AEGIS – Crop-specific quality standards for conservation

Formalization of standards for vegetatively propagated crops

The experience gained in the EURALLIVEG project led to the conclusions that for vegetatively propagated material both the local conditions and the genotypic characteristics need to be considered, and that it is not possible to use a single protocol to prescribe procedures for the different locations and accessions. Therefore it is necessary to elaborate decision trees to optimize the logistics of maintenance. This is true for field maintenance as well as for cryopreservation. *In vitro* storage is not seen as an independent strategy because of the weak performance of *Allium in vitro* cultures in the long term.

A preliminary set of factors determining the solutions to be adopted, organized in such a "decision tree", was presented by J. Keller and is included as Appendix 2.

Action point

- *The list of factors to determine the structure of the decision tree will be distributed to the collection curators for discussion and agreement. It will then be used to establish a schedule for field culture and cryopreservation for inclusion in the* Allium *genebank standards.*

(From: Report of a Working Group on *Allium*, seventh meeting, 6-8 September 2011, Perea, Greece, p.12)