Independent External Review of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) July 2010

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- facilitate the long-term in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- strengthen links between all plant genetic resources programmes in Europe and promote the integration of countries that are not members of ECPGR;
- encourage cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders;
- increase the planning of joint activities including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies;
- encourage the sharing of conservation responsibilities for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe;
- increase awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use; and
- seek collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives.
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Current goals of ECPGR:

- **facilitate** the long-term in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- **facilitate** the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- **strengthen links** between all plant genetic resources programmes in Europe and promote the integration of countries that are not members of ECPGR;
- **encourage cooperation** between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders;
- **increase the planning of joint activities** including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies;
- **encourage the sharing** of conservation responsibilities for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe;
- **increase awareness**, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use; and
- **seek collaboration** with other relevant regional and global initiatives.
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- If the purpose remains as in past phases
  - facilitate the long-term in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe;
  - facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe;

- Then the questions before this board are not very complicated:
- The responsibility and accountability remains totally with the national programmes;
- ECPGR has merely a supportive role – to achieve more efficiency and synergies;
- Many of the recommendations remain valid;
- The outcomes reached within the next 15 years are likely to be modest;
Core recommendation

- The Review Panel feels that … ECPGR … now has the potential to and should take more responsibility for conservation and use of PGRFA by establishing more accountability among its membership.

- Basically this is a call to be result oriented
- And not to become locked into a discussion about institutionalization or funding.
The rational
(for more responsibility and accountability within ECPGR)

• The legal framework has changed (ITPGRFA)
• The geo-political context in Europe has changed
• Experience and achievements within ECPGR
• Initial commitment already made through AEGIS
• Users are not constrained by national boundaries. They access the regional and global PGRFA “market”.
• A coherent regional offer will enhance the likelihood of utilization and thus the ability to attract funding for maintenance, evaluation and documentation of collections
The consequences

- Outcomes and outputs formulated in terms of (for example)
  - The competitive edge which European breeders can get by making use of the ECPGR collections (goal)
  - The increase in intensity of use of collections (outcome – within a phase)
  - The increase in percentage of accessions evaluated (outputs)

- More authority and resources needed

- Modus operandi needs to be adapted
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- Questions and Answers about the report and its recommendations.