

ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme Proposal Form

Activity Proposal

Activity	
Full title	ECPGR WG for Forages towards 2020s
Acronym (or short title)	Forages 2020
Duration of Activity (in months)	12
Starting date	1.1.2015 - 31.12.2015

Applying Working Group(s)

Working Group	Indicate name and surname of Working Group Chair
1. WG Forages	Merja Veteläinen
2. WG In situ	Nigel Maxted
3. WG Doc&Info	Ian D. Thomas as contact person

Activity Coordinator

Activity Coordinator	
Name and Surname	Anna Palmé
Nationality	Swedish
Current position	Senior Scientist
Institute	Nordic Gene Resource Center
Country	Sweden
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Activity Partners

Please note that each partner needs to be a member of a Working Group's Pool of Experts to be eligible.

A maximum of 12 funded partners can be listed. For self-funded partners please use the separate box below.

Partner ID No.	Name and Surname	Institute	Country
1	Anna Palmé (Task 3 lead, Task 1)	Nordic Gene Resource Center	Sweden/Nordic countries
2	Evelin Willner (Task 2 lead, Task 1)	IPK	Germany
3	Susanne Barth (In situ lead within Task 3)	Teagasc	Ireland
4	Petter Marum (Task 1 lead)	Graminor A/S	Norway
5	Valentin Maya Blanco (Task 1)	Centro de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas de Extremadura (CICYTEX)	Spain
6	Bartosz Tomaszewski (Task 1)	Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute	Poland
7	Stephane Fourtier (Task 1)	INRA	France
8	Ian D. Thomas (Task 1 and 2, contact to Info&Doc WG)	IBERS	United Kingdom
9	Merja Veteläinen (Task 3)	Boreal Plant Breeding Ltd.	Finland
10	Beat Boller (Task 3/in situ)	Agroscope	Switzerland
11	Photini Mylona (Task 2)	Hellenic Agricultural Organisation - DEMETER	Greece
12	Lajos Horvath (Task 1)	Research Centre for Agrobiodiversity	Hungary

Self-funded partners

Partner No.	Name and Surname	Institute	Country
1	All WG members (1/country) will be provided a possibility to attend in the work shop via video contact, if this can be arranged		
2			
3			

Description of Activity

Please address the following aspects: Background – Justification – Methodology or Approach – Expected impact.

Describe the Activity (max. 500 words):

Background

The ECPGR Working Group for Forages has for a long time dedicated itself to work according to the principles of AEGIS with an aim to establish a European Collection for Forages (EFC). The last full Forages WG meeting was organized in 2010 in Germany and since that 2 workshops have been organized with forage database managers in order to realize goals towards EFC. Important steps have been taken and as result 8966 AEGIS accessions are included in the EFC. In addition, there are 14051 candidate EFC accessions identified by 2013. However, other forage genetic resources activities have not been developed within the frames of ECPGR during this time period of 2010-2013. Neither has the WG group discussed future work plans and strategies since 2010. Evidently, activities that allow (1) accomplishment of the EFC, (2) progress towards increased use of the forage collections and (3) elaboration of the WG long term work plan are required in relation to ECPGR objectives for phase IX (2014-2018).

Justification (Tasks 1-3)

(1) Establishment of the EFC is entirely in line with the AEGIS goals. Good progress has already been made and the “first round” of selection of the accessions for the EFC should be followed through. However, the procedure to designate accessions to European Collection has been revised after WG Forage DB managers made their first list of candidate accessions. The earlier work should however be utilized. In many cases germplasm collection holders have not yet been able to identify accessions within their collection as AEGIS accessions and the work done by the Forage WG could be a great support for this process. Also new offers from AEGIS member states to EFC should be monitored and their monitoring plans prepared. These activities require dialogue between database managers and germplasm holders.

(2) WG Forages is very keen to make characterization and evaluation data available to the users of the collections. So far solutions for EURISCO have not been developed. However, the WG Forages could facilitate the process of inclusion of the C&E data in EURISCO through an inventory of relevant forage data. Such an inventory, when published, would provide a better knowledge of genetic resources available and make collections more attractive to the users.

(3) A new WG Forages plan should be worked out in relation to AEGIS goals and the new objectives of ECPGR for Phase IX (2014-2018). Especially, *in situ* conservation goals for the forages in Europe should be prepared in light of next activity grant scheme call. General goals are necessary for specific project development. Here interaction with the ECPGR *in situ* network is essential.

Approach

The present activity proposal will include three steps: (A) Preparatory phase, where activity leaders will plan and initiate a Participatory Process (PP) towards the three specific goals mentioned above; (B) A workshop with 3 subgroups will be organized and their work will be facilitated according to principles of PP by the task leaders. (C) Finally, in the post-workshop phase decisions and outcomes will be documented, guidelines for further activities clearly defined and a monitorable check-list created.

Expected impact (Tasks 1-3)

1. The number of forage AEGIS accessions will increase considerably and the monitoring plan will be prepared.
2. Characterization and evaluation data inventory for the use of Doc&Info WG to include in EURISCO. Immediate impact is the information to the user community of the available data.
3. A WG Forage work plan “ECPGR WG for Forages towards 2020s” will provide exact goals

for the realization of forage activities for the more virtual working manner during the coming ECPGR phases.

ECPGR Objective(s)

Objectives must be feasible and achievable within the project timeline. Please list here the corresponding number(s) of the ECPGR Outcome(s) and/or Output(s) and/or Activities to which your proposed Activity will contribute. The logframe describing ECPGR objectives is available from the website.

List ECPGR outcomes, outputs, activities to which this Activity contributes:
Task 1: Outcome 1.2. Aegis collections established and activities 1.2.1, 1.2.2., 1.2.3
Task 2: Outcome 2.2. C&E data in EURISCO included, pre-activity for 2.2.1
Task 3: WG work plan to cover all the output and activities of ECPGR in forages

Expected products

List concrete products and results that are obtained by the Activity

Expected products/results
Task 1. Decision on 14051 accessions to be (or not be) included in the European collection
Task 2. An inventory of available forage characterisation & evaluation data for EURISCO
Task 3. Detailed WG Forages work plan for with monitorable targets

Workplan for the proposed period of the Activity

Brief description of meetings and/or main actions of the Activity.

Type of Action (indicate if "meeting" or "other action")	Description
1. Preparatory activities by task leaders	Task 1: Preparatory work on 14051 candidate EFC accession confirmation process. In addition, forage germplasm holders/Aegis associate members will be requested for lists of accessions that they are willing to include in the EFC. Task 2: Preparatory work in form of survey on existing C&E data. Task 3: PP process plan for the work shop.
2. Work shop	Task 1: Interactive (possibilities for video conference are investigated) work shop to seek confirmations for EFC candidate accessions to be included as AEGIS accessions. Task 2: Presentation and evaluation of the survey results. Preparation of the plan for inclusion in EURISCO. Task 3: A work plan for WG Forages will be drafted.
3. Post workshop activities	Tasks 1.-3: Results documented, guidelines for further activities clearly defined and a monitor able check-list created. Responsibilities for coming activity follow-up confirmed.
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Additional remarks

Indicate any additional remark(s) that is/are important for the evaluation/implementation of the proposed Activity

Remarks:

We request a slightly larger budget than advised since our project involves more than one WG. Travel funds for the external WG member are required. The external partner in this activity is Dr. Nigel Maxted (Task 3, contact to In situ WG) from University of Birmingham, United Kingdom. The future activities within in situ conservation of forages need to be in line with the ECPGR in situ strategy. In order to ensure this co-operation between *WG Forages* and *WG In situ* are required already in the activity planning phase.

Please send the completed form together with the budget table to the Chair of the submitting Working Group for submission of the Activity proposal.