

***Avena* Working Group progress during the first part of Phase IX (2014-2015)**

The activities of the *Avena* Working Group in 2015 were mainly concentrated into two tasks:

The first one was the submission of a Horizon 2020 project entitled 'Genetic Resources for Agriculture Diversification and Quality' (acronym GRAC-Q). Coordinator for the project was Dr. Christoph Germeier. This project evolved from the experience gathered from the three previous AGRI GEN RES EC funded projects involving *Avena*:

1. Evaluation and enhancement of *Avena* landrace collections for extensification of the genetic basis of *Avena* for quality and resistance breeding – Coordinator Dr. Andreas Katsiotis
2. AVEQ - *Avena* for quality in human consumption – Coordinator Dr. Christoph Germeier
3. AEGRO – An integrated European *in-situ* management work plan – Coordinator Dr. Lothar Freeze

Twenty-three partners were included in the project, a large number of which were also involved in the previously mentioned projects. Except *Avena*, other crops included were lentil, faba bean and linseed. The project reached the minimum thresholds necessary for 'stage 1-evaluation' and it was invited for a full proposal submission. During 'stage 2' the proposal unfortunately was not selected for funding.

The second one was the approval of the '*Avena* specific standards for orthodox seeds'. The initial document was edited in order to fulfill the special requirements of the crop. An initial invitation to all *Avena* ECPGR members was extended for commenting if additional requirements according to FAO standards needed to be included. Comments and remarks were included in a first draft and the document was circulated again among the members for additional remarks and corrections. A final draft was eventually agreed and it is at the process of being published.

No project proposal from the AWG was submitted under the ECPGR funding scheme.