

# **“CWR Conservation Strategies” The ECPGR context**

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ECPGR Secretariat

Nordic/ECPGR Joint Workshop - CWR Conservation Strategies,  
22 September 2016, Vilnius, Lithuania

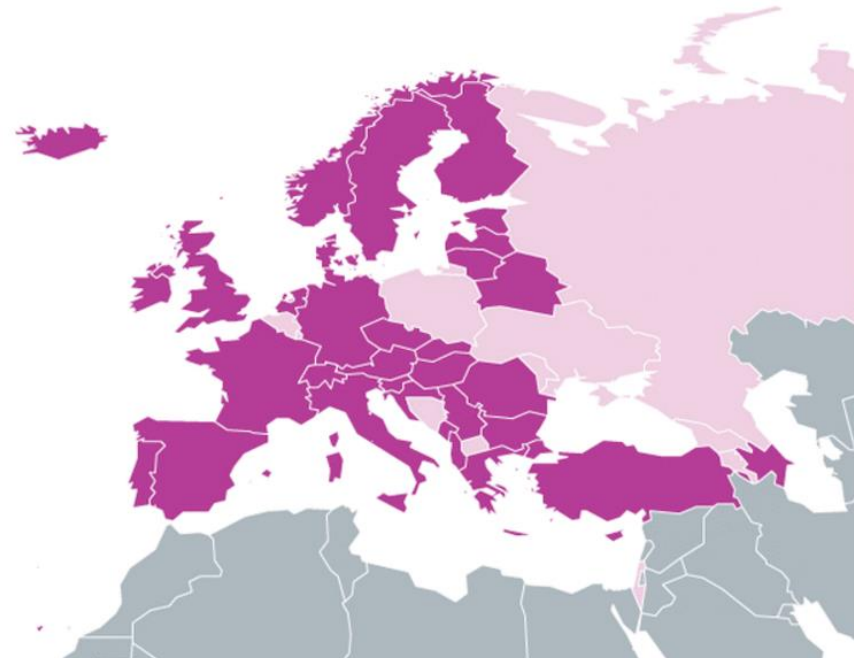
# What is ECPGR

**ECPGR** is a collaborative Programme among most European countries, aiming at ensuring the long-term conservation and facilitating the utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe.

[www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/](http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/)

# Phase IX (2014-2018)

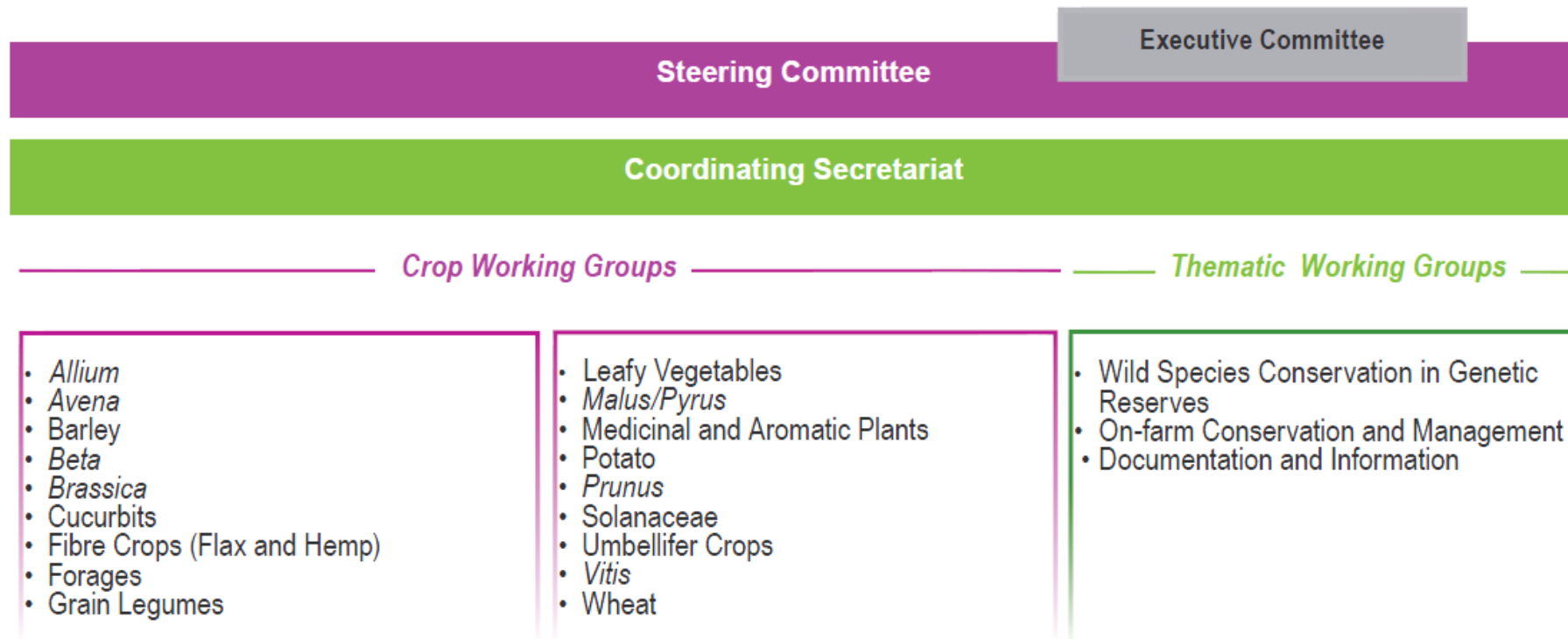
- Annual budget ca. € 520k from 38 countries
- Letters of Agreement signed by 33 countries



# Objectives of ECPGR – outcomes of Phase IX

1. **AEGIS** is operational and accessions are characterized and evaluated
2. Functionality of **EURISCO** ensured (data quality & quantity + in situ data)
3. ***In situ and on-farm conservation and management*** of priority crop wild relative (CWR) and landrace (LR) populations are implemented throughout Europe
4. Relations with **users** of germplasm are strengthened
5. Commitment and regular resources from donors are increased
6. Secretariat support is adequate to sustain operations of ECPGR

# Structure



# ECPGR operates through Working Groups

- Chair + Working Group members nominated by National Coordinators
- Operation through meetings and small activities under “ECPGR Grant Scheme”

## Traditional activities:

- Exchange of information and plan collaboration
- Agreement on standards, guidelines, descriptors
- Setting up databases and exchanging data
- International project preparation
- Training, capacity building

# Composition of Working Group on 'Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves'

- Chair: Nigel Maxted, UK
- 82 members from 37 countries:
  - Genebank curators: 24
  - Crop specialists: 33
  - Info/Doc specialist: 18
  - Plant breeders: 4
  - Policy and law: 18
  - Other expertise: 8

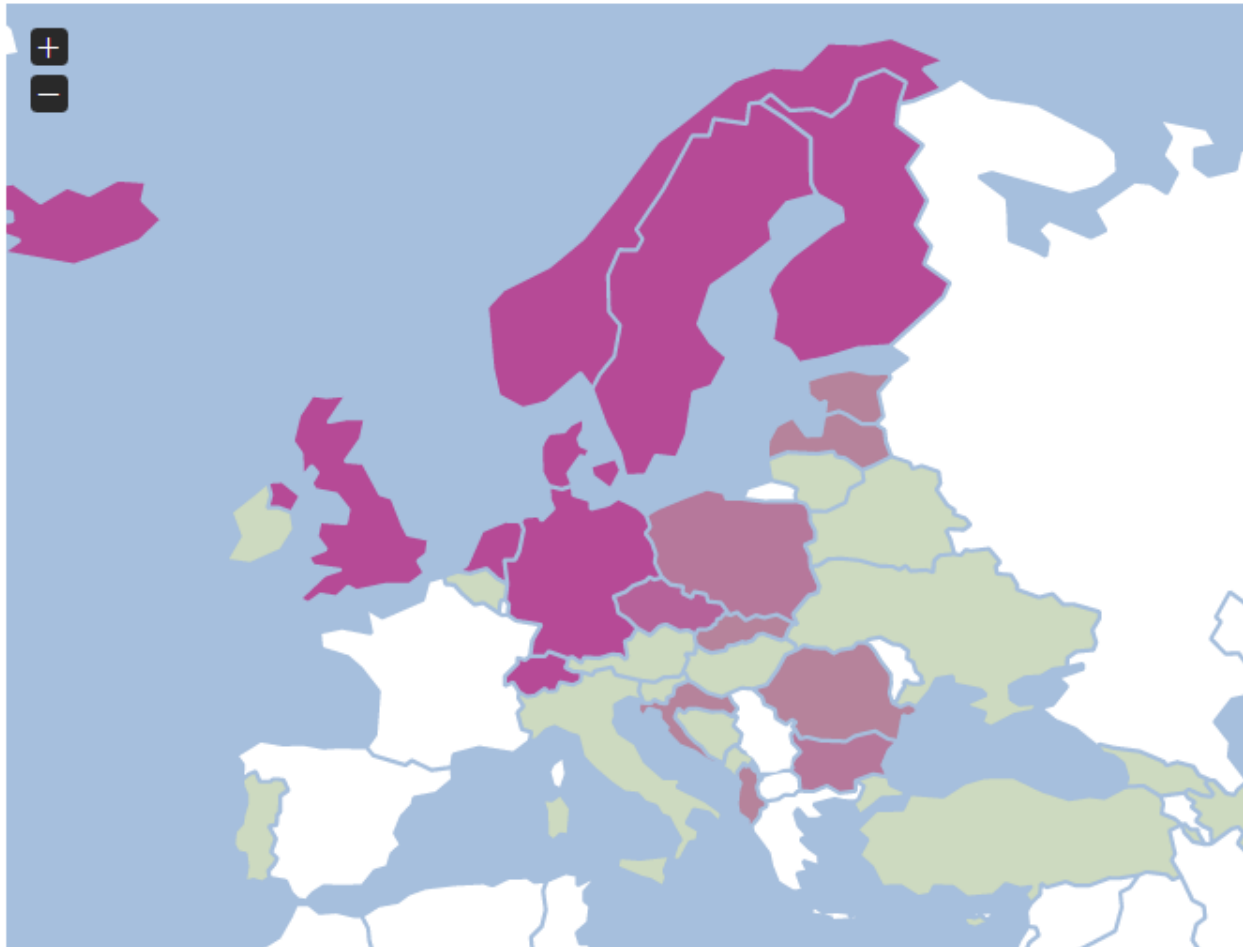
## Outcome 1- AEGIS is operational

- To create **A European Genebank Integrated System** for PGRFA, aimed at **conserving the genetically unique and important accessions for Europe and making them available** for breeding and research. Such material will be safely conserved under conditions that **ensure genetic integrity and viability in the long term.**



# The European Collection

Total number of European Accessions: 28 847 (September 2016)

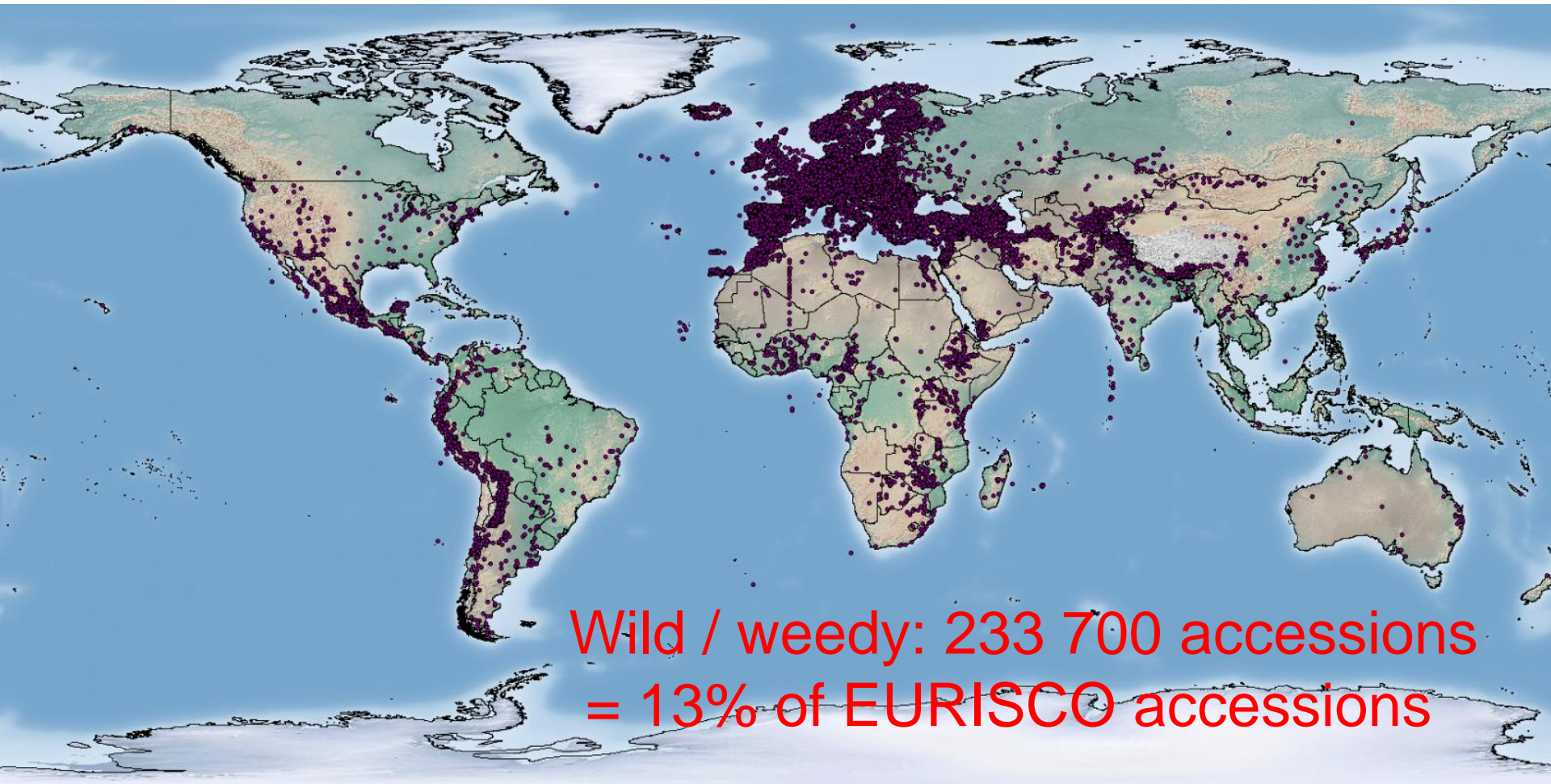


**Wild: 5881  
accessions  
(20%)**

Forages: 56%  
Vegetables: 27%  
MAPs: 16%  
Cereals: 1%  
Grain leg: 0%

## Outcome 2- Quantity and quality of data in EURISCO

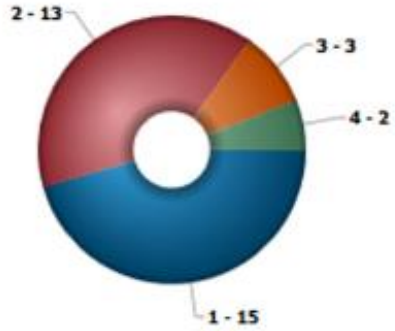
- 1.8M accession data from ca. 400 institutions throughout Europe
- Largest data provider to Genesys and the Global Information System



# New feature of EURISCO: C&E data

Trait details < Back

Distribution of scores



Score	Count
1	15
2	13
3	3
4	2

Descriptive statistics

Trait Name	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Stddev	Variance	First Quartile	Median	Third Quartile
Head shape	1	4	1.76	.87	.75	1	2	2

Experiment description: 50 Latin lettuce. 8 Cos lettuce. 19 duplicates. 24 reference varieties. Field trial. sowing date : 15/3. planting date 26/4. plant distance 0.30x0.30 m.. 40-48 plants per object. IVT grounds. Wageningen.

Trait name: Head shape

Trait method: At harvest maturity, in longitudinal section(0=no head, 1=elliptic, 2=broad el., 3=circular, 4=transverse el.)R

Limited to species: *Lactuca aculeata* Boiss.; *Lactuca altaica* Fish. & Mey.; *Lactuca biennis* (Moench) Fern.; *Lactuca canadensis* L.; *Lactuca dregeana* DC.; *Lactuca georgica* L.; *Lactuca homblei* De Wild.; *Lactuca indica* L.; *Lactuca perennis* L.; *Lactuca quercina* L.; *Lactuca raddeana* Maxim; *Lactuca saligna* L.; *Lactuca sativa* L.; *Lactuca sativa* x *serriola*; *Lactuca serriola* L.; *Lactuca tatarica* (L.) C. A. Mey.; *Lactuca tenerrima* POURR.; *Lactuca viminea* (L.) J. & G. Presl.; *Lactuca virosa* L.

Additional filters

Species:  ▼

Origin Country:  ▼



# Outcome 3. *In situ* conservation of priority CWR and LR populations

## CONCEPT:

- National and regional conservation strategies (checklists → priorities → inventories → action plans )
- Designation and management of **Most Appropriate Wild Populations** (genetic diversity and traits of interest) in **genetic reserves**

## **ECPGR Concept for *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives in Europe**

Nigel Maxted, Alvina Avagyan, Lothar Frese, José Iriondo,  
Joana Magos Brehm, Alon Singer and Shelagh Kell

Endorsed by the ECPGR Steering Committee in March 2015



## Outcome 3: On-farm concept

- Third draft agreed by WG, ready to be submitted to SC

### **Proposed ECPGR approach:**

- **European Inventory** of on-farm genetic diversity
- Developing **indicators** for monitoring diversity and threat
- Promoting **good practices** for on-farm management and conservation and adding value
- Concept of European **on-farm crop diversity sites** and its implementation
- Proposing **legal and technical solutions** to address issues of ownership, access, availability, marketing, etc.

## Outcome 3 – Activities

First Call (2014):

- **GeDiPa:** Survey of genus *Patellifolia* (genetic reserve)
- **Forages 2020:** Established workplan on in situ cons. of forage crops

Second Call (2015):

- **CWR Conservation strategies:** ongoing
- **InWiGrape:** Inventory of wild *Vitis vinifera* and standards for ex situ / in situ conservation

Third Call (2016):

- **CCLEAFY:** Consequences of climate change for conserving leafy vegetables CWRs in Europe (30 species)

Fourth Call (2016): **Good opportunity!**

## Outcome 4: Relations with users of germplasm are strengthened

Granted Activity '**LINKAGES**': Assessing linkages between genebanks and direct users  
Submitted by 'On-farm WG'

# Report of the Steering Committee

Fourteenth Meeting

31 May - 2 June 2016, Višegrad, Bosnia and Herzegovina



Background documents:  
→ [www.ecpgr.cgiar.org](http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org)



# Evaluation of mode of operation of ECPGR – Phase IX

## Overall rate:

Highly satisfactory: 17%

Satisfactory: 60%

Partly satisfactory: 20%

Not satisfactory: 1%

## General comments:

- Need more funds to implement objectives
- Chairs overloaded with responsibilities
- Request for simplification and more flexibility of Grant Scheme
- ECPGR ability to involve all countries might be at risk

# Evaluation of Working Group Chairs

The Chair of the Wild species WG received the highest score (2.71 on a 0-3 scale)

Wild species WG had the highest number of respondents (24)

# Steering Committee decisions for remaining of Phase IX

- All WG Chairs reconfirmed until the end of the Phase
- Workload on shoulders of Chairs → NCs should encourage WG members to be more active
- No immediate changes on the mode of operation as it is too early to judge its effectiveness
- Possible increased budget to fund activity proposals, including funding per project
- NCs and WG Chairs recommended to focus on identification and flagging of accessions → AEGIS
- AEGIS → WGs recommended to inventory 'needs for services' and 'offers of services' by the Associate Members

# Steering Committee decisions for remaining of Phase IX

## Outcome 3 – *In situ* /On-farm

- NCs and WG members are encouraged to promote related activities at country level.
- The ECPGR Concepts for in situ conservation of crop wild relatives in Europe and for on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA should be offered to the EC for consideration.
  - Letter in preparation

# Steering Committee decisions for Phase X

- Revision of the ECPGR Objectives
- Budget line for WG meetings (based on cost efficiency) to allow WG members to establish collaboration for action
- Budget line for Grant Scheme (more flexible, no longer 75:25 ratio)
- Working Groups to engage more with users (supporting use, pre-breeding, etc.)

# Steering Committee decisions for Phase X

26. Based on the agreement reached at the Doc&Info meeting in Prague (2014) to include in EURISCO data of in situ CWR conserved in genetic reserves, representatives from the Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves WG, the Doc&Info WG and selected Crop WGs should develop an agreed minimum data exchange format on the basis of existing in situ descriptor lists.

# Other Steering Committee decisions - 1

- Lobbying with EC for recognition of ECPGR for implementation of EU Programme on PGRFA → Follow up to conclusion of EU Preparatory Action in June 2016 with following recommendations:
  - Recognise and define agro-biodiversity in EU agricultural policy and legislation
  - Establish a EU Coordination Platform
  - Develop a long-term EU Agrobiodiversity Strategy
  - Support partnerships and cooperation between actors at all levels in the supply chain
  - Develop an appropriate infrastructure for pre-breeding activities
  - Review grant funding mechanisms
  - Reduce administrative burden
  - Review legislation impacting on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

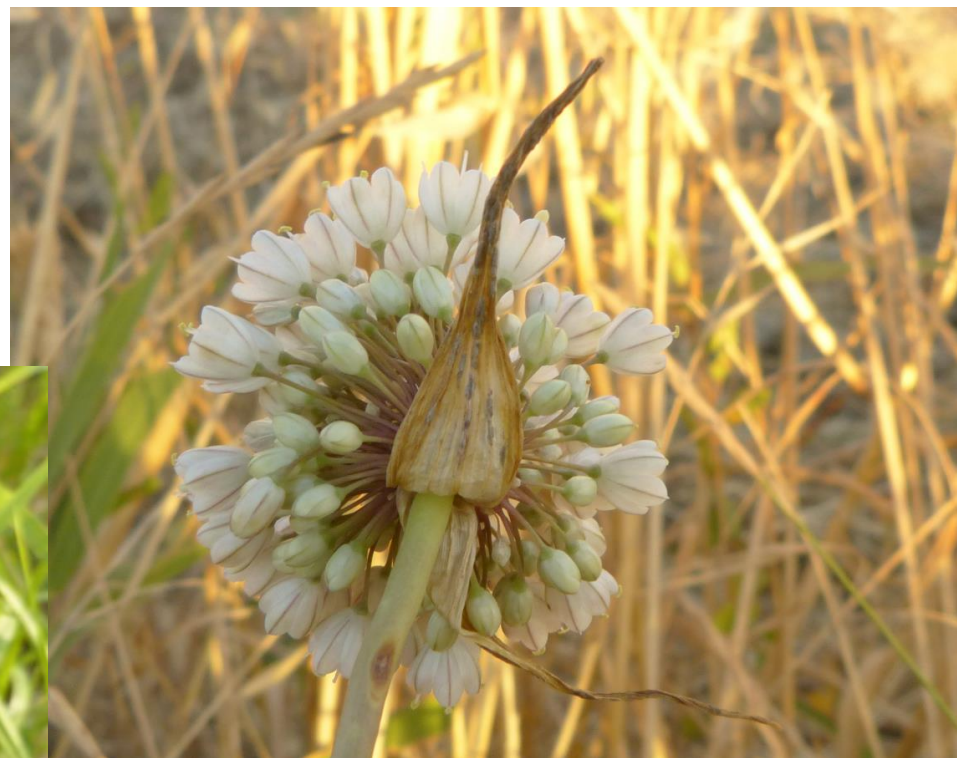
## Other Steering Committee decisions - 2

Recommendation to ECPGR member countries to use SMTA for distribution of both Annex I and non-Annex I PGRFA, independently whether material is conserved *ex situ* or held *in situ*



# Thank you for your attention!

*Lathyrus latifolius*, Abruzzo, Italy



*Allium longispathum*, Tuscany, Italy