

# Report from the ExCo on progress made during Phase IX

## Highlights and recommendations for Phase X

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

## **Gaps in the membership of AEGIS**

- The ECPGR members not yet members of AEGIS are urged to prepare for the signing of the MoU before the end of December 2018.
- Additional AEGIS members are encouraged to complete Associate Member Agreements with relevant institutions within their countries before the end of December 2018.

## **Outcome 1 (cont.)**

### **Slow progress with inclusion of accessions into the European Collection**

- A target of 35% of the EURISCO accessions to be included in the European Collection should be settled. The target could be divided into at least 7% accomplishment each year during Phase X. The 35% target should be applied to each collection of AMs. A consequence of this will be that the number of newly identified accessions will vary greatly both between and within countries.

### **The process of flagging has not been working satisfactorily**

- The National Focal Points should be encouraged to report the reasons for not flagging accessions which have been proposed as AEGIS candidates by the WGs.

## Outcome 1 (cont.)

### **Only very few AMs have completed their genebank manuals**

- In those cases where the language is an obstacle for finalization of the genebank manuals of AMs, members of AEGIS having a common language are encouraged to support each other with translation into the English language.
- All AMs should complete their gene bank manuals during Phase X.

### **Only half of the WGs have so far developed crop-specific standards**

- The WGs should be given a deadline for the finalization of the crop-specific standards.

## Outcome 1 (cont.)

### **A peer/mentorship-review for the implementation of satisfactory management principles**

- NCs are encouraged to promote for the implementation of a peer/mentorship-review system of operations of AM collections.
- Where possible, countries should offer in-kind contributions to others when training and capacity building needs have been identified through the anticipated peer/mentorship-review system.

## **Outcome 1 (cont.)**

### **The flagging of AEGIS accessions by individual AMs is hampered**

- To investigate needs and obstacles among AMs hampering the flagging of AEGIS accessions.

### **In-kind services offered and needed**

- To prepare a register of AMs offering services to others.
- An inventory of training and capacity building needs should be prepared based on the results from the anticipated peer/mentorship-review.

## **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**

**The uploading process of C&E data is still not working satisfactorily in many cases due to communication problems between WG members and National Focal Points**

- The WG members should be requested to actively contact their respective NFP when C&E data are ready to be uploaded into EURISCO.

## **Outcome 4 – Commitment and regular resources of national governments are sustained or increased, and commitments and resources of the European Commission (EC) as well as other potential donors towards ECPGR are increased**

### **Voluntary funding would increase the amount of WG activities**

- NCs are encouraged to search all opportunities for voluntary contributions to ECPGR. Even the smallest contribution will be of value, e.g. increase of the travel budget for ECPGR meetings or a contribution for a specific activity.

## Outcome 4 (cont.)

### **Should ECPGR investigate the possibilities of becoming a European Research Infrastructures (ERIC)?**

- NCs are requested to consider whether it would be likely for ECPGR to become an ERIC and if so, how the process should be carried out.

## Outcome 4 (cont.)

### **ECPGR communication strategy**

- Request the Task Force to finalize the communication strategy in line with the proposed revisions from the SC.
- Endorse the communication strategy after discussion and revisions made accordingly.

## **Outcome 5 – Relations with users of germplasm are strengthened**

### **The European Evaluation Network: a long-term commitment**

- NCs should promote the continuation of the European Evaluation Network and search for additional funding. Even if it is intended to be self-funded to a large extent there will be need for additional money, which will contribute to ensure a long-term activity.