

CUCURBITS WG REPORT FOR PHASE IX (2014-2018)

Submitted to the 15th Steering Committee Meeting, Thessaloniki, Greece, May 2018
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Date of compilation: 5 March 2018

1. CONTRIBUTION TO ECPGR OBJECTIVES

1.1. Achievements and success stories

Outcome 1. AEGIS is operational. Accessions in AEGIS are characterized and evaluated.

A long selection process of Most Appropriate Accessions (MAAs) had been carried out during the previous Phase VIII by many countries, based on criteria agreed in 2010. However, only the accessions from the Nordic countries could eventually be included in EURISCO. During Phase IX additional accessions of *Cucumis*, *Cucurbita*, *Luffa* and *Sechium* were included into AEGIS by Germany, The Netherlands and Romania.

- The AQUAS quality system was adopted and implemented by the WG through the approval in April 2015 of the Cucurbits-specific genebank standards for orthodox seeds.

Outcome 2. Quantity and quality of data in EURISCO, including in situ and on-farm data, have been increased. Functionality of EURISCO meets users' expectations.

A big effort has been made by the Cucurbits Working Group in order to gather as many passport data as possible and upload them into the European Central Cucurbits Database (ECCUDB). The most complete database by number of accessions seemed to be the ECCUDB (28845 accessions). However, these data were not verified by the National Inventory Focal Points. Passport information of 67.6% of the accessions are also included in EURISCO and only 7.9% of the accessions are flagged as European Accessions. As the ECCUDB could no longer be maintained by UPS of Valencia, an effort was made in 2017-18 to include valuable data into EURISCO, informing all the National Focal Points about accessions that were present in the ECCUDB, but not in EURISCO. A list of accessions, which apparently are not in EURISCO was sent to the National Inventory Focal Points. The lack of correspondence between Spanish EURISCO accessions and the ECCUDB is due to the use of different accession identifiers. In EURISCO the accessions are identified by the National Inventory code (NC*), in the ECCUDB they are identified by the holder genebank code (BGV*). A correspondence file between BGV* and NC* was sent by the Spanish National Coordinator. The Romanian Coordinator also provided a list of accessions already existing in Eurisco, not existing or not reliable anymore and recorded only in the ECCUDB. All accessions of the German genebank are already available in EURISCO. Latvia has 4 *Cucumis* accessions included in EURISCO (LVA00092, LVA00110, LVA00111, LVA00112). The status of the remaining accession (LVA00109) is 'pending', as there are some uncertainties about the provenance of this accession.

12. Gaps or constraints identified

Major constraints identified:

- Lack of funding due to the rejection of the two proposals submitted to the ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme. Without funding too little progress has been made by the Cucurbits WG in Phase IX.
- Lack of response of Cucurbits Working Group members for meeting or other initiatives.
- Mode of operation
 - Lack of contact among partners if no activities are conducted
 - The lack of meetings and contacts prevents the emergence of collaborations among partners.
- Databases: great discrepancy between the European Central Cucurbits Database (ECCUDB) and EURISCO.

2. GRANT SCHEME ACTIVITIES

- **Grant Scheme proposals (submitted: 2; approved: 0)**

Lack of response of Cucurbits Working Group for proposal submission

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES (CROSS-WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES)

- First Skype Cucurbits WG meeting in November 2017

4. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

 [Crop-specific genebank standards for orthodox seeds \(agreed by the Cucurbits WG, April 2015\)](#)

5. EXPECTED ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- 1) organize mentoring activity for the identification of AEGIS MAAs
- 2) guarantee a safe repository for information stored in the ECCUDB