

CUCURBITS WG REPORT FOR PHASE X (2019-2023)

Submitted to the 17th Steering Committee Meeting, Oeiras, Portugal, May/June 2023
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1. CONTRIBUTION TO ECPGR OBJECTIVES

1.1. Achievements and success stories

- **To efficiently conserve and provide access to unique germplasm in Europe through AEGIS and the European Collection**

WG members in Spain, Italy, Germany and Romania selected potential AEGIS accessions. Germany already flagged its accessions in the EURISCO catalogue.

- **To provide passport and phenotypic information of actively conserved European PGRFA diversity *ex situ* and *in situ* through the EURISCO catalogue**

Phenotypic evaluation has been made for *Cucurbita* accessions collected in Spain, Germany, Italy and Romania. The accessions have been regenerated and seeds are stored. Passport data to make them available in EURISCO catalogue were also collected.

- **To improve *in situ* conservation and use of crop wild relatives**
No information on this topic was provided by WG members
- **To promote on-farm conservation and management of European PGRFA diversity**
No information on this topic was provided by WG members
- **To promote use of PGRFA**

The agronomic evaluation of *Cucurbita* species allowed their characterization for drought tolerance. Accessions were shared among countries using sMTA and local growers were informed about the performance of each variety. To promote their use, a report was sent on CGC report on February 2023. The WG participated in exhibitions related to PGR valorization.

1.2. Gaps or constraints identified

- The EURISCO submission process is very slow. Training and support for this activity may be needed

- Most of the members are not involved in any WG activity and they take their own country initiative without informing the Chair and the rest of the group.
- *In situ* conservation and use of on-farm conservation and management should be monitored in each country.

GRANT SCHEME ACTIVITIES, WG MEETINGS AND EVA ACTIVITIES

- **Grant Scheme proposals (submitted:1; approved:1 (Dec 2020))**
 - [Exploitation of *Cucurbita* local germplasm for sustainable agriculture \(Cucurbit local\)](#) (4th call)
- **Total number of partners involved: 5 from 5 countries**
 - ECPGR-funded: 3 from 3 countries
 - Self-funded: 2 from 2 countries
- **Meetings held**
Cucurbitlocal
 - 1st Activity Meeting, online, 26 February 2021
 - 2nd Activity Meeting, online, 28 October 2021
 - 3rd Activity Meeting, online, 19 December 2022
- **Reports and related data**
[Cucurbitlocal, Report of the 2nd Activity meeting](#)
- **Funds mobilized**
 - ECPGR granted funds: € 20,800
 - Inputs in-kind declared in Grant activities: Fields

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

- **Cross-Working Group activities:** *None*

Others: We submitted the contribution '**Cucurbitlocal - Exploitation of *Cucurbita* local germplasm for sustainable agriculture - A European initiative to strength valorization of cucurbits local germplasm**' to the Cucurbit Genetics Cooperative (CGC) report

3. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

None for Phase X

4. EXPECTED ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES THAT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PGR STRATEGY FOR EUROPE

The Cucurbitlocal project is extended until September 2023 to better explore the value of accessions tested for drought. In addition, we are planning to add new *Cucurbita* accessions to the EURISCO catalogue.