

# 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

# PROPOSAL

- 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