



# Standards for the conservation of *Vitis* accessions – Introduction to the AEGIS policy

**Jan Engels**

Second Meeting of the ECPGR Working Group on *Vitis*,  
18-20 September 2012, Institut für Rebenzüchtung, Geilweilerhof, Siebeldingen, Germany



# Contents

- I. AQUAS principles and elements
- II. AEGIS “policy” on standards
- III. Where do we stand?
  - ad1. Generic technical genebank standards
  - ad2. Crop-specific technical standards
- IV. Proposed follow-up actions



# I. 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**



# I. Elements to be established

1. **Operational genebank manual** – all AEGIS Associate Members; based on genebank **template**; available from AEGIS Web site  
[http://aegis.cgiar.org/fileadmin/www.aegis.org/FOR\\_WEB\\_FINAL/Template\\_final240910.pdf](http://aegis.cgiar.org/fileadmin/www.aegis.org/FOR_WEB_FINAL/Template_final240910.pdf)
2. **Generic operational standards** – Secretariat (based on manuals and suggestions by WGs; cooperation with FAO)
3. **Agreed minimum technical standards** – all WGs (complementing generic standards; crop specific)
4. **Quality management system**, incl. procedures to develop it – Secretariat; all WGs; Associate Members:
  - a. record keeping
  - b. reporting
  - c. monitoring (not policing, but guiding and advisory approach)



## Responsibilities of the ECPGR bodies involved in the implementation of AQUAS


	<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>Working Groups</b>	<b>AEGIS Advisory Committee (AC)</b>	<b>ECPGR Steering Committee (SC)</b>	<b>Associate member</b>
<b>Generic operational standards</b>	Draft standards	Comment on draft	Comment on draft	Approve the generic standards	Adopt the standards
<b>Operational genebank manual</b>	Provide template, in collaboration with genebanks	Comment on the template, provided by the Secretariat	Approve the template	-	Fill in and publish the manual
<b>Agreed minimum standards (by crops or crop groups)</b>	Comment on standards; Publish online and archive	1) Draft and agree on the list of standards 2) Keep under ongoing revision	Comment the standards, especially from a “between crops” perspective	Approve the standards	Adopt the standards



## II. AEGIS “policy”

From the AEGIS Strategic Framework Policy Guide:

- *‘International guidelines for the conservation of accessions and related activities will be followed/applied and standards will be proposed for each crop gene pool by the respective Working Group and accepted, where appropriate, by the Steering Committee;*
- *Selected genebanks and other participating institutions, in agreement with the ECPGR National Coordinator, will perform all selected activities according to the agreed standards’;*

 Technical standards are a key component of AQUAS and provide the basis for the effective and efficient management of the European Collection



## III. Where do we stand?

### Responsibilities:

1. **Generic operational standards – Secretariat**
2. **Agreed minimum crop-specific technical standards – all WGs** (to complement generic standards)

### Ad 1. Generic operational genebank standards

- **FAO-IPGRI Genebank Standards** from 1994 have been widely used for orthodox seed species
- Several WGs had initiated activities to define standards (also as part of the selected **4 AEGIS model crops**)



## III. Where do we stand?

### What is the status of the AEGIS process?

- Several WGs either had already tentative standards agreed or discussed/agreed on first sets of standards, in particular the 4 model crops
- As part of EUROGENEBANK and more recently of Plant Gene Access proposals further ideas and initiatives were discussed and agreed

### While working on AEGIS standards this process coincided with FAO Genebank Standards updating process (started early 2010):

a) FAO Commission requested to “update” existing standards, incl. 1. on orthodox seeds, 2. non-orthodox seed and clonally propagated plants (i.e. field genebank and *in vitro*/cryopreservation) as well as on 3. evaluation

**b) Agreement with ECPGR Steering Committee to join the FAO process**





## III. Where do we stand?

### Current status of the 'combined' process:

- a) 2 Expert consultations were held (Rome and Madrid)
- b) E-consultations held and opportunities for comments
- c) Advanced “Draft Revised Genebank Standards for the Conservation of Orthodox Seeds” was discussed by Commission during its meeting July 2011. Feedback incorporated and current draft expected to be endorsed by Commission at its meeting in 2013.
- d) Secretariat participated in Expert Consultations and requested ECPGR members to comment on drafts
- e) Numerous ECPGR members did comment on each of the three drafts

(...)



## III. Where do we stand?

- f) FAO Web site on conservation standards:  
<http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/conservation/gbs/en/>
- g) Two new draft standards on **field genebanks** and **in vitro/cryopreservation** of non-orthodox seeds and vegetatively propagated crops prepared and discussed during expert consultation (**see next presentation**)
- h) These drafts have NOT yet been discussed by the **ITWG**
- i) In case of **urgent or important comments** these can still be submitted to FAO (**please note!**)
- j) Final drafts of field genebanks and *in vitro*/cryopreservation will be discussed at **6<sup>th</sup> Session of ITWG in Nov. 2012**

(...)



## III. Where do we stand?

- k) Foreseen to include all 3 standards into **one document**
- l) Assumed that **final draft** will be submitted to the FAO Commission for its meeting in 2013

**Ad 2. It has been agreed that WGs will carefully check the Commission endorsed version of the generic standards and thereafter decide whether (additional or new) standards are required.**

**Whereas the endorsement is still outstanding it is suggested that the WGs proceed with the current drafts as the basis for their decision**



## IV. Proposed follow-up actions

1. Each AEGIS Associated genebank should complete their **genebank manual**, using the template
2. Decide if **comments on draft field genebank and *in vitro*/cryopreservation standards** should be made. Little time is left as these drafts are being prepared for submission to ITWG!
3. Plan to **critically review** the relevant revised FAO standards for *Vitis* and decide whether ***Vitis*-specific standards** are required (either revised or new)



Thank you  
for your attention!

