play a convening and a catalysing role - in full complementarity with the activities being carried out at the national level as an input-in-kind to European cooperation on PGRFA.

A proposal for Phase VI of ECP/GR is presented below, in response to what is perceived as a strong request from member countries to propose ways in which ECP/GR can still more effectively fulfil its mandate, as a Platform to facilitate the implementation of the Leipzig Global Plan of Action. This implies, on the one hand, that the Programme should stimulate collaborative activities for a broader range of crops and themes and, on the other, that it should actively facilitate a more effective conservation and use of PGRFA, *inter alia* through a greater sharing of responsibilities among member countries and through making better use of the complementarity offered by *in situ* and *ex situ* strategies. Budgetary implications are given in Table 1.

The proposed Programme consists of two components:

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<sup>10</sup> European Symposium on Plant Genetic resources for Food and Agriculture, 30 June-4 July 1998, Braunschweig, Germany.

- a) A core component funded through regular member contributions to address what are perceived as the minimum coordination services considering the budgetary frame; and
- b) Complementary *Modules* for which funding will be raised on a voluntary basis from various sources and which will support the implementation of specific GPA Priority Activities at the regional level.

#### Phase VI: An updated set of objectives

The original objectives of ECP/GR include the creation of a system to promote direct contact between National Programmes and institutions involved in crop genetic resources activities. ECP/GR is to promote the unhindered exchange of crop genetic resources and related data. Consequently, up to date information on genetic resources is to be made easily available to users. ECP/GR is also a framework in which joint activities such as documentation, collecting expeditions, characterisation and evaluation of germplasm are implemented.

These activities reflect the role of ECP/GR as the platform to facilitate the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, at the European level. As such, they are an important input for the development of sustainable agriculture.

The following new set of objectives will characterize Phase VI of ECP/GR:

- ~~to~~ to facilitate the long-term *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- ~~to~~ to facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- ~~to~~ to strengthen links between all plant genetic resources Programmes in Europe and promote the integration of countries which are not members of ECP/GR;
- ~~to~~ to encourage cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders;
- ~~to~~ to increase the planning of joint activities, including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies;
- ~~to~~ to encourage the sharing of conservation responsibilities for PGRFA in Europe;
- ~~to~~ to increase awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use; and
- ~~to~~ to seek collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives.

#### Phase VI: An enhanced mode of operation

To achieve greater coordination within the Crop Networks during Phase VI, Network Coordinating Groups will be activated to establish priorities for action for the extended range of crops covered by the Network. These self-organizing Coordinating Groups, will be composed of Working Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs or Database managers. The Network Coordinating Groups will work closely with the secretariat to which they will submit proposals for activities and review progress, achievements and future workplans. In the case of crops for which no Working Group exists or in the case of Networks in which no activities have been carried out in the past, the Network Coordinating Groups can initiate *ad hoc* actions and may propose the establishment of a Working Group to the Steering Committee. The Network Coordinating Group will strive for a balanced regional participation in the Networks' activities. The Group Members ensure effective links between ECP/GR and the respective stakeholders at the national level.

The main implementation of the Networks' activities continues to be through Working Groups. These Working Groups will no longer necessarily meet several times during a given phase. However, the respective Chairs and Vice-Chairs will ensure that both attending and corresponding members are involved in the planning and implementation of the crop specific workplans. The main vehicle for facilitating action for any given crop will be focused meetings of a restricted number of Working Group members and resource persons, as necessary.

In the case of a meeting involving the whole Working Group, the participation through either attending or corresponding members will be determined by priorities established at the national level, as agreed at the Sixth Steering Committee meeting<sup>11</sup>. As a consequence of the increased number of Working Groups and the re-scaling of the funding categories (Table 4), the quota for attending members are now as follows:

A	4	D	7
B	5	E	8
C	6		

It is agreed that the Secretariat can welcome to the meeting self-funded corresponding members as long as the overall size of the Group remains conducive to working effectively.

During Phase VI, the Thematic Networks will play their full role to support the Crop Networks by addressing issues common to several or all of the Crop Networks. Within the thematic Networks, activities will be carried out primarily through *ad hoc* actions.

Making full use of the complementarity between the different Networks, emphasis will be shifted from establishing and standardizing Databases, to promoting the characterization and primary evaluation of existing accessions and the effective distribution of related information. Collaboration with users is strengthened mainly through the national networks and through a strong user-driven orientation of the Programme. The Internet presence of the Programme is strengthened (e.g. more Central Crop Databases on line, ECP/GR Home Page and Information Platform updated on a monthly basis) and the sharing of responsibilities between institutions and countries is actively promoted. The additional flexibility provided by the above mentioned changes in structure will be exploited to address relevant crops and themes of the Global Plan of Action which require new or increased attention.

#### Phase VI: an intensive workplan

The small increase in the overall budget is based on the assumption that about 8 out of the 10 Networks require a Network Coordination Meeting, that these meetings would not give rise to published reports, and that 7-8 larger meetings may be required (possibly at the Network level). The remaining funds budgeted under *Network Operations* are foreseen for small focused technical meetings and actions as part of the implementation of crop specific workplans, as well as *ad hoc* actions to further develop

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11 Gass, T., G. Kleijer, M. Waldman and E. Frison, editors. 1995 Report of the Technical Consultative Committee. Sixth Meeting, 21-23 September 1995, Nitra, Slovakia. European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR). International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy.

and advance the workplans within the Thematic Networks (Table 1). The secretarial support at the ECP/GR Secretariat is increased from half to full time to take into account the additional workload associated with the broadening of the scope of the Programme. Overhead charges by IPGRI remain at 13%.

### Complementary Programme Modules

While the operative basis for and the governance of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action clearly lie with the national programmes, a number of Priority Activities of this Global Plan gain in effectiveness if they are facilitated by a regional hub. ECP/GR has been requested to play this role but lacks the core resources to be proactive in all the relevant activities. Following a recommendation by the Steering Committee a number of complementary Modules have been proposed to provide flexibility in supporting and managing such initiatives.

In order to avoid further strain on the Programme's Core Budget, and consequently on Member Countries' contributions, it is proposed that funding for these activities be raised independently and on a voluntary basis (Table 2). The possibility for the funding of Modules is not restricted to the institutions which have formally joined ECP/GR and which pay the annual contributions. It is expected that other donors and interested parties will be approached for support. The benefits of a given module will, in principle, be accessible to all member countries of ECP/GR, irrespective of whether they have financed the module or not (Module E would constitute an exception as it concerns non-EU countries in particular). Technical and financial reports on the activities carried out within the modules will be provided annually to the National Coordinators.

An overview of possible Modules is given below with an indication of the GPA Priority Activity to which they relate.

- Module A: Surveying and inventorying PGRFA (GPA/PA 1).
- Module B: Emergency actions (GPA/PA 6).
- Module C: Compilation of crop specific regeneration guidelines (GPA/PA6).
- Module D: Supporting targeted collecting (GPA/PA 7).
- Module E: Characterization and evaluation of *ex situ* collections and establishment of core collections (GPA/PA 9).
- Module F: Genetic diversity studies to analyze comparative genetic diversity in wild relatives and their respective crop genepools (GPA/PA9).
- Module G: Cooperation with EU-funded projects (GPA/PA 16).
- Module H: Training activities (GPA/PA 19).
- Module I: Genetic enhancement of pre-breeding genepool via base-broadening (GPA/PA 10).
- Module L: Inventorying and monitoring legal framework of seed production and distribution in Europe (GPA/PA 13).

Together with the Letter of Agreement for participation in Phase VI, the Secretariat will initially request voluntary contributions for Modules B, G and H. These correspond to activities which have been initiated during Phase V of ECP/GR with special funding from various donors (Table 2). It is considered that the continuation and further development of these activities is essential to maintain the momentum achieved by the Programme during Phase V. Modules A, C, D, E, F, I and L should be developed

further by *ad hoc* groups within ECP/GR before they are submitted to participating countries and other donors.

**Table 1: Workplan and budget breakdown for "Network Operations" and "Publications"<sup>12</sup>**

Timing	Activity	Estimated number of participants	Meeting and travel cost US\$	Publication and distribution of proceedings	Total US\$
Years 1 and 2	Network coordination meetings:				
	- Cereals	15	25,000		25,000
	- Forages (full meeting of the Network)	25	30,000	10,000	40,000
	- Vegetables	10	20,000		20,000
	- Fruit	10	20,000		20,000
	- Minor crops	10	20,000		20,000
	- Industrial crops	10	20,000		20,000
	- <i>in situ</i> conservation (task force)	10	20,000		20,000
	- on farm management (task force)	10	20,000		20,000
- Technical cooperation (task force)	10	20,000		20,000	
Years 3 and 5	Full Network meetings:				
	- Cereals	25	30,000	10,000	40,000
	- Grain legumes	25	30,000	10,000	40,000
	- Vegetables	25	30,000	10,000	40,000
	- Fruit	25	30,000	10,000	40,000
	- Minor crops ( <i>ad hoc</i> meeting)	25	30,000	10,000	40,000
	- Industrial Crops	25	30,000	10,000	40,000
	- Technical Cooperation ( <i>ad hoc</i> meeting)	10	20,000	10,000	30,000
	- Documentation and Information	45	50,000	10,000	60,000
	Focused thematic and crop meetings:				
- Small technical meetings (10 events)	5-10 (in each)	110,800	10,000	120,800	
Total:			555,800	100,000	655,800

**Table 2: Budget break down for Modules B, G and H**

Module	Minimum funding for initiation US\$	Optimum funding level (5 years)	Breakdown	
B: Emergency Actions	5,000	50,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// Regeneration, germplasm transfer, safety duplication</li> <li>/// Coordination (20% as of a total volume of 50.000)</li> </ul>	80-100% 0-20%
G: Cooperation with EU-funded projects	10,000	250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// Participation in Project meetings (100% up to a total volume of 50.000)</li> <li>/// Partial support to types of activities foreseen within the EC funded project</li> <li>/// Coordination (20% as of a total volume of 100.000)</li> </ul>	100-50% 50% 0-20%
H: Training activities	25,000	300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// Database management and information distribution</li> <li>/// Specialised training courses organised by IPGRI in collaboration with relevant national institutes (3 weeks, 30 trainees)</li> <li>/// Partial sponsorship of trainees to attend courses or to have practical training in laboratories/ genebanks</li> </ul>	25,000/ year 50,000/ year 0-20,000/ year

<sup>12</sup> For the full budget of Phase VI refer to Table 3.

### **Budget of Phase VI**

Table 3 provides an overview of the budget of the Core Programme.

### **Funding Phase VI of ECP/GR**

For the duration of Phase V, the annual contribution to be paid by a member country was determined on the basis of the country's UN assessment rate, whereby groups of countries were distinguished (TCC, Bulgaria 1993). The UN General Assembly has recently adopted a revised scale of assessments, taking into account the economic development and the financial situation of its member countries (UNGA Resolution 52/215). Table 4 provides an overview of country contributions, taking into account these new assessment scales. An expected annual and five-year revenue is provided considering that a few countries may not be able to join the Programme for financial reasons.

**Table 3: Budget for Phase VI of ECP/GR (in US\$)**

	Phase VI					
	Total Phase V	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Coordinator at IPGRI	420,000	80,000	82,000	84,000	86,000	88,000
Secretarial support	219,000	43,800	43,800	43,800	43,800	43,800
Coordinator travel	60,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Network Operations	555,800	100,000	100,000	100,000	155,800	100,000
Steering Committee mtgs.	90,000	0	0	45,000	0	45,000
Publications	100,000	0	10,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
European Internet platform	30,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Newsletter	15,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Communication and office consumables	50,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,539,800</b>	254,800	266,800	333,800	346,600	337,800
<b>Overhead (13%)<sup>13</sup></b>	<b>200,174</b>	33,124	34,684	43,394	45,058	43,914
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,739,974</b>	287,924	301,484	377,194	391,658	381,714

<sup>13</sup> This includes provision of space in IPGRI headquarters, the input and time of IPGRI professional staff, etc.

**Table 4: ECP/GR table of annual contributions during Phase VI (US\$)**

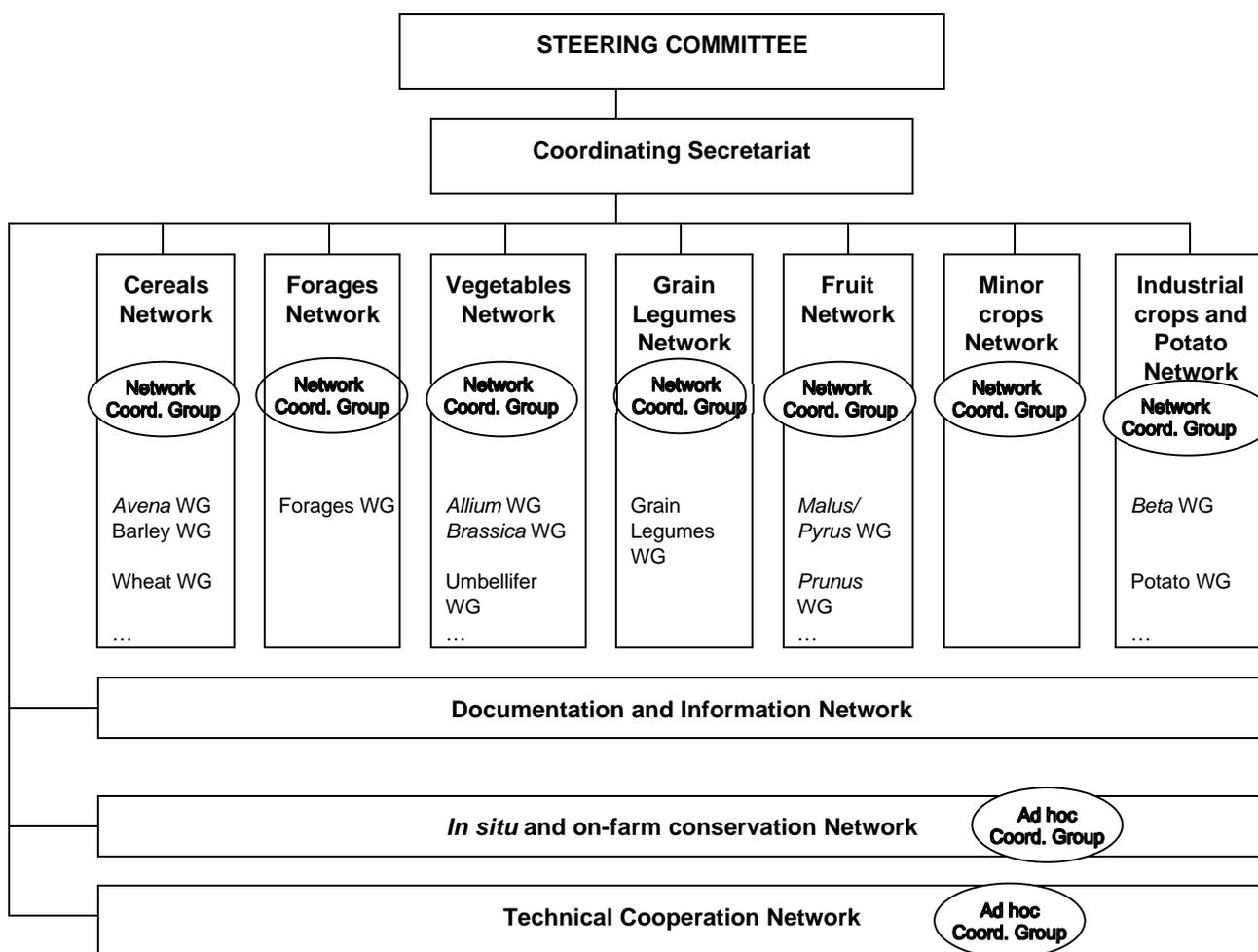
	UN rates (%) 1)	Cat. 2)	Annual contributions
ALBANIA	0,003	A	2000
MACEDONIA (FYR)	0,004	A	2000
ARMENIA	0,011	A	2000
MALTA	0,014	A	2000
ESTONIA	0,015	A	2000
MOLDOVA	0,018	A	2000
BULGARIA	0,019	A	2000
GEORGIA	0,019	A	2000
AZERBAIJAN	0,022	A	2000
LITHUANIA	0,022	A	2000
LATVIA	0,024	A	2000
ICELAND	0,032	B	5000
CYPRUS	0,034	B	5000
YUGOSLAVIA (FR)	0,034	B	5000
CROATIA	0,036	B	5000
SLOVAKIA	0,039	B	5000
SLOVENIA	0,061	B	5000
ROMANIA	0,067	B	5000
LUXEMBOURG	0,068	B	5000
BELARUS	0,082	B	5000
HUNGARY	0,12	C	7500
CZECH REP	0,121	C	7500
POLAND	0,207	C	7500
IRELAND	0,224	C	7500
UKRAINE	0,302	C	7500
ISRAEL	0,345	C	7500
GREECE	0,351	C	7500
PORTUGAL	0,417	C	7500
TURKEY	0,44	C	7500
FINLAND	0,542	C	7500
NORWAY	0,61	D	12500
DENMARK	0,691	D	12500
AUSTRIA	0,941	D	12500
SWEDEN	1,084	D	12500
BELGIUM	1,103	D	12500
SWITZERLAND	1,215	D	12500
RUSSIA	1,487	D	12500
NETHERLANDS	1,631	D	12500
SPAIN	2,589	D	12500
UK	5,09	E	35000
ITALY	5,432	E	35000
FRANCE	6,54	E	35000
GERMANY	9,808	E	35000
<b>total</b>			<b>394500</b>
Unlikely contributions:			46500
Realistic annual:			348000
<b>Total 5 years:</b>			<b>\$1.740.000</b>

1) UN Assesment Rates for 1999 as % of the regular budget, UN General Assembly 20 January 1998, A/RES/52/215

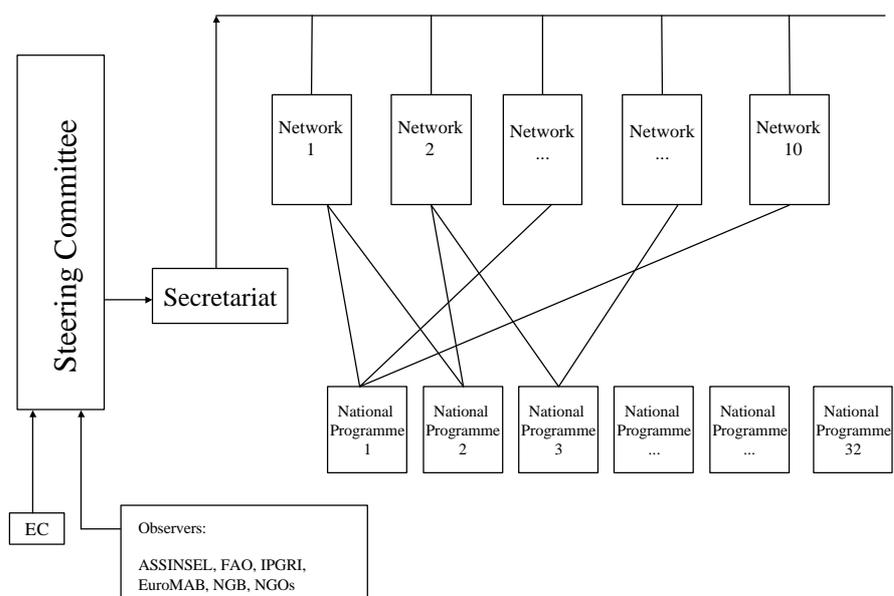
2) Key to calculation of annual contributions to ECP/GR

threshold	Annual contribution
0 x < 0.03	2000
0,1 0.03<= x < 0.1	5000
0,6 0.1<= x <0.6	7500
5 0.6<= x< 5	12500
5 <= x	35000

Figure 1. Operational structure of ECP/GR, Phase VI.



**Figure 2. Interaction of National Programmes with the Networks and the Steering Committee**





**Appendix 1: Intermediate Financial Report**

This intermediate financial report is annexed to the End of Phase V report of ECP/GR to provide members of this Committee with an overview of the status of contributions and expenditures of the Programme. The final financial report will be submitted on completion of Phase V of the Programme.

**Table 1. ECP/GR Contributions received for 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997**

Participating country <sup>14</sup>	Contributions for 1994	Contributions for 1995	Contributions for 1996	Contributions for 1997	Contributions still due on 31/12/97
Austria	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	
Belgium	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	
<b>Bulgaria</b> <sup>15</sup>	5 000	5 000	5 000		5 000 <sup>3</sup>
Croatia		5 000	5 000	5 000	
Cyprus	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	
Czech Republic	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
Denmark	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	
Finland	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
France	30 000	30 000	30 000	30 000	
Germany	30 000	30 000	30 000	30 000	
Greece	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
Hungary	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
<b>Iceland</b>	2 000				95 / 96/ 97 = 6000 <sup>16</sup>
Ireland	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
Israel	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
<b>Italy</b>	30 000	30 000			96/97 = 60 000
<b>Lithuania</b>		5 000	5 000		97 = 5 000 <sup>4</sup>
Malta			2 000	2 000	
Netherlands	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	
Norway	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
Poland	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
<b>Portugal</b>	5 000				95/96/97 = 15 000 <sup>5</sup>
Romania	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
Slovakia	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	

<sup>14</sup> Albania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine were represented at the Steering Committee meeting in Bulgaria (1993) where Phase V of ECP/GR was approved. These countries have not yet joined Phase V. Croatia and Lithuania joined in 1995, Malta joined in 1996.

<sup>15</sup> Bulgaria covered the local expenses of the Forages Working Group meeting in Hissar, April 1995 and the *Allium* Working Group meeting in Plovdiv, October 1997. This is considered equivalent to a contribution of US\$ 15 000.

<sup>3</sup> Bulgaria's contribution for 1997 (5,000 US\$) was received in January 1998.

<sup>16</sup> Iceland's contribution for 1995, 1996 and 1997 was received in July 1998.

<sup>4</sup> Lithuania covered the local expenses of the *Avena* Working Group meeting in Vilnius, May 1998. This is considered equivalent to 7,500 US\$, covering Lithuania's contribution for 1997 and half of 1998.

<sup>5</sup> Portugal's contribution for 1995, 1996 and 1997 (15,000 US\$) was received in April 1998.

Participating country <sup>14</sup>	Contributions for 1994	Contributions for 1995	Contributions for 1996	Contributions for 1997	Contributions still due on 31/12/97
Spain	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	
Sweden	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	
Switzerland	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	
Turkey	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
UK	30 000	30 000	30 000	30 000	
Yugoslavia	5 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>264 000</b>	<b>267 000</b>	<b>239 000</b>	<b>229 000</b>	<b>91 000</b>

	<b>US\$</b>
Total receipts Phase V by 31/12/97	999 000
Total receipts expected during 1998	377 000
Revised Budget Phase V	1 376 000
Total Budget Phase V (TCC Report, 1993)	1 520 000 <sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> This is no longer the Budget for Phase V of ECP/GR.

**Table 2. Expenditures during 1994 and 1995, 1996 and 1997**

	Budget 1994 US\$	Expenses 1994 US\$	Budget 1995 US\$	Expense s 1995 US\$	Budget 1996 US\$	Expenses 1996 US\$	Budget 1997 US\$	Expenses 1997 US\$	Cumulated expenses Phase V US\$
Full-time ECP/GR Network Coordinator	80 000	69 050	82 000	95 229	84 000	70 421	86 000	74 513	309 213
Direct administration support On average 1/2 time IPGRI secretary	20 000	8 868	20 500	7 670	21 000	34 438	21 500	45 479	96 455
Official travel	14 000	172	14 000	18 944	14 000	19 148	14 000	10 759	49 023
Crop meetings and consultations <sup>17</sup> (Working Groups)	74 667	29 210	74 667	45 843	74 667	78 093	74 667	100 906	254 052
Crop meetings and consultations ( <i>ad hoc</i> actions) <sup>18</sup>	21 333	0	21 333	7 415	21 333	63 826	21 333	15 018	86 259
Technical Consultative Committee	0	0	50 000	29 000	0	0	0	0	29 000
Publications	25 000	0	32 000	47 541	32 000	21 543	32 000	20 020	89 104
Newsletter	3 000	0	3 000	4 287	3 000	3 719	3 000	3 595	11 601
Contingencies (including communications)	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	40 000

<sup>17</sup> Includes a contribution equivalent to \$7,500 from Bulgaria in hosting the Forages Working Group meeting in 1994 plus \$ 7,500 in hosting the *Allium* Working Group meeting in 1997, covering local expenses.

<sup>18</sup> In September 1995, the Steering Committee of ECP/GR decided to allocate US\$ 96 000 of the budget previously foreseen for crop meetings and consultations to *ad hoc* actions (TCC Report, 1995).

Seventh meeting of the Steering Committee of ECP/GR

Overhead (indirect support) 13% <sup>19</sup>	32 300	12 974	40 000	31 478	33 800	44 895	34 100	49 657	139 004
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>280 300</b>	<b>130 274</b>	<b>347 500</b>	<b>297 407</b>	<b>293 800</b>	<b>346 083</b>	<b>296 600</b>	<b>329 947</b>	<b>1 103 711</b>
								<b>Total contributions for 1994-1997</b>	<b>999 000</b>
								<b>Balance</b>	<b>-104 711</b>

Note:

In addition to the above, the following expenses were charged in 1997 against the fund balance remaining from Phase IV (Ref. TCC report, Nitra, 1995)

- ?? 77 300 Participation of non-EU countries in the EU projects on *Allium*, *Beta*, potato and *Prunus* genetic resources
- ?? 16 955 Participation of non-EU countries in the meetings of the EU projects on potato, *Prunus* and *Vitis* genetic resources
- ?? 4 899 Emergency funds (Apple genetic resources, Maikop, Russia)

<sup>19</sup> 13% overhead was applied on all funds spent during Phase V (including funds remaining from Phase IV)

**Table 3. ECP/GR Phase IV, Financial Status as of 31.12.1997 (in US \$)**

	<b>Available funds 1.1.1994</b>	<b>Expenses 1996</b>	<b>Expenses 1997</b>	<b>Available funds 31.12.97</b>
Secretarial support and contingencies to be recovered during Phase V	30 000	30 000	0	<b>0</b>
Emergency fund	25 000		4 899	<b>20 101<sup>20</sup></b>
Support to institutions from non EU countries to participate in EC funded projects	159 375	14 080	94 255	<b>51 040</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>214 375</b>	<b>44 080</b>	<b>99 154</b>	<b>71 141</b>

**Participation of non-EU countries in coordination meetings of the EU funded projects**

1996: *Prunus*, US\$ 14,080

1997: potato, US\$ 6,744; *Prunus*, US\$ 8,785; *Vitis*, US\$ 1,426;

**Participation of non EU countries in activities of the EU funded projects**

1997 - *Beta*, US\$ 14,300; potato, US\$ 20,000; *Prunus*, US\$ 30,000, *Allium*, US\$ 13,000

**Emergency funds**

1997 - Apple genetic resources, Maikop, Russia, US\$ 4,889

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<sup>20</sup> In 1998 Emergency funds are allocated to the following actions:

- ?? Collecting of threatened *Vitis* germplasm in Albania, by the University of Milan, Italy
- ?? Regeneration of threatened *Phaseolus* accessions from the collection of the University of Cambridge, carried out by Italian Experimental Station and Universities.
- ?? Multiplication of forages accessions for the reconstruction of the Albanian national collection

**Table 4. Expected results of Phase V (1994-1998) (US\$)**

	<b>Cumulated Budget (1994-1997)</b>	<b>Cumulated expenses (1994-1997)</b>	<b>Expected Expenses 1998</b>	<b>Expected cumulated expenses Phase V</b>
Full-time ECP/GR Network Coordinator	332 000	309 213	75 000	384 213
Direct administration support 1/2 time IPGRI secretary	83 000	96 455	22 000	118 455
Official travel	56 000	49 023	7 000	56 023
Crop meetings and consultations (working groups)	298 668	254 052	54 500	308 552
Crop meetings and consultations ( <i>ad hoc</i> actions) <sup>21</sup>	85 332	86 259	16 000	102 259
Technical Consultative Committee	50 000	29 000	50 000	79 000
Publications	121 000	89 104	35 500	124 604
Newsletter	12 000	11 601	3 399	15 000
Contingencies (including communications)	40 000	40 000	10 000	50 000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1 078 000</b>	<b>964 707</b>	<b>273 399</b>	<b>1 238 106</b>
Overhead (indirect support) 13% <sup>22</sup>	140 200	139 004	44 790	183 794
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 218 200</b>	<b>1 103 711</b>	<b>318 189</b>	<b>1 421 900</b>
			<b>Total contributions expected for 1994-1998<sup>23</sup></b>	<b>1 376 000</b>
			<b>Balance</b>	<b>- 45 900</b>

<sup>21</sup> In September 1995, the Steering Committee of ECP/GR decided to allocate US\$ 96 000 of the budget previously foreseen for crop meetings and consultations to *ad hoc* actions (TCC Report, 1995).

<sup>22</sup> 13% overhead on all funds spent during Phase V (including funds remaining from Phase IV)

<sup>23</sup> Includes a contribution equivalent to \$15,000 from Bulgaria in hosting the Forages Working Group meeting in 1994 and the *Allium* Working Group meeting in 1997, covering local expenses and a contribution equivalent to \$ 7,500 from Lithuania in hosting the *Avena* Working Group meeting in 1998.

## Annex VI: Statement by EUROMAB

Jürgen Nauber  
EUROMAB Bureau, Rapporteur  
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation,  
Germany

Natalia Rybianets  
Secretary, EUROMAB  
Belarus Academy of Sciences

Communication for the ECP/GR Steering Committee 4 July 1998, FAL, Braunschweig.

Unfortunately our schedule does not allow us to participate in the meeting of the Steering Committee. However, we would like to ask Thomas Gass to read out this communication which is made on behalf of the European MAB-Cooperation (EUROMAB).

Biosphere reserves are a well suited instrument to contribute to *in situ* and on farm conservation and sustainable management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. After the Braunschweig Symposium it seems that this could be one point for intensifying the cooperation between the "Plant genetic resources family" and the MAB Programme which stands for conservation, sustainable use and scientific cooperation.

It is recommended that the Steering Committee takes into account for implementing the GPA in the field of *in situ* conservation and on farm management and conservation of PGRFA the experience and capacity of the biosphere reserves of the MAB Programme of UNESCO.

It can be observed that parallel structures, those of MAB and ECP/GR, exist in nearly every country of Europe. So far only limited cooperation between those two networks exist.

Biosphere reserves have the explicit task the conservation and rational use of plant genetic resources as taken down in the "Seville Strategy" under objective I.2.5. ECP/GR is considering to use existing protected areas and their Networks as sites for conservation of plant genetic resources. Cooperation between the two programmes should be sought according to the following recommendations:

- ?? MAB should be present at the next meeting of the Steering Committee;
- ?? The European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources should participate in the next meeting of EUROMAB (a participation was foreseen in the EUROMAB VI-Conference 1997 in Minsk, but had to be cancelled unfortunately);
- ?? on national level contacts between the European Cooperative Programme for Crop

Genetic Resources and the MAB-structures should be established.

Action:

- MAB to inform its structure about possible cooperation;
- ECP/GR to inform its structure about possible cooperation.

?? select a few biosphere reserves to conduct model projects on plant genetic resources.

Synergisms should be sought, avoiding double work and waste of financial resources. Details of the cooperation should be discussed by the Secretariates according to the considerations of the ECP/GR Steering Committee and the EUROMAB-Conference. The presentation of Mrs Rybianet is annexed giving the rationale of the cooperation.

Braunschweig, 2 July 1998

## Annex VII: Replies of National Coordinators to a questionnaire on ECP/GR

**How would you rate the effectiveness of ECP/GR during the past 5 years in achieving the following:**

(in each case please give a score from 0-3)

**0 = was not effective**  
**1 = was little effective**  
**2 = was effective**  
**3 = was very effective**

1. Facilitating and encouraging the use of germplasm collections
2. Improving access to information about germplasm collections
3. Increase the planning of joint activities
4. Strengthening the links between east and west European programmes
5. Developing joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies
6. Facilitating the long-term conservation of crop genetic resources
7. Contribute to monitoring the safety of collections
8. Taking emergency actions for the safety of collections
9. Increasing public awareness of the importance of crop genetic resources

Question No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Total no. of answers	26	26	26	26	25	26	25	25	26
not effective (0)	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	4	1
little effective (1)	7	0	5	5	14	9	7	5	8
effective (2)	14	13	14	11	7	13	14	11	9
very effective (3)	5	13	7	10	2	2	3	5	8

**How much should ECP/GR get involved in the following activities in the future?**

(in each case please give a score from 0-3)

- 0 = should not get involved**
- 1 = should get involved a little**
- 2 = should get fully involved**
- 3 = should play the leading role**

1. Facilitating and encouraging the use of germplasm collections
2. Promoting collecting activities
3. Promoting eco-geographic surveys
4. Promoting the development of core collections
5. Developing safety guidelines for germplasm exchange
6. Monitoring the use of collections
7. Improving the access to information about germplasm collections
8. Increasing the on-line access to Central Crop Databases
9. Encouraging the development of national documentation systems
10. Developing a regional documentation network
11. Encouraging increased standardization of germplasm documentation systems
12. Promoting the planning of joint activities
13. Strengthening the links between east and west European plant genetic resources programmes
14. Supporting the participation of non EU countries in EC funded projects
15. Facilitating scientific exchange between eastern and western Europe
16. Developing joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies
17. Facilitating the long-term conservation of crop genetic resources
18. Monitoring the safety of collections
19. Establishing a permanent inventory of safety duplication agreements

20. Clarifying and informing about legal and policy aspects related to PGR
21. Establishing through its Working Groups guidelines and monitoring mechanisms for the quality of storage and regeneration procedures in genebanks
22. Taking emergency actions for the safety of threatened collections
23. Maintaining an emergency fund
24. Increasing public awareness of the importance of crop genetic resources

Question No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Total no. of answers	34	34	33	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	33	34	34	33	34	34	33	34
should not get involved (0)	0	1	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	0	4	1
should get involved a little(1)	4	6	6	0	5	11	1	2	8	4	2	1	0	2	3	3	4	11	10	4	1	2	2	5
should get fully involved (2)	16	15	14	19	10	15	17	12	15	16	14	15	11	9	15	12	13	14	16	14	14	11	10	14
should play the leading role (3)	14	12	12	14	16	5	16	20	11	14	17	18	23	23	16	18	13	8	8	14	19	21	17	14

## Annex VIII: Crop Working Group Process Analysis

### Crop Working Group Process Analysis

Activities	Conservation regular	emergency	Documentation	Collecting	Characterization/ Evaluation	Collaboration
Minimum	<p>Uniform standards for regeneration, multiplication and conservation adopted.</p> <p>Duplicates and synonyms identified based on available information.</p> <p>Unique material identified.</p> <p>Most appropriate methods of conservation determined.</p>	<p>Regeneration needs identified.</p> <p>Procedures for emergency regeneration established.</p> <p>Safety duplication implemented.</p> <p>Emergency regeneration carried out.</p>	<p>European database established.</p> <p>Database manager nominated.</p> <p>Passport data included.</p> <p>Protocol for updating data elaborated.</p>	<p>Genetic diversity of crops inventoried based on available data.</p> <p>Gaps and potential needs for collecting identified.</p>	<p>Descriptor lists for (preliminary) characterization and evaluation agreed.</p>	<p>Priorities for complementary activities identified in collaboration with other relevant actors.</p>
Undecided			<p>Database accessible through Internet</p>		<p>Descriptor lists for (further) characterisation and evaluation finalised.</p> <p>Core collection established.</p>	
Additional	<p>Appropriate alternative/complementary ex situ conservation strategies implemented.</p>		<p>Characterisation data included.</p> <p>Evaluation data included.</p> <p>Crop-specific links with other programmes/networks/databases established.</p>	<p>Collecting activities, where needed, carried out.</p>	<p>Characterization of collection carried out.</p> <p>Evaluation of collection experiments carried out.</p> <p>Pre-breeding (base broadening) undertaken.</p>	<p>Above priorities implemented.</p> <p>Collaboration with other regions established.</p>

### General comments

1. The ECP/GR Steering Committee has attempted to develop a matrix which distinguishes minimum and additional tasks for Working Groups. The Process Analysis is meant for guidance of ECP/GR Working Groups in determining their activities and the relative priorities of these activities, given the limited available budget.
2. For the moment no agreement has been reached on some activities, which are located in the segment 'Undecided'. The matrix should be regarded as preliminary and will be finalised by the Steering Committee in 2001 after an extensive consultation process within countries and within the ECP/GR Working Groups.
3. The above Crop Working Group Process Analysis considers both *ex situ* collections and on-farm/in-garden/*in situ* populations. It is realised that the matrix still focuses strongly on *ex situ* activities. The Working Groups are requested to carefully address alternative and complementary approaches.
4. Management of collections and populations of various crops has different requirements. Also, different institutions participating in the Working Groups may have different priorities. This process analysis may therefore have to be adapted by individual Working Groups.
5. All activities of Working Groups assume sharing of responsibilities. This aspect has not been separately mentioned.

### Specific comments

#### *Conservation*

6. Alternative and complementary strategies include cryopreservation, *in vitro* conservation and *ex situ* field conservation.

#### *Documentation*

7. Internet may provide database information down-loadable or on-line searchable.
8. Links with other programmes includes those of the informal sector.

#### *Collaboration*

9. Other relevant actors include other ECP/GR Networks and Working Groups.