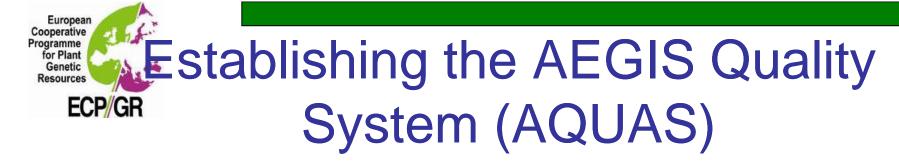




Proposed next steps for the implementation of the AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS)

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Eighth Meeting of the Working Group on *Prunus* 7-9 September 2010, Forli', Italy



Introductory note:

- Steering Committee agreed with approach (see Quality System for AEGIS discussion paper on AEGIS Web site)
- Paper also includes agreed principles, operational framework, technical elements, capacity building and oversight mechanism



AQUAS - Principles

Quality system to be based on the principles:

- 1. Quality assurance
 - Plan: Say what you do
 - Do: Do what you say
 - Check: Let an independent body check that you do what you say
 - Act: Correct and improve what you say you do
- 2. Decisions by consensus
- Agreed minimum standards involve partners; get "buy-in"
- 4. Capacity building plays a key role
- 5. Avoid unnecessary bureaucracy (pragmatic; not doctrinaire)
- 6. Effective guidance and advisory approach as monitoring



Technical elements

Elements to be established:

- Operational genebank manual all AEGIS Associate Members; based on genebank template (advanced draft available, version 8)
- 2. Generic operational standards Secretariat (based on manuals and suggestions by WGs; cooperation with FAO)
- 3. Agreed minimum crop specific technical standards all WGs (complementing generic standards)
- **4. Quality management system procedures** Secretariat; all WGs; Associate Members:
 - a. record keeping
 - b. reporting
 - c. monitoring (not policing, but guiding and advisory approach)

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Capacity building and oversight

Capacity building:

- If standards are not met -> capacity building (in agreement and possible support from National Coordinator)
- In case funds are not available locally, or through projects ->AEGIS
 Advisory Committee to assist
- Where applicable, training courses and/or on-the-job training to be organized at Network or Programme level

Oversight:

- 1. First level monitoring of implementation of AQUAS by WGs
- 2. Second level monitoring across WGs by AEGIS AC
- 3. AEGIS AC to oversee implementation of AQUAS



Operational framework - 1

Partners and their major roles/outputs:

1. ECPGR Secretariat:

- 1. Prepare draft template for genebank manual
- 2. Draft generic operational standards

2. Working Groups or NCGs:

- 1. Draft minimum standards by crop
- 2. Organize reporting system
- 3. Organize/implement the monitoring system



Operational framework - 2

3. AEGIS Advisory Committee

- 1. Comment on draft generic standards
- 2. Approve template
- Comment on minimum standards (ensure "equal treatment" between crops)

4. ECPGR Steering Committee:

- 1. Approve generic and technical standards
- 2. Approve reports
- 3. Decide on issues / capacity building recommendations



Operational framework - 3

5. Associate Members:

- 1. Adopt standards,
- 2. prepare genebank manual,
- 3. keep records,
- 4. write reports, and
- 5. adopt monitoring system



AQUAS – where are we?

- Discussion paper endorsed by SC; on the AEGIS website
- Ample discussions (at least for some crops)
- Agreed timeframe and process as well as responsibilities for its development
- Further "fine tuning" in EUROGENEBANK Project was planned; now to be done without additional support
- "New item" (part of EUROGENEBANK Project preparation): need for some sort of certification (of an accession or collection; a genebank; a genebank operation?)
 (ISO, AEGIS or what kind of certification?)
- A pre-condition to allow rationalization of collections to take place!?



The way forward - WGs

- 1. Testing the final template fro a genebank manual: any *Prunus* specific genebank interested to test it out and prepare genebank manual (September)?
- 2. Comment on generic technical standards (autumn 2010)
- 3. Initiation of process to develop crop specific technical minimum standards (from September onwards):
 - a. Collecting / Acquisition
 - b. Regeneration / Propagation
 - c. Drying and other preparatory steps
 - d. Storage/field genebank maintenance
 - e. Seed quality and viability monitoring
 - f. Dispatch and disposal
 - g. Characterization



Thank you for-your attention!

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