AEGIS

A Quality System (AQUAS)

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Third ECPGR Vegetables Network Meeting
9 - 13 November 2009
Catania, Italy
Content of presentation

- Decision of SC to develop AQUAS
- The underlying principles
- Operational framework
- Identified players in establishing AQUAS
- Where are we?
- The way forward
AEGIS Advisory Committee supervises:

- Develop generic genebank management standards
- An effective monitoring system

Respective Working Groups coordinate:

- Development of crop specific technical standards
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

3. 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
Operational framework

Elements to be established:

1. Operational genebank manual – all genebanks; based on templates
2. Generic operational standards
3. Agreed minimum technical standards (crop specific)
4. Quality management system, incl. procedures to develop it:
   a. record keeping
   b. reporting
   c. monitoring (not policing, but guiding and advisory approach)
Identified players

1. ECPGR Secretariat
2. Working Groups or NCGs
3. AEGIS Advisory Committee
4. ECPGR Steering Committee
5. Associate member
AQUAS – where are we?

- Discussion paper endorsed by SC; on the AEGIS website (has been distributed)
- Ample discussions (at least for some crops)
- Agreed timeframe and process as well as responsibilities for its development
- Further “fine tuning” in EUROGENEBANK Project

- “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. Initiation of preparing genebank manuals (following proposed templates)

2. Initiation of process to develop crop specific technical minimum standards
   a. Collecting
   b. Regeneration
   c. Drying and other preparatory steps
   d. Storage/field genebank maintenance
   e. Seed quality and viability monitoring

3. Designing a monitoring + reporting system

Discussion on these next steps
Thank you for your attention!