

curators to propose the accessions for AEGIS. Choosing among duplicates was also difficult owing to the absence of defined primary criteria for the selection of MAAs. The concept of “duplicates” and the need to make (or not make) choices was also challenged.

Recommendation

The “PGR Duplicate Finder” software (see p. 14), which is under development at CGN, was brought to the attention of the participants. It was recommended for use on the Solanaceae Databases. A discussion on the preferred criteria for selecting among duplicates was postponed.

Workplan

1. The lists compiled by the sub-groups (155 wild tomatoes, 168 wild *Capsicum* species, 246 *Physalis*, 11 *Cyphomandra* and 13 pepino) will be sent by the Chair **by end September 2012** to the appropriate National Coordinators, who in turn, in consultation with the collection holders concerned, should confirm **before end 2012** whether the accessions can be flagged as part of AEGIS in EURISCO.
2. Representatives from Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Poland and Slovakia will send lists of candidate Solanaceae accessions to the Chair **by end May 2012**. The Chair will ensure that the lists are cross-checked for duplicates by the relevant persons and that proposals for inclusion into AEGIS are made. The Chair will then send the lists to the National Coordinators **by end September 2012**, as per point 1 above.
3. Curators of collections from the other countries are also invited to send lists of candidate accessions to the Chair **by end May 2012**. The Chair will ensure that the lists are cross-checked for duplicates by the relevant persons and that proposals for inclusion into AEGIS are made. The Chair will then send the lists to the National Coordinators **by end September 2012**, as per points 1 and 2 above.

The AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS)

Introduction

The aim of “A European Genebank Integrated System” (AEGIS) is to establish a European Collection. It will be a virtual European Genebank, maintained in accordance with agreed quality standards; its material must be freely available in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Treaty). The Steering Committee decided to establish the AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS) as an important part of AEGIS.

W. van Dooijeweert explained the six principles of AQUAS in a PowerPoint presentation.

The draft “Template for operational genebank manuals - seed” prepared by the ECPGR Secretariat reviews the genebank management practices of each ECPGR member. The roadmap towards standards is laid in the “Workplan towards the establishment of AQUAS”. Both documents, which are available online on the AEGIS Web site (<http://aegis.cgiar.org/aquas.html>), were shown to the Group.

The intention is that Generic Standards will be adopted from the document to be finalized by the FAO in 2012. In addition, each WG is expected to develop crop-specific standards, which must be derived from the agreed operational genebank manual or the FAO document.

W. van Dooijeweert reviewed the target areas for crop-specific technical standards, which are:

- a. Collecting and acquisition
- b. Regeneration and propagation
- c. Drying and other preparatory steps
- d. Storage
- e. Seed quality and viability monitoring
- f. Distribution
- g. Characterization.

Generic operational standards

The FAO drafted the "Revised Genebank Standards for the Conservation of Orthodox Seeds". The most recent official version is from July 2011 and is still not approved (www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/022/MB179E.pdf). The ECPGR Secretariat had proposed to adopt these generic standards and verify whether these could be adequate for the WG or a more stringent standard should be adopted.

U. Lohwasser conducted the Group through an internal version dated November 2011.

Discussion

The Group agreed that genebanks and other collection holders will try to follow the FAO Genebank Standards to the extent possible. However, it was also highlighted that in many cases the standards were too strict, even for advanced genebanks.

A. Tan stated that for Solanaceae crops it was important to extract seeds in a proper way after collecting expeditions. If not, the quality of the seeds could deteriorate rapidly because of problems such as fungi. The Group thought that this recommendation was not a crop-specific standard but deserved to be mentioned as it was important. The "Standardized minimum protocol for seed regeneration and seed storage of Solanaceae", which had been published in the report of the Bari meeting² will now be updated to include this new information. The new version is included as Appendix III (pp. 24-26) and will be posted on the Solanaceae WG Web site (http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/networks/vegetables/solanaceae/solanaceae_wg_docs_and_info.html).

Recommendation

- The Group concluded that the FAO Genebank Standards could be adopted as they are, and that the genebanks should strive to follow them. No need was felt to develop more stringent standards.

² Daunay MC, van Dooijeweert W, Maggioni L, Lipman E, compilers. 2006. Report of a Working Group on Solanaceae. Ad hoc Meeting, held jointly with the Fifth Meeting of the EGGNET Project, 17 September 2004, Bari, Italy. International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy. (Appendix II, pp. 45-47).