

AEGIS update



Top: Brassica; bottom: Avena sativa; and right: Shallots, all species covered by the AEGIS project.

Photo: top: L. Maggioni, Bioversity International; bottom: BAZ, Quedlinburg, Germany; right: Teresa Kotlinska, Research Institute of Vegetable Crops, Skierniewice, Poland

After the decisive mid-term meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee in Riga, Latvia last September, and the appointment of the AEGIS Coordinator as of 1 January 2007, the Coordination Unit has been devoting substantial time to a number of priorities. This is a brief summary of the progress



made up to the beginning of May 2007.

- The ECPGR Steering Committee endorsed the revised terms of reference of the newly formed AEGIS Advisory Committee and appointed the following persons as its members: Sergey Alexanian (VIR, Russian Federation),

Bela Bartha (ProSpecieRara, Switzerland), Frank Begemann (IBV/BLE, Germany), Eliseu Bettencourt (Portugal), Walter de Backer (EC, Brussels), an FAO representative, Erling Fimland (NGB, Sweden), Gert Kleijer (ACW, Switzerland), Andrée Sontot (BRG, France), Silvia Strajeru (Suceava Gene Bank, Romania), Ayfer Tan (AARI, Turkey), Eva Thörn (CBM, Sweden), Garlich von Essen (ESA, Belgium), Jan Engels and Lorenzo Maggioni.

- Based on the numerous comments and suggestions made by the ECPGR National Coordinators on the draft Strategic Framework Paper, a revised version has been produced and shared with the Advisory Committee for comments.
- As part of the revision of the Strategic Framework Paper, a start has been made with the development of a draft Collective Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU will eventually provide the legal basis for the operation of AEGIS, to be concluded between AEGIS and its partners, to formally establish the commitments and

procedures of participating in AEGIS.

- During the Oats Global Conservation Strategy meeting (March 2007 at VIR in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation) and at the EURALLIVEG Project Initiation meeting (April 2007 at IPK in Gatersleben, Germany) the opportunity was used to discuss the next steps of the AEGIS implementation process with the participating members of the two AEGIS Model Crop Groups. Special attention was paid to the development of the selection criteria to identify the European Accessions for each of the gene pools and to the role of the Crop Working Groups in this identification process.
- As part of the long-term conservation strategy of the European Accessions, a safety-duplication strategy was developed and shared with partners for comments.
- The Coordination Unit has been working on the revision and updating of the AEGIS Web pages which are available at: www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/aegis/aegis_home.htm

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