Steering Committee Coordinating Secretariat Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network Vegetables, Medicinal and Aromatic Documentation and Information Cereals Network Forages Network Fruit Network Oil and Protein In situ and Inter-regional Cooperation Network Crops Network On-farm Conservation Network Plants Network Network NCG NCG NCG NCG NCG NCG NCG NCG NCG Wild Species Conservation Inter-regional Cooperation National Working Groups Working Group Working Groups Working Group Working Groups Working Groups Inventory Focal Task Force Forages Malus/Pyrus Grain Legumes Allium Points in Genetic Avena Reta Fibre Crops Reserves Task Barley Prunus Brassica European (Flax and Cucurbits Central Crop Force Hemp) Potato Leafy Database On-farm Vegetables Managers Information and Communication Conservation Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and Management Task Force Technology Advisory Group EURISCO Solanaceae Umbellifer Crops Advisory Group



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Thematic Networks

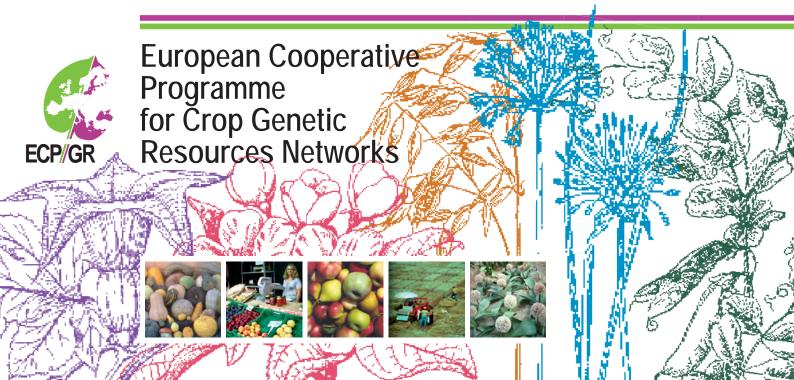


EURISCO Web site: eurisco.ecpgr.org



AEGIS Web site: www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/AEGIS/AEGIS.htm

Photos courtesy of: P. Fernandez de Cordova, A. Del Greco, T. Gass, R. Kamenetsky, M. Lateur





he European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR) is a collaborative Programme among most European countries, aimed at facilitating the long-term conservation on a cooperative basis and the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in

ECP/GR was founded in 1980 on the basis of the recommendations of the UNDP, FAO and the Genebank Committee of the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA).

> The European meeting on Plant Genetic Resources held in Nitra, Slovakia, September 1995, recommended that ECP/GR be used as a 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

objectives .

- 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 that 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 plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe

- To increase awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use
- To seek collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives



Phase VII of ECP/GR started in January 2004 for a period of five years (2004-2008). A budget of nearly 2.2 million euro was approved by the Steering Committee, which is mainly dedicated to coordination and Network operations (i.e. meetings, publications, ad hoc actions), while the Working Group members and other scientists carry out agreed activities with their own resources as an input in kind.

International context and interactions

The Programme also interacts with other bodies, programmes or collaborative projects addressing plant genetic resources, such as the European System of Cooperative Research Networks in Agriculture (ESCORENA), the Genetic Resources Programme of the EU (EC No 870/2004) and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

Activities within the ECP/GR Networks translate into a number of collaborative outputs:

 CENTRAL CROP DATABASES (on-line available crop specific accession data from European collections) - www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/Databases/Databases.htm

EURISCO (the largest on-line catalogue of passport data collected from European national inventories of plant genetic resources) - eurisco.ecpgr.org

· AEGIS (an initiative to establish A European Genebank Integration System for a more rational conservation and exchange of crop genetic resources in Europe) www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/AEGIS/AEGIS.htm

PROJECTS (successful project proposals submitted for funding to the EU and other

agencies) – e.g.: barley.ipk-gatersleben.de **PUBLICATIONS** (Working Group meeting reports, including collaborative workplans and information on the status of genetic resources in the European countries) www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/Publications/Publications.htm



Structure and modus operandi



The Steering Committee, consisting of the National Coordinators, is responsible for guiding the ECP/GR Programme. The European Commission is invited to nominate a representative as full member of this Committee. EuroMab, the European Seed Association (ESA), EUCARPIA, FAO, IPGRI, the Nordic Gene Bank (NGB), and one NGO representative are invited as observers. The Coordinating Secretariat is currently provided by IPGRI, as appointed by the Steering Committee.

The Programme is entirely financed by the participating countries and operates through broadly focused Networks dealing with groups of crops or thematic areas related to plant genetic resources.

The National Coordinators are responsible for nominating members to represent their country's interest and activities in the various Working Groups (WG) and in the other Groups and Task Forces of ECP/GR. Each WG is coordinated by a Chair and a Vice-Chair elected by the WG members.

Priorities for Phase VII

Four main issues were endorsed as future ECP/GR priorities:

- Characterization and evaluation (including use of modern technologies)
- Task sharing
- In situ and on-farm conservation
- Documentation and information

