Proposal for the Establishment of a European Evaluation Network (EVN)

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PROPOSAL

- Purpose is to establish a European Evaluation Network as a Public Private Partnership that will allow for the testing and evaluation of PGRFA across a wide range of agro-environmental areas in Europe, using harmonized methods and standard protocols.

- Initiative builds on existing networks for conservation and use, including AEGIS and EURISCO.

- Series of 3 workshops funded, by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BLE), one in Germany in 2017, then two in Maccarese in October 2017 and March 2018.
PROPOSAL

- October workshop recommended preparation of MOU between ECPGR and ESA for establishment of European Evaluation Network together with Letter of Commitment

- ESA responded would prefer more general MOU

- Proposal for establishment of EVN through decision of ECPGR Steering Committee

- ESA now come back with proposed MOU that would provide for enhanced cooperation in running of EVN as a true Private Public Partnership
PROPOSAL

- Preamble sets background and justification for establishment of EVN.
  - Natural range of growing conditions in Europe calls for more comprehensive evaluation
  - Challenges to food security, including from climate change
- Steering Committee established EVN in the form of Private Public Partnerships in framework of ECPGR
Article 1 deals with definitions.

E.g. Definition of “Evaluation” as amended at last workshop in March.

Members of EVN means persons or entities committed to active involvement in evaluation of PGRFA in European Region that sign and deposit Letter of Commitment.
PROPOSAL

• Article 2 deals with establishment and membership of EVN.

• Persons or entities that wish to become members should sign and deposit Letter of Commitment
PROPOSAL

- Article 3 deals with **Goal, Objectives and expected benefits** of EVN.

- Taken from outcome of October workshop

- Goal to increase, facilitate and improve use of genetic diversity present in PGRFA in Europe for crop improvement
PROPOSAL

• Article 4 deals with **Principles to which Members of EVN should adhere.**

• Taken from outcome of October workshop
  • Operate in accordance with principles of the Treaty
  • Use SMTA currently in force for transfer of PGRFA in EVN to maximum extent possible
  • Make maximum use of AEGIS AND EURISCO
  • EVN In principle to be self funded
PROPOSAL

• Article 5 deals with **Structure of EVN**.
  • Steering Unit (8 experts) appointed by Steering Committee of ECPGR in consultation with private sector
  • Coordination Unit (secretariat)
  • Data and Information management support group

• Crop-specific PPP projects to be established on ad hoc basis

• Structure reflected in diagram in Annex B
PROPOSAL

- Article 6 deals with **Entry into operation of EVN**.

- Approval of ECPGR Steering Committee

- Note reference to encouraging regional seed organizations or associations to support the objectives of EVN and/or its work
Letter of Commitment

- Method to elicit interest of prospective members from both public and private sectors
- Indicates the obligations and benefits to be derived
  - Membership of EVN is free of charge
  - Benefits include access to data standards and regeneration protocols and appropriate support
  - Privileged access to data generated
- EVN Member may withdraw membership on 3 months notice
- Steering Unit may terminate Membership if necessary
Structure of EVN

- Set out in diagram in Annex B
Form of Cooperation Agreement

- Note that merely a form of cooperation agreement to be varied in specific cases as required

- Based on CGN Evaluation letter

- Selection of accessions to be set out in Appendix 1 and Evaluation protocol in Appendix 2.
MOU with ESA

- MOU for enhanced cooperation between ESA and ECPGR
- Supporting the objectives of EVN
- Cooperate in a more enhanced manner, in particular, within the framework of EVN
- All members of ECPGR and ESA to be given possibility to engage in activities within framework of present enhanced cooperation
- Parties to promote EVN through dedicated webpage and other communication channels
MOU with ESA (cont)

- Parties to cooperate under the principles of the EVN
- Matters related to enhance cooperation to be addressed jointly by the Secretariats of ECPGR and ESA
- ECPGR Steering Committee decision to be annexed to MOU
- In general MOU cements the Private Public Partnership nature of the EVN initiative
Decisions to be taken

- Consideration and approval of proposal and establishment of EVN
- Consideration and approval of ESA ECPGR MOU
THANK YOU