

Dr Huff will study the differentiation of several *Poa* species by analysing their genetic background (ploidy level, relationship between *annua annua*, *annua mutabilis*, *supina* and new *Poa* species).

It was also pointed out that other international joint missions were presented as part of the national reports (i.e. the Nordic mission to Greenland).

Sharing of responsibilities

Progress of WG workplan to define and verify “Originality” status, leading to the systematic definition of “Primary Holder” and eventual assignment of “European Forage Collection” status

Progress in the *Poa* database

On the basis of an updated European *Poa* Database (EPDB), data were analysed to define and verify the “Originality” status, which will lead to the definition of the “Primary Holder”.

The EPDB includes more than 5000 accessions, belonging to 37 species originating from 52 countries. Accession donors are 22 institutions from 17 countries.

A first data investigation (screening for duplicates among accessions by variety names) showed that there are 522 duplicate accessions (with multiple occurrences of 186 accession names). The definition of most original sample (MOS) for each accession name and verification of primary holders can lead to a reduction of unnecessary multiplication (by 336 accessions).

As a result of the first MOS definition, there are 3443 accessions that are “most original samples”, 68% of the whole collection. These accessions mostly belong to the group of collected material (70%). For the remaining approximately 1500 accessions, there will be discussions at the European level with several Working Group members and curators as to whether and which accessions should be maintained by whom in the future.

In all clear cases, from the “Originality” status, the “Primary Holder” could be estimated by the database manager for 70% of all the accessions of the EPDB. Eighteen percent of the collection was already accepted by the respective curators as “Primary Holder” and these accessions are candidates for the European Forage Collection (EFC). This is the first step in the direction of assigning the “EFC” status descriptor, which is completely accomplished only when the Primary Holder institution maintains and regenerates all these accessions in accordance with European genebank standards and when there is a safety-duplicate for each accession. A data comparison shows that this already seems to be true for 13% of all accessions (total 656 from the following institutes: Nordic Gene Bank³ (SWE002), Lithuanian Institute of Agriculture (LTU001), Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (NLD037), Università degli Studi di Perugia (ITA363), Swiss Federal Research Station for Agronomy (CHE002), and partly IPK Genebank, Satellite Collections North (DEU271)).

Discussion

The Group discussed the need to make more progress in order to validate MOS and to identify primary holders.

³ In January 2008 a merger between the Nordic Gene Bank, the Nordic Gene Bank Farm Animals and the Nordic Council for Forest Reproductive Material resulted in the establishment of the Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen).

It was established that data on breeder lines that have recently been included in the IGER collection may be entered into the central databases and made available to users, upon request, but no automatic responsibility for maintenance will be accepted by IGER, even if the accessions are MOS (i.e. they will not have a primary holder status assigned).

E. Willner explained that the number currently suggested as “Primary Holder” for Germany also includes material which originated outside Germany, since the German curator is the collector and feels responsible for it. This material can however be considered for transfer of responsibility to the country of origin, upon consultation with the relevant curators.

As a first round, Steps 1, 2 and 3 of the workplan have been completed for *Poa* and *Phleum*. However, this is an ongoing process as long as new accession data are being delivered to the DB.

Curators should make sure that data are provided both to the DB managers and to EURISCO.

I. Thomas said that in the case of the *Lolium* and *Trifolium repens* databases, incorporation of a new large UK collection needs to be completed before the analysis of these databases for MOS can be started.

It was noted that DB managers will need to frequently remind the WG members to provide the data in order to be successful.

L. Horváth would like to see DB managers obtaining information more actively, not only from WG members, but also from curators and national coordinators. However, B. Boller made it clear that the WG members have the obligation to know what is going on in their own country and he encouraged each WG member to take on their share of this responsibility.

L. Horváth said that the *Bromus* and *T. pratense* DBs need to be completely renewed and that only after that, can the primary holder identification be started. Although it is not clear yet when this will be possible, the RCA Tápiószele wish to continue the maintenance of the databases and will strive to make progress as soon as possible.

The Group encouraged Lajos to start the new databases by extracting the data from EURISCO.

J.-P. Sampaou explained that a new person responsible for the *Medicago sativa* Database will soon be appointed at the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA) and that this person will take over the responsibility for making progress with this DB.

For the *Festuca* and *Dactylis* Databases, E. Willner stated that G. Żurek, the DB manager, is asking for data and that work on the DBs is in progress.

Decisions and workplan

- **Poa collection**

Proposed Primary Holders for Poa accessions suggested by E. Willner were checked with the Group and commitments were accepted by the delegates as follows:

Country	Institute code*	Commitments
Belgium	BEL049	2 accs., A. Ghesquiere accepts 2 as PRIMCOLL
Bulgaria	BGR001	69 accs. are MOS and 1 acc. is "more away" donation, E. Willner will send data to Y. Guteva (final decision to be confirmed)
Czech Republic	CZE082	71 accs., E. Willner will send data to M. Ševčíková (to be confirmed as PRIMCOLL)
France	FRA243	17 accs., J.-P. Sampoux accepts 17 as PRIMCOLL
Hungary	HUN003	127 accs. (to be discussed, needs a formal agreement from responsible authority)
Poland	POL022	2398 accs. (to be discussed with G. Żurek)
Romania	ROM003	7 accs., E. Willner will send data to T. Marusca (final decision to be confirmed)
Slovakia	SVK001	1 acc., E. Willner will send data to J. Drobná (final decision to be confirmed)
Slovenia	SVN019	22 accessions are MOS, V. Meglič accepts 22 as PRIMCOLL
Turkey	TUR001	13 accs., H. Özpınar accepts 13 as PRIMCOLL
United Kingdom	GBR016	44 accs. are MOS and 7 accs. are "one away" donations, I. Thomas accepts for IGER (others to be checked with GBR088)

* Full names of institutes (FAO-WIEWS):
 BELCLOGRVP (BEL049): Government Plant Breeding Station
 BGR001: Institute for Plant Genetic Resources "K. Malkov"
 CZEZUBRI (CZE082, CZE096): Oseva PRO Ltd., Grassland Research Station
 GEVES Le Magneraud (FRA243): Réseau Plantes fourragères et à gazon
 HUN003: Institute for Agrobotany
 POL003 (POL022): Botanical Garden of Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute
 ROMSUCEAVA (ROM003): Grassland Research Institute
 SVK001: Plant Production Research Center
 SVN019: Crop and Seed Production Department, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
 TUR001: Plant Genetic Resources Department
 GBRIGER, GBRRBGK (GBR016, GBR088): Genetic Resources Unit, Institute of Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences, Aberystwyth University

The detailed table with the full list of accessions for which primary holders have been identified is included in this report as Appendix I (pp. 27-28). The accepted accessions will be marked by the database manager in the Poa database in the corresponding descriptor (PRIMCOLL).

As a next step, each WG member will receive from the DB manager the list of accessions that need clarification as regards to:

1. their MOS status
2. acceptance of Primary Holder
3. complete data for storage (long-term and safety-duplicate)
4. acceptance as candidates for EFC
5. empty fields to be completed

A reminder was given that the detailed responsibilities for the primary holder were defined in the workplan agreed at the Lindau meeting and a revised version is included in this report as Appendix II (p. 29).

• **Phleum collection**

Petter Marum showed the data on the Phleum DB, giving his suggestions of the primary collection holders (Step 3 of the workplan). He will continue the interaction with the respective WG members, in close collaboration with the Nordic Gene Bank (NGB), in order to finalize the decision on primary holders (steps 4-6 of the workplan), as above for Poa (1 to 5).

- **All collections**

All DB managers are encouraged to submit the list of proposed primary holders to the respective WG members or to the genebank curators, with a copy to the WG member.

WG members are responsible for ensuring that curators within their country provide their data to their respective National Inventories, hence to EURISCO, as well as specific forage descriptors data to the Central Crop DB managers. WG members should also inform the DB managers about acceptance by curators in their country of primary holder responsibility for a number of MOS accessions.

All the WG members are encouraged to interact with the various DB managers and the curators in their respective countries in order to facilitate the conclusion of the workplan steps leading to assignment of accessions to the European Forage Collection.

A table with contact details of database managers for *Dactylis*, *Festuca*, *Lolium*, *Medicago*, *Phleum*, *Poa* and *Trifolium* was prepared and is included in this report as Appendix III (p. 30).

The Excel format provided as a background document in preparation for this meeting should be used for data exchange. The file is also available from the Chair or the ECPGR Secretariat upon request.

- **Timeframe**

- The *Poa* and *Phleum* exercise is expected to be completed **by the end of the year 2007.**
- WG members are expected to provide updated data to the DB managers **by the end of November, every year.**

AEGIS

A short account prepared by Lorenzo Maggioni and Jan Engels (AEGIS Coordinator) was given of the ECPGR-funded project for "A European Genebank Integrated System" (AEGIS), which carried out a feasibility study (2004-2006) to promote the creation of a rational European plant genetic resources genebank system. This is aimed at conserving safely and in the long term the genetically unique and important accessions for Europe, at the same time ensuring their genetic integrity, viability and availability for breeding, research, and education. Principal benefits of AEGIS would be the following:

- Improved collaboration among European countries
- Cost-efficient conservation activities
- Reduced redundancy in European collections
- Improved quality standards of the conserved material across Europe
- Improved data quality and quantity for the European collections
- More effective regeneration
- Improved security of germplasm through safety-duplication
- Improved characterization and evaluation
- Facilitated access to germplasm
- Improved linkages between genebanks and users.

During the feasibility study, four Model Crop Groups (*Allium*, *Avena*, *Brassica* and *Prunus*) were used to take into consideration the organizational, technical, legal, political and financial aspects involved in the development of such a system.

AEGIS will need to establish formal arrangements (a collective Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by the member countries and their institutions, as well as inter-institutional contracts).

The intention is to build on the ECPGR institutional framework, whereby the ECPGR SC provides "governance" and the AEGIS Advisory Committee provides oversight. It will also build on the existing capacity of (national) genebanks and an important role and