

Work on Plant Strategy

23 November 2020
14:00 - 16:30 (Rome time)

Preliminary thoughts

Working Document, sections 3 and 4

3. International Cooperation

4. Enabling the transformation

European PGRFA strategy

3. International Cooperation

- **Introduction**
- **The EU and the larger European (ECPGR) Region**
- **The EU and other Regions**
- **The EU and Global Cooperation**

4. Enabling the transition

- **Establishing a coherent European policy framework**
- **Establishing an efficient technical and research infrastructure (for conservation, documentation and sustainable use)**
- **Establishing an EU / European coordination and information office for (Plant) Genetic Resources (Agrobiodiversity)**
- **Securing a sustained financial basis for collaborative European and national programmes**

3. International Cooperation

To address the strategic inter-relationships ensuring cooperation between the EU and the larger European region and other regions as appropriate

3.2 The EU and the larger European (ECPGR) Region

The following areas of cooperation are identified:

- Conservation of ***in situ* CWR**: networking of experts related to biogeographic issues (conservation strategies, MAWPs, etc.)
- Conservation ***ex situ***: network of genebanks based on the AEGIS principles (joint conservation strategies for unique genetic resources, Quality System including monitoring, use of SMTA, joint collecting explorations, etc.)
- **On-farm** management: networking on technical issues
- Promoting **use** in research and breeding: cooperative research projects, exchange of students, European Evaluation Network (EVA)
- **Documentation and information**: data exchange (*ex situ* and *in situ*) and common catalogue EURISCO
- **Monitoring** of CWR *in situ* and *ex situ*: network cooperation
- Annual **European PGR conferences** (exchange of information, EUCARPIA, etc.)

3.3 The EU and other Regions

This section will focus on the following areas of cooperation:

- Conservation of ***in situ* CWR**: networking of experts related to biogeographic issues (conservation strategies, MAWPs, etc).
- Conservation ***ex situ***: network of genebanks based on AEGIS principles.
- **On-farm** management: networking on technical issues.
- Promoting **use** in research and breeding: cooperative research projects.
- **Documentation and information**: mutual exchange of data (*ex situ* and *in situ*).
- **Monitoring** of CWR *in situ* and *ex situ* (but not in the near future).
- **PGR conferences** between Europe and the NENA region (3-5 year intervals for exchange of information, etc).
- Needs assessment and **international cooperation projects** to support NENA (others?)

3.4 The EU and Global Cooperation

This Section will address Europe's role at global level:

- **FAO – CGRFA:** MYPOW, details of particular interest to be solved at global level, including SWPGR and GPA/PGR
- **ITPGRFA:** MYPOW, details of particular interest to be solved, including MLS: improved legal framework
- **Crop Trust:** global conservation strategies, networking with experts at global level: improved *ex situ* conservation and data exchange EURISCO - GENESYS
- **CGIAR:** genebank network and European genebanks: improved *ex situ* conservation
- **DivSeek:** cooperation in research and breeding, improved exchange of data and standards
- **CBD:** *In situ* CWR conservation and sustainable use – potential opportunities from GEF funding mechanism
- **Nagoya Protocol:** improved legal framework and harmonized ABS with ITPGRFA
- **IUCN:** *In situ* CWR conservation

4. Enabling the transition

To enable the transformative change to achieve commitments and reinforce the cooperative and leading role of Europe in the global arena

4.1 Establishing a coherent European policy framework

- **The EU policy and legislative landscape related to PGR** is reviewed, and the implementation of all relevant programmes, measures and instruments needs to be coordinated for a sustained long-term conservation and more effective utilization of PGR.
- **A European legal framework (i.e. a EU Directive)** that facilitates and promotes genetic resources conservation and sustainable use at both national and European levels is established.
- European countries should develop and implement **national action plans** for the conservation and sustainable use of PGR, where national action plans are supported by different instruments and regulations at the EU level.

4.2 Establishing an efficient technical and research infrastructure (for conservation, documentation and sustainable use)

- **A European PGR conservation and sustainable use human capacity-building infrastructure** is established. The research infrastructure should include **a decentralized European genebank** (building on the AEGIS experience and principles), including routine screening facilities.
- **A European PGR documentation and information infrastructure** should be developed to support conservation, monitoring, research, breeding, sustainable use, and human capacity building among the main actors to better manage PGR at national, EU and European regional level.
- A European **PGR education programme** in schools, undergraduate biology degrees and MSc programmes is established that involve modules in PGR conservation and use, continuing professional development short courses, and opportunities to undertake research topics for doctoral studies.