

## **Update on the activities of the AEGIS sub-group on Prunus and draft list of Most Appropriate Accessions - cherry**

FROM: Draft report (October 2010) of the Eighth meeting of the Prunus WG, Forli, Italy, 7-9 September 2010

D. Giovannini and E. Balsemin reported about the activities carried out together with Ken Tobutt and Janos Apostol as members of the sub-group on *Prunus* during the AEGIS feasibility study. This group had reached conclusions and recommendations (see the 2008 report of the sub-group on the AEGIS Web site) regarding the categories to be considered for the choice of genotypes and the criteria to use for the selection of MAAs among these genotypes. Bottle necks were identified as: the need for countries to join AEGIS and offer their accessions before any selection can be made; the compromising health status of many accessions that are virus infected; the lack of characterization data and frequent difficulties in identifying the correct denomination of accessions (due to synonymies and homonymies). In order to enable the selection of MAAs, a number of mandatory and recommended passport data were identified.

A procedure to establish a list of MAAs was drafted, to be applied after the countries join AEGIS. A test exercise to simulate the MAAs definition had been made starting with 2708 sweet cherry accessions and obtaining a list of 1116 unique genotypes and 367 duplicate groups. The secondary selection criteria were applied to the 367 duplicate groups in order to identify 367 primary and 367 reserve MAAs.

### **Discussion:**

Prioritization of the selection criteria to be used for the choice of MAAs was discussed and the Group provisionally ranked the criteria in order of importance as follows:

1. Trueness-to-type (particularly relevant for perennial clonal crops in which synonyms and homonyms are frequent);
2. Accompanied by passport information using the EURISCO multi-crop passport descriptors;
3. Accompanied by characterization and evaluation data (at least those priority descriptors defined by the *Prunus* WG);
4. Maintained in "country of origin";
5. Of high health status, e.g. virus free;
6. Of known source, whether collected or bred.