

10 March 2020

Mr Ferdinando Branca
Dipartimento di Agricoltura, Alimentazione e Ambiente (DiA3)
Via Valdisavoia 5
95123 Catania
Italy

**Ref: ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme (Phase X)
Third Call for proposals**

Subject: Proposal "EUBRASWILD"

Dear Ferdinando,

I am very pleased to inform you that the ECPGR Executive Committee (ExCo), during its recent meeting on 26 February 2020, approved for funding the proposal 'Capturing Brassica wild relatives diversity in the South Eastern Europe (EUBRASWILD), conditioned to the respect of a few recommendations.

The ExCo appreciated the topic of the project and recognized that the proposed activities deserve to be carried out. Some concern was however expressed for the general formulation of the project, since the focus remains too wide in terms of geographical range, type of crops and number of activities that can be carried out with the given budget. Please note that the main output expected from this project by the ExCo is that you fill gaps of Brassica crop wild relatives in the existing genebanks and make this new material available through inclusion in EURISCO and AEGIS. Also the update of crop-specific standards for Brassica crop wild relatives is an important output. On the other hand, we think that phenotyping and genotyping of accessions could be carried out with complementary funds and a specific purpose, outside the remits of the current project.

The ExCo recommends that you include the ECPGR Secretary, Lorenzo Maggioni, as a self-funded partner. He will participate to the kick-off meeting and help monitoring the implementation of a detailed plan of activities and the corresponding use of budget lines. Please also note that the kick-off meeting cannot take place in April 2020, since the start date of the project cannot be earlier than 14 May (three months after deadline of call). Please coordinate the possible dates with Lorenzo. In case no suitable date can be found in time for the organization of the collecting expeditions during the coming summer, you may consider postponing your Activity to the next suitable season in 2021.

We noted a miscalculation in the budget table, since 6 participants are involved in the two meetings, therefore each meetings budget should be reduced to Euro 4500. The total for meetings (Euro 9000) and expeditions (Euro 4200) is therefore Euro 13200. We propose that the use of the remaining Euro 6 800 is divided equally among the partners for regeneration, so that the total overall budget for this Activity remains Euro 20 000.

Please don't hesitate to contact the Secretariat in case you need any further clarification.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you and all the partners involved in this proposal and look forward to a successful implementation.

Best wishes,



Marianne Lefort
Chair of the ECPGR Executive Committee

Copy for information: Ms Smiljana Goreta Ban, Institute of Agriculture and Tourism, K. Huguesa 8, 52440 Poreč, Croatia