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Held in Geneva
17-19 December 1979

**FAO/UNDP/GOVERNMENTS CONSULTATION
ON THE EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND EXCHANGE
OF GENETIC RESOURCES FOR PLANT BREEDING**



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS





FAO/UNDP/GOVERNMENTS CONSULTATION

ON THE

EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME

FOR THE

CONSERVATION AND EXCHANGE OF GENETIC RESOURCES FOR PLANT BREEDING

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Geneva, 17 - 19 December 1979

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I INTRODUCTION

1. At an FAO/UNDP Governments Consultation held in Rome, 8 - 9 March 1979, the meeting approved the urgent need to establish a European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP) but recognised that many more data were required before a decision could be taken about further action (see extract from RER-75/035 Meeting Report, Appendix I).

2. Subsequently, a Coordination Mission was appointed by UNDP/FAO to look into the various matters specified by the Consultation. Its members were appointed as consultants by the UNDP/FAO and were Mr. S. Makiedo (Yugoslavia) and Mr. W. Lange (Netherlands).

3. The meeting reported here was convened to consider the Coordination Mission's findings, presented in the form of a draft programme and a draft project document, a copy of each being attached to this Report as a joint document.

4. The meeting was held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, from 17 - 19 December 1979. A list of participants, including Government delegations and approved observers is attached (Appendix II).

II PRELIMINARIES

5. Mr. E. Hartmans, Director of the Agricultural Operations Division, FAO, welcomed participants. In an opening address (Appendix III), he said that the collections built up over the years by breeders in Europe have included a wide range of genetic resources but cooperative action was needed to use the material in a more rational way. Such cooperative action would be better based on national and government commitments rather than on the somewhat limited goodwill that exists at present between breeders and scientists. It was envisaged that a European Cooperative Programme would be an integral part of a global network of genetic resources activities being established by FAO and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) and the European programme would not only benefit European countries but also have an important effect in other parts of the world.

6. Mr. Hartmans then invited the meeting to elect a Chairman: Mr. H. Skov (Denmark) and Mr. M. Pencic (Yugoslavia) were unanimously elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively. Mr. K.S. Dodds was named as Rapporteur.

III PROCEEDINGS

7. The draft agenda wereadopted (Appendix IV) and the business of the meeting opened.

8. The Chairman invited the Coordination Mission to speak about the ECP (Appendix V).

9. Mr. Makiedo said that the ECP, as presented, was not only a result of the recent Coordination Mission but included the results of several years of activities on the part of European countries, institutions and scientists and international and regional organizations in Europe, all collectively aimed at the establishment of an ECP.

10. After the first inter-governmental consultation held in Geneva in February 1977, it was apparent that there was the basis for future cooperation on genetic resources and UNDP/FAO positively responded to support the preparatory assistance until the end of 1979.

11. Mr. Makiedo emphasised that in all consultations there has been almost complete interest in the establishment of the ECP although there were, of course, differences in the degree of support. In relation to development of the programme it seemed logical to divide it into three phases:

- (a) a first phase of preparation fully assisted by UNDP/FAO;
- (b) a second phase of consolidation partly assisted by UNDP/FAO;
- (c) a third phase where no international assistance is envisaged.

The first phase representing the first two years of the project was described in the draft project document (Appendix V). During this period the necessary cash expenditures will be provided by UNDP from the regional IPF for Europe, while the participating governments will contribute in kind. The project will be executed by FAO and UNDP. Geneva is proposed as the site of this phase.

12. It is proposed that the ECP will be administered by a Governing Board assisted by an Executive Secretary and a Scientific Advisory Committee. It is recommended that at the national level the participating countries appoint national coordinators to coordinate national activities within the framework of the project. The organizational structure and details of the development of the programme are fully described in the appropriate parts of the draft project document.

13. Mr. Lange introduced the more technical aspects of the programme. He drew attention to the expertise at present available in the European countries by way of such associations as EUCARPIA, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) in the eastern European countries, the EEC Programme on better use of Gene Banks and Resistance Breeding, the IBPGR Mediterranean Programme and the Nordic countries which have recently jointly established a Nordic Gene Bank.

14. Mr. Lange said that there was need for a formal inter-governmental organization to supplement the work of these other sub-regional groups and during the many consultations which the Mission held, no serious doubts of the rationale for the programme were expressed. Most of the Mission's discussions were concerned with how to implement the programme: such matters as the possible delineation of responsibilities between institutions in participating countries for the conservation, multiplication, documentation and exchange of samples. The need has been expressed for information on collections to be gathered together, such as, for example, the production of a European

catalogue of stocks, so that duplication of efforts could be avoided and the exchange of samples cost-effective. Other objectives, such as collecting, conservation, maintenance and encouragement of research were self-evident. Many of these activities will represent the Governments' contributions in kind to the Programme but it is envisaged that Governments may wish to contribute through new activities both at a national level and with joint undertakings with other countries.

15. Subsequently, the Chairman requested the official observers at the meeting to state how their Organizations viewed the proposed Programme. EUCARPIA, the Nordic Gene Bank, the EEC Programme and the IBPGR all expressed unequivocal support to the ECP and although CMEA was not able to attend the meeting, the Secretary pointed out that its interest had been expressed.

16. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) emphasised the role of the ECP as an important contribution in the coordinated network of genetic resources throughout the world. It was felt that the ambitious objectives of the ECP should obviate any risk of termination of such work and therefore the ECP should be carefully assessed after the initial two-year period of operation. This assessment would be a condition for the participation of the FRG.

17. The FRG further pointed out that one of the major issues to be dealt with in the early phase of the operations is the establishment of clear links with the IBPGR and existing sub-regional programmes in order to avoid unnecessary duplication. The successful formation of these links will also be a condition for the future participation of the FRG and possible financial contributions to the ECP would be allocated through the IBPGR.

18. The Chairman invited the country delegates to examine the ECP as tabled, taking it page-by-page. Numerous amendments were adopted and incorporated in the copy of the document attached to this text. Given these amendments, the country delegates expressed unanimous approval of the ECP.

19. The meeting then turned to consideration of the draft project document and the agenda which had been tabled. Several amendments were suggested and have been incorporated. In addition, the following special points were noted:

- (a) the project document should clearly include reference to both seed-propagated and vegetatively-propagated material;
- (b) the phrase "full and free exchange of material"^{1/} caused extensive discussion by several delegates but the consensus of the meeting was that it was essential to retain it. This free exchange of material is intended to ensure that plant breeders and allied research workers are provided with the material needed for their work;
- (c) delegates envisaged further phases after the first preparatory phase and it was agreed that the Governing Board should discuss a second phase of the Programme in the first year of the Programme's operation

^{1/} The Turkish delegate did not agree with the use of this phrase. He wished instead to refer "to the exchange of material in reasonable amounts free of charge".

based on estimates to be elaborated by the Executive Secretary; these were necessary in order to make adequate plans for the future and to ensure the allocation of any necessary funds in the national budgets;

- (d) concerning the project budget covering government contributions in kind, these could not be accurately costed but included the following categories of goods and services: genetic material, meetings and seminars, training, evaluation activities, documentation, national provision of manpower and capital facilities.

20. The meeting was asked to approve the draft project document as amended and did so unanimously.

21. It was expected that the ECP would become operational immediately after eight governments had signed the project document. (Ms. P. Guillebaud, UNDP, informed the Consultation that if the start of the project was delayed for a month or so, it would still be possible to have a first phase of twenty-four months.

22. The full Consultation then moved to the selection of the interim Governing Board as listed in Appendix VI. Mr. Pencic was elected Chairman and Mr. Skov Vice-Chairman.

The Interim Governing Board

23. Provisional rules of procedure for the interim Governing Board were adopted including the amendments proposed and adopted at this meeting.

24. Following a very full discussion it was agreed that until such time as the Governing Body is established the EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee would act as the interim scientific advisory committee on the understanding that the Governing Board proper would formally constitute a Scientific Advisory Committee with the EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee forming its core.

Any Other Business

25. To an expression of concern by the French delegation that the start of the ECP might be delayed, Mr. Hartmans replied that signatures of governments to the project document were the limiting factor. The interim Governing Board adopted his suggestion that the ECP could be declared operational when eight governments representing different regions of Europe had signed the project document, including three countries in receipt of IPF contributions.

APPENDIX I

EXTRACT FROM MEETING REPORT RER-75/035

V DECISIONS

37. The meeting approved the urgent need to establish a European Cooperative Project for the Conservation and Exchange of Genetic Resources for Plant Breeding with a minimum of further delay, along the lines of the Background Paper as presented and amended at this Consultation.

38. This document was recognised as a good analysis of the present state of development of cooperation in the field of genetic resources in Europe, but should include references to foreseeable future contributions-in-kind by participating countries and financial implications in general.

39. The meeting expressed its wish that UNDP, in collaboration with FAO, nominate a coordinator to complete this task and, in addition, specifically to:

- (a) in consultation with representatives of European governments and of European and other appropriate scientific bodies, make recommendations concerning the composition and function of organs for the operation of the project, including a Steering Committee and an Executive Committee;
- (b) consider necessary links with other appropriate international organizations;
- (c) recommend how formal relations between existing sub-regional programmes in the Region should be established;
- (d) consider the three proposals submitted to the meeting with a view to recommendations.

40. The meeting resolved to convene in early December 1979 in Geneva, documents to be distributed two months prior to that date. It therefore expressed the wish that UNDP extend Preparatory Assistance accordingly.

41. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting, with a word of thanks to FAO and UNDP for the accommodation and facilities provided and to the employees who gave administrative services.

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APPENDIX III

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY DR. HARTMANS

On behalf of the Director-General of FAO, I welcome all delegates and observers to this Government Consultation. It is relevant for you to know that the Twentieth Session of the FAO Conference, recently concluded, strongly endorsed the Crop Genetic Resources Programme.

My task is to introduce this Consultation and I aim to provide a short background especially for those delegates who do not work with crop genetic resources or germplasm.

Although varieties produced by modern breeding techniques have been the principal genetic resources used for crop improvement, breeders have nearly always recognised the need to have other available genetic resources to enlarge their gene pools. Thus, primitive cultivars (or landraces), as well as advanced cultivars and genetic stocks, such as mutant material and the cytogenetically characterized stocks, are all part of the collections which are the tools of trade of plant breeders.

Internationally, attention has focussed on the need to collect and maintain primitive cultivars because these are known to be disappearing rapidly and these are the samples which possess broad genetic diversity. Similarly, all these domesticates have been derived from wild species and there is an array of progenitors and relatives which is a valuable source for the breeding and even restructuring of our crops. Although wild species have, to-date, chiefly been used for resistance breeding, chromosome transfers and cell hybridization techniques have opened up new avenues.

FAO has concerned itself for well over a decade in organizing a global programme to collect, conserve and make available representative gene pools in view of the threats to these invaluable and irreplaceable resources many of which had evolved over millenia to produce subtly balanced populations. This work has received great impetus since the foundation of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources in 1974, with its Headquarters and Executive Secretariat in FAO Headquarters, and in recent years we have seen the channelling of much-needed financial resources, and advice, to promote activities in nearly all parts of the world. I am pleased to inform you that recently FAO has carried out some internal reorganization and the programme on Crop Genetic Resources is now headed by Dr. J. T. Williams, the Technical Secretary of this Consultation and who is, at the same time, the Executive Secretary of the IBPGR.

I have mentioned the recognition of breeders to maintain wide genetic diversity in their collections. This recognition came from the pioneer work of N.I. Vavilov who explored and carefully studied vast collections of landraces from many parts of the world. Nevertheless, wide diversity in collections has not been fully exploited, nor indeed fully appreciated. This, of course, relates to two items. The first has been the relatively limited evaluation of samples in the past - evaluation for a rather narrow list of characters, in particular disease resistance. The second has been that

primitive material has been used to donate limited genetic factors and not widely used deliberately for its co-adapted gene complexes which are of great interest in adaptation and productivity; and of interest in breeding for stress conditions. In Europe the first advanced cultivars were selected from the older landraces and these gave good yields under favourable agricultural conditions. Hence, in the past there has not been very frequent need to re-sample the areas where traditional cultivars had existed since the origin and development of organized agriculture.

Nonetheless, the collections built up over the years by breeders in Europe have included to a greater or lesser degree a wide range of genetic resources and these historical collections are of great significance not in the least because almost two-thirds of the world's seeds in collections are held by institutions in Europe.

This proposed programme aims at a more rational and cooperative use of the materials based on national and government commitments - rather than based simply on the somewhat limited goodwill that exists at present between individual professional breeders and scientists.

Although I have mentioned gene pools covering the spectrum of genetic diversity an important part of cooperative work will be to safeguard the advanced cultivars especially those which have become obsolete. In general, the older varieties, selected before agricultural practices had become as intensive as those of today, are useful inputs when used to develop varieties for low input agricultural systems in the world. Such old varieties may well have incorporated many co-adapted complexes during early selection which are not always present in very recent more advanced varieties. In addition, we have a lot of information about the performance of such older varieties and this should be gathered together, documented, and made available.

All breeders agree that evaluation and the systematic documentation of materials is basic to their wider utilization. The large collections have not often been used to the best advantage because of the limited documentation available. This is being rectified in some institutions but it must be intensified. Similarly, the availability of materials, backed by an organized conservation system is essential to future progress.

The building of a global network of genetic resources activities to safeguard, and make available to all, the materials for breeding is a vast undertaking, but one which is now becoming a reality. It is clear that cooperative networks are constituent parts of this wider concept and within Europe alone there are already several sub-regional activities of this type. However, the largest part of the activities will continue to be the responsibility of the institutions to the benefit of all and to stimulate cooperation within Europe. UNDP and FAO have been involved in a lengthy series of consultations and a preliminary Government Consultation was held in March 1979 in Rome. It was agreed that further consultation was needed and the past eight months have seen an intensification of such work. This meeting today is the culmination of these efforts.

Lastly, I should state that a cooperative genetic resources programme for Europe will have immense benefits in other parts of the world. Whereas in Europe, population pressures and food supplies, for one reason or another, are rarely limiting, this is not the case elsewhere. The European plant scientists continue to help in the quest for a better standard of living for humanity wherever it is located. The exchange between countries and fuller use of genetic materials can only lead to better cooperation, more rapid development in some countries and help to provide a better standard of living for poorer people in the less privileged parts of the world.

APPENDIX IV

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Consultation
2. Discussion and approval of the UNDP/FAO Coordination Mission Report (1979)
3. Discussion and approval of the draft Project Document for Phase I (1980 - 1981)
4. Other matters
5. Closing of the Consultation

APPENDIX V

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO)

European Cooperative Programme
for the
Conservation and Exchange of
Crop Genetic Resources

FOREWORD

As requested by the Government Consultation in Rome in March 1979, UNDP and FAO are herewith submitting the documentation for the Government Consultation to be held in Geneva, from 17 to 19 December 1979. The document consists of two parts: The first part is a general description of the European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP-GR), leading to the establishment of an independent cooperative programme after the period of assistance by UNDP and FAO has been terminated. The second part of this document is the official Project Document for the first phase of UNDP assistance to the ECP-GR.

Both parts of this document in general contain the same main items, but have different impacts. The description of the programme is more elaborate and outpaces the phase of preparation towards phases of consolidation and operation. It is expected that the Government Consultation of December 1979 will discuss and accept this part of the document in principle, to be used as an outline of the establishment of the long-term cooperative programme. The second part of this document, the Project Document, is made up according to the format required by UNDP. It is restricted to the present phase of UNDP assistance, which will last until the end of 1981. At the Government Consultation of December 1979, the Project Document will be discussed after the above-mentioned agreement in principle concerning the programme. After the adoption by the meeting of the Project Document, it will be open for signature, preferably immediately or as soon as possible. This also is the moment that the Government Consultation will turn into the interim Governing Board of the ECP-GR, which can then start the activities necessary for the initiation and functioning of the project.

The UNDP/FAO Coordination Mission 1979
for the European Cooperative Programme for the
Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources

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THE PROGRAMME

I INTRODUCTION

Background Information

All over the world man's crops are continually being improved, but genetic potential for crop improvement has been, in many crops, only minimally exploited until now. It is important that crops continue to be improved not only in yield but above all in quality because world population, on the one hand, is increasing and likely to do so for some time yet to come, while, on the other hand, the agriculturally active population is, at the same time, decreasing.

Plant breeders approach the problem of crop improvement with a list of objectives to be met, such as high yield, good quality, high response to soil fertility, good adaptation, resistance to diseases, and so on. Desirable characteristics are then built together using suitable plant breeding techniques until the best possible combination of characteristics is obtained.

The raw materials used by the plant breeder in producing new and better varieties are characteristically rich in genetic variation, and their genetic potential is high. They are collectively described as genetic resources, and consist of the genetically variable primitive varieties, or land races, that mankind cultivated before the advent of scientific plant breeding, as well as the important variation in gene combinations introduced by plant breeding in many crops.

As agriculture is modernised, and new varieties replace old, valuable genetic resources are in danger of becoming rare or of being lost; only great diligence in locating and collecting them, and great care in conserving and using them, can guarantee the success of future plant breeding.

In modern times, plant breeders have drawn heavily on primitive traditional cultivars for improving new varieties. But such genetically variable landraces now face extinction under the advance of more productive and more uniform new varieties that have replaced them. The steady depletion of the reserves of genetic diversity represented by innumerable local and traditional varieties, with its grave implications for the future, was first recognised by a few perceptive botanists and agricultural scientists in the 1930s and somewhat later, but systematic large-scale efforts aimed at conserving genetic resources only began after 1960.

International Developments

Recognising that the rapid disappearance of older varieties could well limit the ability of the plant breeder to respond in the future to the needs of a changing world, with more and more pressure on the land available for agriculture, FAO set up two Panels of Experts, one on Plant Exploration and Introduction and the other on Forest Genetic Resources. These Panels were established as a follow-up to the recommendations of the 1963 FAO Conference, and were to advise the Organization how genetic conservation might best be carried out and where it was most urgently needed.

By 1970 many individual, institutional and governmental efforts were underway, and also both the UN Conference on the Environment, Stockholm, 1972, and the

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Helsinki, 1975, formulated and approved recommendations on the conservation and maintenance of genetic resources. But even so, the advance of genetically uniform new varieties was fast outstripping the pace of exploration and collection. As a consequence, it was therefore recognised that much of the world's reserves of plant genetic resources were no longer to be found in cultivation and existed only as samples in collections. Some perennial crops, such as tree fruits, no longer cultivated and not yet accessed into collections, stand in particular danger. Furthermore, it was clear that the full potential of plant material already held in collections was still unrealised since the majority of accessions had been insufficiently evaluated to be of use to plant breeders, confirming the often-stressed view that genetic resource collections, however large, are relatively useless until their evaluation and the dissemination of information.

In the light of these circumstances, it was evident that the many different programmes underway could effectively contribute to a truly international genetic conservation effort only if they could be linked in a world-wide collaborative and coordinated network. Accordingly, at the initiative of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) was established with a mandate to create such a network, to coordinate its activities, and to mobilise financial support for genetic conservation programmes wherever they are needed. IBPGR is one of a series of international agricultural research programmes supported by CGIAR and its Headquarters and Executive Secretariat are provided by FAO. Recently, the IBPGR and FAO programmes on genetic resources have become co-terminous (Appendix I (a)).

European Developments

In Europe, since 1966, genetic conservation has been promoted by EUCARPIA (European Association for Research on Plant Breeding). EUCARPIA is a private association, aiming at the promotion of plant breeding research; it has more than one thousand members from all over Europe, both from government institutions and breeding companies. However, this Association does not constitute an inter-governmental organization.

The EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee formulated the concept of sub-regional^{1/} gene banks for the major agro-ecological zones of Europe. In this concept, some already existing gene banks (Leningrad, USSR; Izmir, Turkey; Gatersleben, DDR) and some gene banks to be newly-established in western Europe would assume sub-regional responsibilities. Stimulated by these proposals national gene banks were established at Bari (Italy) and Braunschweig (FRG). The Bari gene bank, in particular, developed strong sub-regional activities in close cooperation with a Mediterranean Programme, which has been set up by IBPGR, while at Braunschweig, the German-Netherlands Potato Gene Bank has been situated. More recently, a gene bank for the nordic countries of Europe has been established at Lund (Sweden), and a probably unique gene bank for

^{1/} Originally, the EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee used the term regional gene banks, but for the sake of clarity the UNDP terminology has been used here, in which Europe is a region and consequently, smaller units are sub-regions.

wild species has been set up by the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew (United Kingdom).

In the meantime, other national programmes for genetic conservation have been initiated or further developed in several European countries. The EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee has been working to establish collaborative relations between gene banks throughout Europe, among others through the organization of annual meetings of the so-called Extended Gene Bank Committee, which consists of the regular Committee plus the leaders of all European gene banks. In addition, the sub-regional activities in the field of genetic resources have developed further: four such groups have now been established, which are, however, different in origin, composition and organization. The most intimate cooperative is the one already mentioned, the Nordic Gene Bank, in Lund (Sweden), in which five countries have joined most of their genetic resource activities into one undertaking. In eastern Europe, plant genetic conservation is the object of high priority attention by appropriate government ministries in most countries. Some western European gene banks enjoy high international reputation and seven European countries work together in the network of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). In southern Europe, IBPGR has stimulated the establishment of a Mediterranean Germplasm Programme, in which ten countries participate, of which six are European. Finally, the nine countries of the European Communities (EC) started a joint programme on resistance breeding and a better conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for this purpose (Appendices I (b) - I (f)).

Through all these activities more than two-thirds of the world's collected samples of plant genetic resources are maintained by European institutions. There is considerable variation from country to country and from crop to crop in the spectrum of material available to the breeders from their national collections. There is also considerable variation in their maintenance and in the available knowledge about the accessions present in the collections and also about the genetic contents of the material. It therefore seems obvious that plant breeding in Europe and, as a consequence, of links with the global network of IBPGR/FAO, also the developing countries will strongly benefit from some sort of an amalgamation and improvement of the separate, though closely related efforts of the European institutions dealing with plant genetic resources.

Participation of UNDP and FAO

At the suggestion of FAO and of some European countries, UNDP decided to assist in the preparation of a European Cooperative Programme. This plan is based on the UNDP concept of regional projects on the exchange of experience and information between European countries, that do and do not receive UNDP assistance, on subjects of major development importance, with emphasis on activities applicable to the developing countries as well. The conservation and exchange of genetic resources was considered to meet the requirements for such UNDP regional projects, and therefore a collage of ideas and plans was put together after discussions between UNDP, FAO and EUCARPIA. As UNDP deals with Governments, it was proposed to supplement and strengthen the inter-institutional cooperation, such as has been developed by EUCARPIA, by creating inter-governmental links. In this way, a new dimension will be added to the organization of plant genetic resources in Europe, which should permit direct access on the part of every plant breeder to the genetic material of the entire continent, and which also will constitute the necessary level between

the global activities of IBPGR/FAO and the national and sub-regional activities in Europe. Thus, the planning of the European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP-GR) began.

Some countries, both those receiving UNDP aid and those not receiving such assistance, have already made certain provisions for national inputs to the programme. An assessment of the prevailing situation, with regard to the conservation, documentation and use of genetic resources in Europe, has been made, partly by means of a questionnaire conducted by the EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee and partly through UNDP-supported action by FAO in many European countries. Both UNDP and FAO have already participated in a series of EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee meetings and this participation led to a Collective Consultation held in Geneva in February 1977, which concluded with a series of unanimous recommendations outlining the basis for further cooperative action.

The next step was the preparation of a Background Paper regarding the ECP-GR, which was based partly on the results of various consultations. The paper was discussed during a Government Consultation held in Rome in March 1979. The meeting confirmed the strong interest in Europe to strengthen the collaboration with regard to genetic resources, and approved the urgent need to establish the ECP-GR with a minimum of further delay, along the lines of the Background Paper as presented and amended at the meeting. The document was recognised as a good analysis of the present state of development of cooperation in Europe, but was considered insufficient in its elaboration of some partly controversial questions.

Therefore, UNDP/FAO appointed a mission which, in consultation with representatives of European Governments and with appropriate scientific bodies and international organizations, prepared, as requested, the present documentation of the ECP-GR.

II OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP-GR) are:-

- 1) to further the activities of national and sub-regional institutions for plant genetic resources in Europe, by supplementing and strengthening the cooperation between such institutions through the establishment of inter-governmental links. It is envisaged that all participating countries shall contribute through their national activities to the ECP-GR and that the sub-regional activities will be taken fully into account, hence aiming at compatibility and mutual strengthening through collaboration and addition rather than duplication of efforts;
- 2) to constitute the European part of the global network for plant genetic resources being established by IBPGR/FAO, and to develop and maintain close technical links with the IBPGR/FAO team of genetic resources officers. In this connection, the contacts between European institutions for plant genetic resources and similar institutions in both developing and developed countries throughout the world should be stimulated and strengthened. Thus, the ECP-GR should have an important impact on plant breeding programmes in developing countries both in Europe and in the Third World;

- 3) to stimulate a major effort to describe and document all existing genetic resource collections in Europe, in order to produce a European Catalogue of Genetic Resources for Plant Breeding, taking into account as far as possible the present approaches of gene banks to documenting their collections;
- 4) to further the full and free exchange of plant genetic resources, both within Europe and between Europe and other regions. In this connection, there is a need to describe the types of material which should be freely exchangeable;
- 5) to better the means for rapid and easy flow of data available in Europe relating to genetic resources collections for which a first step should be to develop appropriate input/output compatibility;
- 6) to stimulate and assist in the collection and preservation of European genetic resources which are not yet available in collections and, especially the material which stands in danger of extinction: land-races and traditional types of perennial crops, such as fruit trees. The collecting expeditions can be either national undertakings or joint activities between two or more countries. Joint planning seems desirable for long-term target determination and to avoid duplication of efforts. Regarding the collecting activity in the European region itself, attention should nevertheless be given to the development of national efforts;
- 7) to encourage activities in all fields regarding the evaluation of plant genetic resources, as well as the joint organization of cooperative evaluation programmes within Europe and eventually, through the global network, in other regions of the world. Priorities should be set in such a way as to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and to maintain the highest possible degree of coordination between plant breeding objectives on the one hand and the availability of genetic resources on the other. Special attention should be paid to the distribution of the results of evaluation research;
- 8) to develop eventually, in cooperation with IBPGR/FAO, a system of agreements to allocate to participating genetic resources institutions certain responsibilities as to ensure that all accessions will be properly maintained and readily available. For seed-propagated crops per accession multiplication or rejuvenation at one location will be sufficient; for all crops the storage of seed or tissue, or the propagation or maintenance of vegetative parts should per accession be duplicated at not less than two locations;
- 9) to encourage research on important problems relating to genetic resources' management, such as long-term preservation of the material, either as seed or in tissue culture, the size of collections in relation to genetic

variability (both the number of accessions per species and the number of seeds, etc. per accession), etc.;

- 10) to study the implications of plant quarantine measurements on the exchange of genetic resources, and vice-versa, whether there is a need for the development of additional quarantine concepts, especially in the light of new exchange methods like tissue culture;
- 11) to identify training requirements at different levels and to organize training facilities, seminars, exchanges of personnel and expertise, and other similar activities, in such a way as to encourage the fully-integrated development of genetic resources work in Europe, and in other parts of the world, through cooperative links with international programmes.

III ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP-GR) is envisaged to be administered by a Governing Board, which will be assisted by an Executive Secretary, with appropriate administrative assistance, as well as by a Scientific Advisory Committee. In addition, countries were asked to nominate a National Coordinator.

Governing Board

The Governing Board will consist of representatives of all participating Governments, empowered to take decisions regarding the programme. The representatives will be nominated by their Governments. Each Government shall have one vote.

The Governing Board furthermore shall consist of ex officio members (the Executive Secretary, the Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee, and during the period of UNDP and FAO participation, a representative of both these Organizations), as well as observers (representatives of the sub-regional and global levels: CMEA Network, EC Cooperative, Mediterranean Germplasm Programme, Nordic Gene Bank and IBPGR, as well as ad hoc consultants, etc.), all of them without the right to vote.

The Governing Board may decide to establish an Executive Committee to direct the Programme between the meetings of the Board, although this task also can be carried out by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Board and the Executive Secretary. Various proposals as to the composition of such a Committee have been considered, which however, only become effective after the Board has decided to establish the Committee.

The Governing Board is the inter-governmental organ in which rests the overall responsibility for decision-taking concerning activities of common interest to the Programme, and, in particular, it will have the following functions, many of which should only be carried out after consulting the Scientific Advisory Committee, or even could be delegated by the Governing Board to the Scientific Advisory Committee:

- 1) to direct and review the ECP-GR so that the objectives are fulfilled in the best possible way;
- 2) to constitute the appropriate inter-governmental links, needed to strengthen the cooperation between European institutions for plant genetic resources, or to initiate further cooperation of this kind;
- 3) to initiate proposals for funding, both for general and specific activities, from individual countries, international agencies and any other possible source;
- 4) to deal with any administrative, financial and technical matters, which will foster the advancement of the Programme;
- 5) to advise on the nomination of the Executive Secretary and to further a close cooperation between the Executive Secretary on the one hand and both the Governing Board and the Scientific Advisory Committee on the other;
- 6) to appoint the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee, after consultation with EUCARPIA;
- 7) to stimulate international cooperation in the field of plant genetic resources, within the region between national and sub-regional institutions and also through IBPGR, with other regions, in such a way that Europe will fully participate in the global network;
- 8) to establish and maintain close contacts with appropriate international organizations in the field of genetic resources and plant breeding, such as EUCARPIA and UPOV (International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants);
- 9) to undertake the preparation of a European Catalogue of Genetic Resources for Plant Breeding and to keep this catalogue updated;
- 10) to formally recognize both the base and active collections of plant genetic resources held in participating countries and to ensure that the collections become part of the free exchange system;
- 11) to further the international harmonization between existing documentation systems by developing input/output compatibility in order to come to rapid and easy exchange of data;
- 12) to encourage joint activities in the field of exploration, evaluation, maintenance and storage of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- 13) to identify training requirements within the region and propose appropriate means of fulfilling such requirements at different levels;
- 14) to identify the need for the appointment of consultants and working groups to assist in any of the above-mentioned functions, e.g. the data management, and to propose how to realise such assistance;

- 15) to adopt Rules of Procedure for the Governing Board, with regulations concerning composition, organization, meetings (general and specific), reports (of Programme and of meetings) and, if necessary, the constitution of an Executive Committee (Appendix II).

Executive Secretary

In the preparatory phases of the ECP-GR, UNDP and FAO shall jointly nominate an Executive Secretary, after consultation with the Governing Board. This Officer shall be assisted by appropriate administrative personnel. Until the end of 1981, this Secretariat will be located in the UNDP Office in Geneva.

After the two initial phases of the ECP-GR, the Governing Board shall decide whether there is need to have an Executive Secretary. After the ECP-GR has become fully operative, it is possible that the Secretariat functions could be reduced to the extent that this responsibility could be taken over by one of the plant genetic resource institutions, or could be rotated between such institutions.

The Executive Secretary shall have the following functions:

- 1) to assist the Governing Board, and through this Board also the Scientific Advisory Committee, in their decisions, resolutions and recommendations;
- 2) to present to the Governing Board, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, a draft work plan for each successive period of twelve months;
- 3) to present once a year to the Governing Board, after consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, a progress report of the programme and to draw up the minutes of the meetings of the Governing Board and the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- 4) to maintain the contacts between the participating Governments, and also between the cooperating institutions;
- 5) to maintain close links with IBPGR/FAO in Rome, in order to realize the right insertion of the ECP-GR into the global network;
- 6) to exercise on behalf of the Governing Board, and during the period of participation of UNDP and FAO also on behalf of these Organizations, the overall responsibility for any personnel recruited for the ECP-GR.

Scientific Advisory Committee

The Scientific Advisory Committee will consist of recognized specialists who are known in Europe to have special knowledge or experience in the field of plant genetic resources. Because of successful activities of the EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee since the late 1960s, and to ensure continuity and avoid unnecessary duplication, it is strongly recommended to let this EUCARPIA Committee act as the Scientific Advisory

Committee of the ECP-GR. In addition, the Chairman and one other member of the Governing Board, who could be the Vice-Chairman, or the Executive Secretary, should be ex officio members. The Scientific Advisory Committee can seek assistance by inviting other specialists to its meetings, especially drawn from the group of directors and scientific staff of the national institutions for plant genetic resources in Europe, from the sub-regional groups and from other international organizations.

The Scientific Advisory Committee shall have the following functions:

- 1) to assist the Governing Board and the Executive Secretary in executing their functions by submitting general scientific advice and special reports, both on request of the Governing Board and on the initiative of the Committee itself;
- 2) to continue constituting a link between the European institutions on plant genetic resources by organizing yearly meetings, to which the directors of these institutions or their representatives are being invited, to discuss problems of mutual interest, as well as joint programmes;
- 3) to constitute the links between the ECP-GR and the European plant breeders, as organized in EUCARPIA and other appropriate organizations;
- 4) to formulate proposals how to further and stimulate the full and free exchange of plant genetic resources and genetic data related to them;
- 5) to assist in the preparation of the European Catalogue of Genetic Resources for Plant Breeding;
- 6) to formulate priorities for the collection and preservation of European genetic resources, which are not yet available in collections and especially those which stand in particular danger of extinction;
- 7) to assist in the organization of joint evaluation programmes, including the distribution of the results;
- 8) to start the development of plans for the division of responsibilities among European institutions with base and active collections of plant genetic resources, for long-term storage and rejuvenation of various crops. Such plans, as well as proposals for duplicate storage for safety, should be drawn up in close contact with IBPGR/FAO and should take into account the possible implications from quarantine legislation;
- 9) to consult concerning the work plan, review of work and the annual progress report before it is presented to the Governing Board;
- 10) to adopt Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Advisory Committee, which should be cleared by the Governing Board, with regulations among others concerning composition, organization, meetings and various kinds of reports.

National Coordinator

Each European country was invited to nominate a National Coordinator, who will mainly have a national responsibility. It was thought that these officers would facilitate the day-to-day development of the Programme at the national level and should be the first to be contacted on technical and organizational matters regarding the countries. However, it continues to be the full responsibility of each participating country to judge whether a National Coordinator is needed, or whether the already existing national organizational structures are appropriate to meet the requirements. The National Coordinator can also be the Country Representative in the Governing Board.

IV DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME

The European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP-GR) is a project of cooperation among the Governments of the participating countries, which will be assisted by UNDP with FAO execution. It is envisaged to be developed in three phases with a step-wise increase in Governments' efforts and a decrease in UNDP assistance.

Phase I : Preparation

This will be an initial preparatory period of about two years, in which the Programme will have to become fully specified, while the Organizational Framework should be realized and become operational. There will be a major task for the Executive Secretary to establish links and contacts and to start the joint planning, etc. During this period the necessary cash contributions will be provided by UNDP, from regional IPF (Indicative Planning Figure) funds for Europe. These will mainly be used to pay salaries, emoluments and travel of the ECP-GR personnel, including consultants. Therefore, UNDP and FAO jointly will nominate the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Governing Board. Also in Phase I, UNDP will provide offices in Geneva, which however should be considered to be a preliminary solution, and FAO will provide technical backstopping and operational facilities which are not available in Geneva. The participating countries will provide a major contribution in kind (for description, see page 32).

The second part of this document consists of a Project Document concerning Phase I of the ECP-GR, describing the various details, and explaining that at the end of this UNDP-assisted preparatory phase, the Programme will be reviewed and the continuation subject to the agreement of the participating Governments and UNDP.

Phase II : Consolidation

Considering the degree of complexity of the Programme, the two years' preparatory phase will probably be long enough to evaluate the possibilities for the continuation and the way to be taken, but too short to have the Programme fully developed. Therefore, a consolidation phase is proposed, which will require about three years and in which the programme will fully unfold. During this period, the European Catalogue of Genetic Resources for Plant Breeding should become available, at least for some of the major crop plants, and several joint activities might be realized. The nature

of the Programme will be such that an Executive Secretary will still be needed. The costs of the Programme in cash will be paid from contributions from UNDP and the participating Governments, but the final partition of these contributions has yet to be decided. A weighting system may be employed to establish the extent of the cash contributions of the individual Governments. As in Phase I, all participating Governments will contribute in kind, among others by the mobilization of already existing institutions or activities in the ECP-GR.

As long as there is UNDP and/or FAO participation in the ECP-GR, the Organizations concerned shall nominate a representative in the Governing Board of the ECP-GR. The nominating organization shall be responsible to enable these representatives to participate in the meetings of the Governing Board and will provide the costs of travel, etc., for such visits. The localisation of Phase II of the Programme has yet to be decided, and it is envisaged that the Governing Board will take this decision before the onset of Phase II.

Phase III : Operation

In this phase, the Programme will be fully operational without UNDP or FAO assistance (except, perhaps, to constitute the auspices under which the inter-governmental cooperation can be continued). As mentioned before, there is a possibility that the cooperative links will have developed in such a way that there is no need any longer for a full-time Executive Secretary. In that case, it is proposed that the remaining secretarial functions be executed by one of the participating institutions for plant genetic resources in Europe. A scheme of rotation of the Secretariat between these institutions might be considered. In the operational phase of the ECP-GR, all contributions in cash and kind will be provided by the participating Governments.

Finances

In Appendix III a proposal for the Plan of Expenditure for Phase I of the European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP-GR) is presented. This plan covers the budget for those costs of the Programme, which will have to be paid from the UNDP contributions in cash, as well as an estimate in money of some of the contributions in kind; the following main categories have been excluded from the estimates:

- (a) the value of the plant genetic resource collections; in total about 800,000 accessions;
- (b) the cost of management of the national institutions for plant genetic resources, viz. storage, rejuvenation, evaluation, general documentation, the national catalogues, etc.;
- (c) the continuation of payment of local salaries, etc., to persons within the Programme, who are being sent out for individual training or collecting expeditions, etc.

All such expenditures occur in the countries which have collections of genetic resources, and the costs and accordingly the size of the contributions in kind to

the project will certainly be related to the number of accessions, and also to the level of technology concerning storage, documentation, etc., in the different countries. Furthermore, it should be noted that some of the countries have a much longer history than others in the collection and maintenance of genetic resources for plant breeding, which may be reflected in the quality of their collections.

There is no doubt that the above-mentioned contributions in kind, especially those of item (b) will be a multiple of the estimated expenditures of the ECP-GR, probably at least five million dollars per year. Without these contributions in kind the ECP-GR would not be possible.

The Plan of Expenditure is based on the following thoughts, premises or estimates:

Personnel: one full-time Executive Secretary and one person full-time for administrative assistance, plus possibilities for extra part-time assistance for special tasks for peak periods. The consultants will be appointed on short-term contracts.

Duty Travel: the costs of travel of the ECP-GR personnel will be paid from the Programme's budget, whereas the travel of government representatives to meetings, etc., in principle, will be paid by the participating countries, and the costs of travel of the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee will be provided by these members or their employers.

Contractual Services: these are services carried out in participating countries and paid by the Programme. In the first years especially, the production of the European Catalogue will cost extra money, both for the preparation and for the publication, as well as other computer-aided activities. Furthermore, the composition of other technical publications might be financially supported.

Meetings: the estimates are based on meetings of the Governing Board in 1980 and 1981, as well as one meeting per year of the Scientific Advisory Committee, to which the directors of the institutions for plant genetic resources will be invited to participate.

Activities: the main part of these expenditures will come as contributions in kind. It is envisaged that this programme may result in an increase in the exchange of genetic material. Because of the mutual benefit of such activities, it is expected that the extra expenses will be borne by the institutions themselves. The expenditures in cash for collecting material are meant as extra to national or joint expenditures for this purpose. The equipment used in the institutions for genetic resources have not been estimated; they belong to the above-mentioned excluded categories. The cash contribution for this item shall only be used for the IPP countries.

Training: as far as the cash contribution is concerned, the main emphasis shall be placed on the transfer of technology, etc., to IPP countries.

General Costs: the costs of offices are omitted because UNDP, Geneva will provide costs for Phase I.

Government Contributions in Kind:

During all phases of the ECP-GR, the participating Governments will contribute in kind, by inserting in the European Cooperative Programme their national activities in the field of genetic resources conservation for plant breeding, both directly and indirectly through the sub-regional European organizations in this field. In so doing, the participating Governments shall take all necessary measures to facilitate the execution of the Programme and to assist the ECP-GR staff in obtaining such services and facilities as they may require to fulfill their tasks.

The participating Governments shall guarantee to accept the principle of full and free exchange of samples of plant genetic resources and their related information. This free exchange of samples is to ensure that plant breeders and allied research workers can obtain the material needed for their work. It is not intended in any way whatsoever to encourage the growth of large central gene banks at the expense of smaller ones. The exchange will include all material which is under the aegis of the Government, and which belongs to the following categories:

- (a) gene bank material sensu stricta: the original collections (wild species, landraces, primitive populations, ecotypes, etc.) or the offspring of these collections, as being produced by the national institutions for plant genetic resources, in order to maintain the material;
- (b) varieties which are no longer commercialized and breeders' stocks or parental lines, which are released by the breeder/owner to enter the free exchange system;
- (c) released or commercial varieties and other registered material, which is or will be commercialized, with the restriction that such material should only be used as initial source of variation for the purpose of creating other new varieties, in accordance with the UPOV Convention of 1961.

This means that breeders' material, which is part of a breeding programme to produce a new variety and which resulted from crossing and selection, can only be exchanged by the breeder/owner himself or with his/her explicit permission.

The Government cannot guarantee the exchange of material which is, for example, owned by private commercial companies. But the Government will attempt to ensure that such material, insofar as it belongs to the above-mentioned categories of genetic resources, will become available to be inserted in the free exchange system.

The participating Governments shall continue the payment of local salaries, social security measures and emoluments of the national staff, who are sent out for individual training or to participate in meetings, expeditions, etc. Each participating Government shall nominate a representative who is empowered to make decisions regarding the Programme, and the Governments shall be responsible to enable their representatives in the Governing Board to participate in the meetings of this Body, and will provide the costs of travel, etc., for such visits. Finally,

the participating Governments shall, on a rotational basis, be invited to offer facilities for the organization of meetings of Governing Board and Scientific Advisory Committee, and provide the money needed for the local costs of such organization (but not travel and allowances).

It is expected that EUCARPIA shall urge its members to assist in the execution of the ECP-GR, by supporting the full and free exchange of samples of plant genetic resources and their related information. EUCARPIA shall also be asked to allow its Bulletin to be used for communication between ECP-GR and the members of the Association.

Reporting

The Executive Secretary shall prepare reports, which shall include:

- (a) general progress report;
- (b) minutes of meetings of the Governing Board;
- (c) minutes of meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- (d) summaries of special activities, as expeditions, working groups, consultancies, etc.
- (e) work plan for the next twelve months' period.

This report shall be sent to the Governing Board for approval and then be distributed among the participating Governments, UNDP, FAO, EUCARPIA, the Scientific Advisory Committee, the directors of European institutions for plant genetic resources, the sub-regional organizations and IBPGR. An abstract of this report will be published in the EUCARPIA Bulletin and in the FAO/IBPGR Plant Genetic Resources Newsletter.

Activities for 1980 and 1981

- 1) Appointment of Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant, and establishment of offices in Geneva; visits to national and sub-regional institutions of plant genetic resources;
- 2) completion of an inventory of the technical and manpower resources (see Appendix I (f)), which are available in the participating countries for the work on genetic resources for plant breeding, and which will be inserted in the ECP-GR;
- 3) beginning of the preparation of the European Catalogue of Genetic Resources for Plant Breeding, first by defining which basic set of data should be presented in the Catalogue and secondly, by withdrawing such data from the national institutions for plant genetic resources, if possible already in machine-readable form;
- 4) study of the various systems of gene bank documentation used in Europe, and formulation of proposals to better the means for rapid and easy flow

of data; this study might be carried out by a working group and/or a consultant;

- 5) identification, furthering and financial assistance of the genetic resources collecting activities in Europe, and initiation of a study on the question of which genetic resources for plant breeding are still available in Europe (including seed-propagated and vegetatively-propagated plants) and not yet collected in order to formulate a long-term priority plan for the conservation of this material;
- 6) identification and encouragement of joint evaluation programmes, both on a large area (viz. many countries, but small number of characteristics, which are however of primary importance for the crop species), and on a more limited scale (viz. one or a few countries, but with many more characteristics);
- 7) to collate information on current research related to genetic resource activities and to stimulate new work where necessary;
- 8) identification of training requirements, in order to stimulate exchange of personnel and expertise between institutions for plant genetic resources, and if requested, the appointment of specialist consultants for certain training activities;
- 9) continuation of the organization of the series of annual meetings, which until 1980 were organized by the EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee, and which were attended by the representatives of the national institutions of plant genetic resources; such meetings should be supplemented by regular scientific discussions on relevant questions;
- 10) approval of the Rules of Procedure for the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- 11) organization in both 1980 and 1981 of meetings of the Governing Board to discuss progress. The 1981 meeting should decide whether and if so, how, the ECP-GR would be continued in Phases II and III.

APPENDIX I (a)

The International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR)

The IBPGR is an autonomous, international, scientific Organization funded by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the latter co-sponsored by UNDP, FAO and the World Bank. The basic function of the IBPGR is to promote an international network of genetic resources centres to further the collection, conservation, evaluation, documentation and use of plant genetic resources. At the same time, its tasks include identifying specific needs; establishing standards; and promoting technical meetings, training and the dissemination of information.

The Executive Secretariat of the IBPGR is provided by FAO; and a reorganization of the work within FAO has ensured that both FAO programmes on genetic resources and the IBPGR programme are co-terminous and both are jointly aimed at establishing a global crop genetic resources network for the benefit and welfare of people throughout the world.

The IBPGR was established in 1974 and the most significant result of its work has been a remarkable catalytic effect on genetic resources activities in many nations, and in international and regional research centres.

The IBPGR provides funds to start necessary activities. Consequently, its budget reflects a proportion only of the world-wide endeavours. It has been extremely successful in accelerating regionalized activities - usually based on cooperation between national efforts. The IBPGR Mediterranean Programme is one of these (see Appendix I (C)).

APPENDIX I (b)

The Genetic Resources Network of the Council for
Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA)

There is close cooperation between the genetic resources centres of the socialist countries belonging to CMEA, which, on the one hand, has strengthened the collaboration between the countries and, on the other hand, has stimulated the genetic resource activities within those countries. The network is being organized through the Technical and Scientific Council for Genetic Resources, in which each country is represented by two delegates. In addition, the network is coordinated by the N.I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Industry (VIR), Leningrad, USSR.

Each year a meeting of the Technical and Scientific Council will be held, in which the progress of the work, the plans for the future developments and problems of mutual interest will be discussed. The location of these meetings is rotated among the countries.

There are four main areas of activities:

- 1) training through study tours;
- 2) development of standardised descriptors;
- 3) harmonization of the data processing system;
- 4) long-term storage of genetic resources.

Several working groups have been established and a major achievement has been the compilation of the sources for terminology (descriptors and descriptor states) for the most important crop species (18 volumes in Russian). This terminology will be the basis for the future computerised data storage, retrieval and exchange, which per crop species, may be located in one centre.

APPENDIX I (c)

The IBPGR Mediterranean Germplasm Programme

Emergency collecting in the Mediterranean, originally funded by UNEP, led to an IBPGR Programme which has been in operation since 1975. At present, this Programme includes the following participating countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Libya, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Yugoslavia. Since a UNDP and FAO effort in the eastern part of the Mediterranean basin was based in Izmir, Turkey, that country and Syria have been included along with other Near Eastern countries in an IBPGR Southwest Asia Programme.

Major emphasis has been laid on:

- 1) collecting (17 missions in 9 countries, with participation of 13 countries, resulting in more than 5,000 populations sampled);
- 2) training of personnel;
- 3) conservation and evaluation of material.

The Germplasm Laboratory, Bari, Italy, has acted as a focal point, because good seed storage facilities have been made available. More recently, the IBPGR has supported storage facilities in Spain and Portugal and there is a division of responsibilities between the three stores on a crop basis.

The Programme has been operated by FAO/IBPGR with the collaboration of the Germplasm Laboratory in Bari. FAO/IBPGR is now considering outposting the coordinating role to Bari. From an organizational viewpoint, national coordinators will be nominated by the countries to act as contact points and these may well form the basis of a coordinating committee.

APPENDIX I (d)

The Nordic Gene Bank

The Nordic Gene Bank for agricultural and horticultural crops started its activities on 1 January 1979, as a joint undertaking of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. It is funded by the Nordic Ministerial Council and is located in Lund, Sweden. The Board has two members from each country. In addition, there is a Scientific Advisory Committee, which is based on National Advisory Groups for each of the countries.

In the breeding institutes of the participating countries about 25,000 accessions of seed-propagated species are waiting to be sorted out, documented and stored. In 1979, 5,000 of them will be taken over, and in 1980, 10,000 will be added. At a later stage, vegetatively-propagated material, e.g. potatoes and fruit trees, will be included.

A minicomputer has been installed, which at first will document the so-called passport information of the accessions, along with data concerning pedigree and origin. It is envisaged to carry out collecting missions in the five countries, to collect local variability, e.g., of grasses and fruit trees.

The Nordic Gene Bank offers close cooperation to other genetic resource centres. At the request of IAEA, Vienna, the Gene Bank will store a number of genetic mutants, and IBPGR has asked the Gene Bank to participate in the global network of conservation centres.

APPENDIX I (e)

The European Commission (EC) Programme on
Better Use of Gene Banks and Resistance Breeding

As part of the EC Agricultural Research Programme, a programme for the better use of gene banks and resistance breeding has been established, which after a preparatory phase began its official activities in 1979. The programme is organized by a research group, with representatives of the nine countries and a nominated coordinator.

Its major tasks include standardisation of descriptors and descriptor states for a better exchange of material and information. Eight groups of crops have been chosen and efforts are being concentrated in the first instance on value in breeding for disease resistance. It has been decided to carry out a study to produce a conversion programme for the data of the gene banks in Bari, Italy, and Braunschweig, Federal Republic of Germany, which should also describe the format for newly-established data banks in the EC countries. The possible use of the Euronet system for data exchange will be investigated.

Other major activities include the joint evaluation in different regions of the EC of genetic material for plant breeding, as well as the organization of joint collection missions, e.g. in Ireland and the Federal Republic of Germany.

A programme of scientific seminars on various subjects concerning genetic resources and resistance breeding has been developed. Links with IBPGR, FAO, UNDP, EUCARPIA and other appropriate organizations or institutions will be maintained and expanded.

APPENDIX I (f)

Provisional Inventory Regarding Plant Genetic Resources in Europe (1979)

Country	Collections	Approx. Number of Accessions	Central Gene Bank	Cooled Seed Store	Computer Data Bank	Publ. Seed List	Sub-Regional Cooperation
ALBANIA	unknown						
AUSTRIA	unknown						
BELGIUM	yes	5,000	no	yes	no	no	Eur. Comm.
BULGARIA	yes	103,000	yes	no	no	no	CMEA
CYPRUS	yes	500	no	no	no	no	Medit. Prog.
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	yes	41,000	yes	no	no	yes	CMEA
DENMARK	yes	see NORDIC					NORDIC/EC
FINLAND	yes	see NORDIC					NORDIC
FRANCE	yes	40,000	no	no	no	no	Eur. Comm.
F.R. GERMANY	yes	25,000	yes	yes	yes	yes	Eur. Comm.
GERMAN D.R.	yes	50,000	yes	yes	no	yes	CMEA
GREECE	yes	2,000	no	no	no	no	Medit. Prog.
HUNGARY	yes	30,000	yes	yes	no	yes	CMEA
ICELAND	yes	see NORDIC					NORDIC
IRELAND	yes					no	Eur. Comm.
ITALY	yes	35,000	yes	yes	yes	yes	Medit. Prog./EC
LUXEMBOURG	unknown						Eur. Comm.
MALTA	unknown						
NETHERLANDS	yes	35,000	no	yes	no	no	Eur. Comm.
NORWAY	yes	see NORDIC					NORDIC
POLAND	yes	30,000	yes	no	yes	yes	CMEA
PORTUGAL	yes	3,000	yes	yes	no	no	Medit. Prog.
ROMANIA	yes	5,000	no	no	no	no	CMEA
SPAIN	yes	11,000	yes	yes	no	no	Medit. Prog.
SWEDEN	yes	see NORDIC					NORDIC
SWITZERLAND	yes	4,000	no	yes	no	no	
TURKEY	yes	10,000	yes	yes	yes	no	IBPGR S.W. Asia
UNITED KINGDOM	yes	50,000	no	yes	yes	no	Eur. Comm.
USSR	yes	270,000	yes	yes	no	no	CMEA
YUGOSLAVIA	yes	20,000	no	no	no	no	Medit. Prog.
NORDIC	yes	25,000	yes	yes	yes	no	NORDIC

APPENDIX II

Provisional Rules of Procedure for the
Interim Governing Board of the European Cooperative Programme for the
Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP-GR)

I COMPOSITION

Rule 1

The Governing Board shall consist of one representative from each country participating in the ECP-GR. The representatives shall be nominated by their Governments.

Rule 2

The Governing Board shall furthermore include the following ex officio members: the Executive Secretary of the ECP-GR, the Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the ECP-GR, and during the UNDP and FAO period of participation, representatives of both these Organizations.

Rule 3

The Governing Board shall invite the sub-regional European organizations for plant genetic resources (the Nordic Gene Bank, the Network of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the IBPGR Mediterranean Germplasm Programme and the Programme on the Use of Gene Banks and Resistance Breeding of the European Communities), and IBPGR to nominate each a representative as permanent observer. Furthermore, ad hoc observers may also be invited.

Rule 4

Each country representative shall have one vote; the ex officio members and the observers shall not have the right to vote.

II ORGANIZATION

Rule 5

The Governing Board shall elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from its members. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall serve for a two-year period and may be re-elected for no more than one further term of contiguous office. In general, the principle of rotation will be adhered to.

Rule 6

The Governing Board may decide to elect an Executive Committee, which would act for the Governing Board between its meetings. If so, this shall consist of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board and a maximum of four members of the Board. The Chairman of the Governing Board shall also be Chairman of the Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee follow the same rules of rotational retirement and re-election as the Chairman.

Rule 7

If the Governing Board decides not to establish an Executive Committee, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Executive Secretary shall carry out the daily implementation of the Programme.

Rule 8

If the Chairman ceases to be able to carry out his functions or ceases to be a member of the Governing Board, he shall cease to hold such office and the Vice-Chairman shall assume that office for the unexpired term.

Rule 9

The Executive Secretary of the ECP-GR shall act as secretary of the Governing Board and the Executive Committee, including the preparation and distribution of progress reports, minutes of the meetings and any other documentation.

Rule 10

The working languages of the Governing Board shall be the working languages of UNDP (English, French, Spanish and Russian). The working language for the meetings, reports and minutes may be any one of these languages.

III MEETINGS

Rule 11

The Governing Board shall hold regular meetings in 1980 and 1981, and thereafter every second year. The venue of these meetings shall rotate among the participating countries.

Rule 12

The Governing Board may hold additional special meetings, but only at the request, or with the approval of at least one-third of the participating countries and only if an item of major importance needs to be discussed.

Rule 13

The Chairman of the Governing Board shall prepare the provisional agenda for each meeting and have it distributed at least four weeks in advance of the meeting. The agenda shall include discussion and approval of the minutes of the last meetings of the Governing Board and the Scientific Advisory Committee, as well as the progress reports. Furthermore, the Chairman shall insert items in the provisional agenda, which have been proposed by the participating countries, the Scientific Advisory Committee, as well as by the ex officio members of the Board. At the beginning of each meeting the Governing Board will finalise and adopt the agenda.

Rule 14

The Chairman of the Governing Board shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, direct the discussions, accord the right to speak, put questions up for discussion and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 15

Discussions may not commence and decisions cannot be taken without the presence of the majority of the members with the right to vote. Decisions of the Governing Board shall be taken by consensus or in its absence by the majority of the voting members present at the meeting. A consensus is needed for decisions to amend these Rules of Procedure or on important questions which change the essential substance of the project. The Governing Board shall decide by a two-thirds majority if a question should be considered as belonging to this category.

IV MISCELLANEOUS

Rule 16

The Chairman of the Governing Board may ask the members of the Board for decisions to be taken by correspondence. These decisions shall be taken by consensus or in its absence by the majority of all members. A consensus is needed for decisions to amend these Rules of Procedure or on important questions which change the essential substance of the project. The Governing Board will decide by a two-thirds majority if a question should be considered as belonging to this category.

APPENDIX III

PLAN OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE CONSERVATION AND EXCHANGE OF CROP GENETIC RESOURCES (ECP-GR)

1980 and 1981 (in US Dollars)

Object of Expenditure	1980			1981				
	m/m	UNDP in Cash	Government in kind	Total	m/m	UNDP in Cash	Government in kind	Total
PERSONNEL								
Executive Secretary	9	72,000	-	72,000	12	105,600	-	105,600
Administrative Assistance	9	34,500	-	34,500	18	75,900	-	75,900
Consultants	5	35,000	35,000	70,000	8	56,000	56,000	112,000
Sub-Total		141,500	35,000	176,500		237,500	56,000	293,500
DUTY TRAVEL (including DSA)								
ECP-GR Personnel		15,000	-	15,000		22,000	-	22,000
Other Officials, Scientists		1,000	30,000	31,000		2,000	33,000	35,000
Sub-Total		16,000	30,000	46,000		24,000	33,000	57,000
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES								
Local Labour		1,000	-	1,000		2,000	-	2,000
Computer Work		8,000	8,000	16,000		13,000	13,000	26,000
Publications		2,000	2,000	4,000		5,000	5,000	10,000
Sub-Total		11,000	10,000	21,000		20,000	18,000	38,000
LOCAL COSTS OF MEETINGS								
Policy Making		-	2,000	2,000		-	2,000	2,000
Seminars		-	5,000	5,000		-	6,000	6,000
Sub-Total		-	7,000	7,000		-	8,000	8,000
ACTIVITIES								
Exchange of Material		-	18,000	18,000		-	22,000	22,000
Collection of Material		16,000	40,000	56,000		23,000	44,000	67,000
Equipment		20,000	p.m.	20,000		22,000	p.m.	22,000
Sub-Total		36,000	58,000	94,000		45,000	66,000	111,000
TRAINING (including TRAVEL)								
Fellowships		10,000	30,000	40,000		12,000	33,000	45,000
Exchange of Scientists		-	20,000	20,000		-	22,000	22,000
Sub-Total		10,000	50,000	60,000		12,000	55,000	67,000
GENERAL COSTS								
Offices		p.m.	-	p.m.		p.m.	-	p.m.
Miscellaneous		11,000	-	11,000		18,000	-	18,000
Reserve		10,000	-	10,000		15,000	-	15,000
Sub-Total		21,000	-	21,000		33,000	-	33,000
GRAND TOTAL		235,500	190,000	425,500		371,500	236,000	607,500

THE PROJECT DOCUMENT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Intercountry Project of the Governments of:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Title: European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources

Number: RER/75/035/D/01/12 Duration: Two years ^{1/}

Primary Function: Institution building

Secondary Function: Direct support

Sector: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (05)

Sub-Sector: Plant Production

Executing Agency: FAO

Estimated Starting Date: 1 April 1980 ^{1/}

Government Inputs: \$426,000 (in kind) UNDP Inputs: \$607,000 ^{1/}
US Dollars equivalent US Dollars

Signed: _____
on behalf of the Government of

Date: _____

Signed: _____
on behalf of the Executing Agency

Date: _____

Signed: _____
on behalf of the
United Nations Development Programme

Date: _____

1/ excluding prior preparatory assistance

PART I LEGAL CONTEXT

This project shall be considered as a Plan of Operation agreed between the participating Governments and the United Nations Development Programme. The conditions governing UNDP assistance to the project are set out in Annex I.

PART II THE PROJECT

A) Development Objectives

The development objectives of the European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Genetic Resources for Plant Breeding (ECP-GR) are to contribute to the future development of agriculture in the participating countries by the more effective use of plant genetic resources, which are well conserved and accessible, and to further the activities of national and sub-regional institutions for plant genetic resources in Europe, by supplementing and strengthening the cooperation between such institutions through the establishment of inter-governmental links.

B) Immediate Objectives

The immediate objectives of the project are to strengthen the existing organizational framework in Europe in order to establish a European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Genetic Resources for Plant Breeding with the following tasks:

- 1) To create the means for full and free exchange of available plant genetic material, as well as the related genetic data, between the national and sub-regional centres for plant genetic resources in Europe, in order to make this material and the data available to all European plant breeders.
- 2) To stimulate and coordinate the collection and preservation of European plant genetic resources, including both seed-propagated and vegetatively-propagated material, which are not yet existing in collections, and especially that material which stands in danger of extinction.
- 3) To make available the above-mentioned plant genetic material and related data to the plant breeders in developing countries and eventually to facilitate the participation of Europe in the global network of plant genetic resources, as envisaged by the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) and FAO.
- 4) To stimulate and coordinate evaluation of plant genetic material, to be carried out by the national and sub-regional centres for plant genetic resources in Europe and by individual breeding institutes and companies, and also to create the means for the minimalisation of duplication of efforts regarding the rejuvenation of the genetic resources.

- 5) To reach a decision on the location of a centre or focal point for activities after 1981.

C) Special Considerations

In addition to the pursuit of the objectives stated in the preceding section, it is expected that the results of this project, as well as the methodology developed by it, will be useful not only to the European countries, but also beyond the European region, and especially to the developing countries, thus contributing significantly to the promotion of international cooperation.

D) Background and Justification

All over the world, men's crops are continually being improved but genetic potential for their improvement has been in many crops minimally exploited until now. It is important that crops continue to be improved and modernised, to meet the requirements of the increasing world population. However, as agriculture is modernised and new genetic varieties replace old, valuable genetic resources are in danger of becoming rare or being lost and only appropriate efforts in locating, collecting, conserving and using them can guarantee the success of future plant breeding.

The danger that the steady depletion of these genetic resources represents for the future was first recognised by some scientists in the 1930s and somewhat later, but systematic and stronger efforts for the conservation of genetic resources only began after 1960.

In order to respond to this danger the FAO Conference established, in 1963, two panels of experts, one on Plant Exploration and Introduction and the other on Forest Genetic Resources, which were to advise the Organization how genetic conservation might best be carried out and where it was most urgently needed.

By 1970, many individual, institutional and governmental efforts were underway. However, it was soon recognised that all these different on-going programmes could effectively contribute to an efficient international genetic conservation effort, only if they were linked in a "worldwide collaborative and coordinated network".

Accordingly, at the initiative of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) was established with a mandate to create such a network, to coordinate its activities, and mobilise financial support for genetic conservation programmes wherever they are needed. IBPGR is one of a series of international agricultural research programmes supported by CGIAR, and its Headquarters and Executive Secretariat are provided by FAO.

In Europe, since 1966, genetic conservation has been promoted by EUCARPIA (European Association for Research on Plant Breeding), which is an international breeders' (non-governmental) organization. The EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee formulated the concept of sub-regional gene banks for the major agro-ecological zones of Europe. At present, four sub-regional groups are operative (EC Programme, Nordic Gene Bank, Mediterranean Programme, CMEA Programme). At the same time, more national programmes for genetic conservation have developed in most of the European countries. Through

all these activities more than two-thirds of the world's collected samples of plant genetic resources are maintained by European institutions. It therefore seems obvious that plant breeding in Europe, and as a consequence of links with the global network of IBPGR/FAO also the developing countries elsewhere, will benefit from the efforts of the institutions for plant genetic resources in Europe.

Consequently, at the suggestion of FAO and some European countries, UNDP agreed to assist in the preparatory phase of a European Cooperative Programme as a regional project for conservation and exchange of genetic resources. Preliminary discussions between UNDP, FAO and EUCARPIA had clarified that such a project would result in (a) a better inter-institutional collaboration within Europe, (b) better links between existing sub-regional European activities, and (c) add an important element to the global network of genetic resources centres being established by FAO and IBPGR.

A collective Consultation was held in Geneva in February 1977 and a Government Consultation in Rome in March 1979. The mandate was provided to proceed, without delay, to finalise a project and establish a programme. Following the Consultation in March 1979, UNDP and FAO appointed a mission to consult with Governments and organizations involved with European crop genetic resources.

The present project document has resulted from the document "Draft Description of the European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources", that the above-mentioned mission has presented for discussion at the Government Consultation in Geneva in December 1979.

E) Outputs

The following major outputs are expected as a result of the project:

- 1) The description and documentation of genetic resources collections in Europe, in order to produce a European Catalogue of Genetic Resources for Plant Breeding.
- 2) The establishment of full and free exchange of plant genetic resources, both within Europe and between Europe and the rest of the world. In this connection, there is a need to describe the types of material which should be freely exchangeable (see section (L) of this document).
- 3) The adoption of measures to ensure compatibility and conversion between existing documentation systems in order to provide for a rapid and easy flow of data available in Europe relating to genetic resources collections.
- 4) The collection and preservation of European genetic resources, including better seed-propagated and vegetatively-propagated material, which are not yet available in collections, and especially the material which stands in danger of extinction: landraces and traditional types of perennial crops, such as fruit trees.

- 5) The distribution of the results of evaluation research to participating countries.
- 6) The identification of training requirements at different levels and the organization of training facilities, seminars, exchanges of personnel and expertise, and other similar activities.

F) Activities

Item No.	Activity	Location	Schedule
<u>(a) Preparatory Activities</u>			
1)	Consultant missions and organizations of consultative meetings for the purpose of project formulation.	Participating countries, Geneva and Rome	1977 - 1979
2)	Organization of a consultation of interested Governments to agree on the establishment of the ECP-GR; to agree on the Project Document for UNDP assistance. To establish a Governing Board and adopt its Rules of Procedure. Appointment of the members of the Scientific Advisory Committee.	Geneva	December 1979
<u>(b) Project Activities</u>			
1)	Establishment of Project Office and appointment of an Executive Secretary and an Administrative Assistance.	Geneva	April 1980
2)	Initiate a greater flow of material between institutions.	Participating countries and Geneva	Throughout the life of the project
3)	Visits by Executive Secretary to national and sub-regional genetic resource centres.	Participating countries	Throughout the life of the project

Item No.	Activity	Location	Schedule
4)	Identification, furthering and assistance of the genetic resources collecting activities in Europe, and initiation of a study on the question of which genetic resources for plant breeding are still available in Europe and not yet collected, including both seed-propagated and vegetatively-propagated crops, in order to formulate a long-term priority plan for the conservation of this material.	Participating countries and Geneva	Throughout the life of the project
5)	Identification and encouragement of national evaluation activities in Europe as well as the organization of joint evaluation programmes, both on a large area (viz. many countries, but small number of characteristics which are, however, of primary importance to the crop species), and on a more limited scale (viz. one or a few countries, but with more characteristics).	Participating countries and Geneva	Throughout the life of the project
6)	Study of the various systems of gene bank documentation and the beginning of the preparation of the European Catalogue of Genetic Resources for Plant Breeding.	Participating countries and Geneva	June 1980 until end of project
7)	Completion of an inventory of technical and manpower resources; identification of training requirements, in order to stimulate exchange of personnel and expertise between institutions for plant genetic resources, as well as the appointment of specialist consultants for certain training activities.	Participating countries and Geneva	Throughout the life of the project
8)	Meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee.	To be decided	To be decided
9)	First Governing Board Meeting to discuss the progress of the project.	To be decided	As soon as possible but not later than 3 months after project becomes operational.

Item No.	Activity	Location	Schedule
10)	Governing Board Meeting to discuss the progress of the project and decide whether and how the ECP-GR would be continued in Phases II and III, and preparation of the necessary documents.	To be decided in second half of 1981.	As soon as possible but not later than 3 months after project becomes operational.
11)	Decision on the location of a centre or focal point for activities after 1981.		

G) Inputs

Government Inputs

The participating Governments shall contribute by making available to the project outputs and results of their national activities in the field of genetic resources' conservation for plant breeding, both directly and through the sub-regional European organizations in this field. In this connection, the participating Governments shall take all necessary measures to facilitate the execution of the Programme and to assist the ECP-GR staff in obtaining such services and facilities as they may require to fulfill their tasks. The participating Governments will guarantee the full and free exchange of the plant genetic resources and related information which are within their aegis available in their countries, in accordance with section (L) of this Project Document. The Governments shall continue the payment of local salaries, social security measures and emoluments of the national staff sent out as consultants or for individual training or to participate in meetings, expeditions, etc. Each participating Government shall nominate a representative who is empowered to take decisions regarding the Programme. The Governments shall bear all costs connected with the participation of their representatives in the meetings of the Governing Board. Finally, the participating Governments shall, on a rotational basis, be expected to offer facilities for the organization of meetings of the Governing Board and the Scientific Advisory Committee and bear the local costs of such meetings, excluding the travel costs and allowance of foreign participants.

It should be noted that the project budget covering the Government contribution in kind does not include the following additional items, since they cannot be reliably quantified:

- (a) the value of the plant genetic resources collections, in total more than 750,000 accessions;
- (b) the costs of management of the national institutions for plant genetic resources, viz. storage, rejuvenation, evaluation, general documentation, national catalogues, etc.;

- (c) the continuation of payment of local salaries, etc., to persons within the Programme, who are sent out for meetings, individual training or collection expeditions, etc.

However, the government contributions in kind are expected to be in proportion to their respective level of technology and existing facilities and materials.

UNDP Inputs

UNDP will contribute funds to finance the assignment of an Executive Secretary, together with the necessary administrative support personnel, consultants, sub-contracts for computer services, fellowships and other training activities, equipment and miscellaneous costs to the extent and in the amounts specified in the project budget covering the UNDP contribution.

H) Preparation of Work Plan

A detailed Work Plan for the implementation of the project shall be prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Governing Board and the Scientific Advisory Committee. This will be done at the start of the project and brought forward periodically. The agreed upon Work Plan will be attached to the Project Document as an Annex and will be considered as part of that document.

I) Framework for Effective Participation of National and International Staff in the Project

While the participating Governments shall undertake to provide the necessary inputs in accordance with section (G) of this Project Document, the Governing Board and the Scientific Advisory Committee, shall consult with the Governments and institutions involved in the project with a view to arriving at the most appropriate distribution of tasks among the participants.

K) Institutional Framework

The European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP-GR) will be carried out jointly by the participating Government, UNDP and FAO as the Executing Agency. It will be administered by a Governing Board assisted by an Executive Secretary and a Scientific Advisory Committee. At the national level, the participating countries may appoint a National Coordinator to coordinate national activities within the framework of the project.

The following structural arrangements are foreseen for the implementation of the project:

Governing Board

The Governing Board is the inter-governmental organ in which rests the overall responsibility for decision-taking concerning activities of common interest to the project. The Governing Board shall consist of representatives of the participating countries empowered to take decisions regarding the Programme. Each participating

Government shall have one vote. In addition to members, the Executive Secretary, the Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee and representatives of UNDP and FAO/IBPGR shall participate ex officio in the meetings of the Governing Board. Representatives of sub-regional institutions (the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the European Communities, the Mediterranean Programme, the Nordic Gene Bank and other institutions as the Governing Board may decide) may participate as observers in the meetings of the Governing Board.

The Governing Board may decide to establish an Executive Committee, should the establishment of such a body be considered useful.

The Governing Board shall adopt its Rules of Procedure.

Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary is the Secretary of the Governing Board and the Scientific Advisory Committee and is also the Head of the Project Office.

In accordance with the directions of the Governing Board and under UNDP, the Executive Secretary is responsible for the central management of the project, including in particular, the following functions:

- 1) assisting the Governing Board and through this Board also the Scientific Advisory Committee in the performance of their decisions, resolutions and recommendations;
- 2) presenting to the Governing Board, in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, a draft Work Plan for each successive period of twelve months;
- 3) presenting twice a year to the Governing Board, after consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee, a progress report of the programme, and to make up the minutes of the meetings of the Governing Board and the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- 4) maintaining the contacts between the participating Governments, and also between the cooperating institutions;
- 5) maintaining close links with the IBPGR/FAO unit in Rome, in order to realise the right way in the insertion of the ECP-GR into the global network;
- 6) exercising on behalf of the Governing Board and of UNDP and FAO, the overall responsibility for any personnel recruited for the ECP-GR by UNDP or FAO.

Scientific Advisory Committee

The Governing Board will appoint a Scientific Advisory Committee consisting of recognised specialists in the field of plant genetic resources and the core of it is expected to be the EUCARPIA Gene Bank Committee. The Governing Board will decide on the size, composition and Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Advisory Committee. The Scientific Advisory Committee will assist the Governing Board and the Executive Secretary in the execution of the project.

L) Prior Obligations and Prerequisites

The Governments participating in the European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP-GR) shall undertake, within the concept of this project, a full and free exchange of samples of plant genetic resources and related information. This free exchange of samples is to ensure that plant breeders and allied research workers can obtain the material needed for their work. It is not intended in any way whatsoever to encourage the growth of large gene banks at the expense of smaller ones. The exchange shall include all material which is under the aegis of the Government, and which belongs to the following categories:

- (a) gene bank material sensu stricto: the original collections of wild species, landraces, primitive populations, ecotypes, etc. or the offspring of these collections, as being produced by the national institutions for plant genetic resources, in order to maintain the material;
- (b) varieties which are no longer commercialised and breeders' stocks or parental lines, which are released by the breeder/owner to enter the free exchange system;
- (c) released or commercial varieties and other registered material, which is or will be commercialised, with the restriction that such material should only be used as initial source of variation for the purpose of creating other new varieties, in accordance with the UPOV Convention of 1961.

The breeders' material, which is part of a breeding programme to produce a new variety and which resulted from crossing and selection, can only be exchanged by the breeder/owner himself or with his/her explicit permission.

It is understood that the Governments cannot guarantee the exchange of material which is, for example, owned by private commercial companies. However, the Governments will attempt to ensure that such material, insofar as it belongs to the above-mentioned categories of genetic resources, will become available to be inserted in the free exchange system.

M) Future UNDP Assistance

The present project is conceived as a preparatory stage of the European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources. Before the end of the project, the participating Governments, FAO and UNDP shall jointly review the progress achieved with a view to determining whether a future phase of participation by UNDP and FAO is needed.

PART III SCHEDULES OF MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTS

A) Monitoring Reviews: Technical Reviews

The project shall be subject to periodic review in accordance with the policies and procedures established by UNDP for monitoring projects and programme implementation.

B) Evaluation

The project shall be subject to evaluation, in accordance with the policies and procedures established for this purpose by UNDP. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the evaluation shall be decided jointly by the participating Governments, UNDP and the Executing Agency concerned.

It is expected that the progress and the achievements of this project shall be evaluated by the representatives of the participating Governments, UNDP and the Executing Agency concerned.

It is expected that the progress and the achievements of this project shall be evaluated by the representatives of the participating Governments, UNDP and the Executing Agency approximately 18 months after the commencement of the project.

C) Progress and Terminal Reports

1) Progress Reports

Biannual progress reports shall be issued by the Executive Secretary summarising the progress and the achievements of the project during the reporting period and identifying any problems impeding project operations.

2) Mid-Project Reports

An interim report including the assessment of progress and achievements of this project and covering the first sixteen months of project operations shall be prepared by the Executive Secretary based on the contributions of the participating national institutions, for submission to the evaluation meeting specified in Part III (B) above.

3) Terminal Reports

A final report will be prepared on the termination of project operations.

PART IV BUDGETS

A) Project Budget Covering Governments' Contribution in Kind (US Dollars)

Country:

Project No.: RER/75/035/01/D/12

Project Title: European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of
Crop Genetic Resources (ECP-GR)

	TOTAL	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
	m/m \$	m/m \$	m/m \$	m/m \$	m/m \$	m/m \$	m/m \$
10	Project Personnel						
	Experts						
11	11-01 Executive Secretary				5	35,000	8 56,000
	11-02 Consultants						
11-99	Sub-Total				5	35,000	8 56,000
13	Other Project Personnel						
15	Official Travel					30,000	33,000
16	Other Costs					40,000	44,000
19	Component Total					105,000	133,000
29	Sub-Contracts						
30	Training						
	31 Individual Fellowships					30,000	33,000
	32 Group Training					20,000	22,000
39	Component Total					50,000	55,000
49	Equipment						
59	Miscellaneous					35,000	48,000
80	Reserve						
99	Governments' Total Contribution					190,000	236,000

PART IV BUDGETS

B) Project Budget Covering UNDP Contribution (US Dollars)

Country:

Project No.: RER/75/035/01/D/12

Project Title: European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of
Crep Genetic Resources (ECP-GR)

		1976*		1977*		1978*		1979*		1980		1981	
		\$	m/m	\$	m/m	\$	m/m	\$	m/m	\$	m/m	\$	m/m
10	<u>Project Personnel</u>												
	11												
	11-01												
	11-02												
	Sub-Total												
13	Other Project Personnel												
15	Official Travel												
16	Other Costs												
19	Component Total												
29	Sub-Contracts												
30	Training												
	31												
	32												
39	Component Total												
49	Equipment												
59	Miscellaneous												
80	Reserve												
99	UNDP Total Contribution												

* to be completed

ANNEX I

(This Annex constitutes part of the Project Document for Project RIER/75/035)

A) Facilities, Privileges and Immunities

- 1) UNDP, FAO, UNDP Contractors (including consultants retained by UNDP) and their personnel who participate in the execution of the Project, shall be accorded the facilities, privileges and immunities specified or envisaged in the Agreement between the Governments and UNDP (or its predecessor programmes). No provision in this Annex I shall be construed to limit or restrict the generality of any provision in the Agreements.
- 2) The Governments shall exempt any Contractor and its personnel from, or bear the cost of, any taxes, duties, fees, levies or other impositions which may be imposed under the laws and regulations in effect in their territories in respect of:
 - i) Any payments made to the Contractor and its personnel in connection with the execution of the Project;
 - ii) any equipment, materials or supplies brought into the territories of the Governments for the purposes of the Project or which, after having been brought into such territories, may be subsequently withdrawn therefrom.
- 3) Contractors and their personnel shall be accorded the same privileges and immunities as accorded to officials of the United Nations under Article V of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.
- 4) Each Government shall accord to representatives of the other Governments, attending meetings of the Governing Board and its subordinate bodies, the privileges and immunities provided in Article IV of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.
- 5) Each Government shall accord to officials of UNDP, FAO and others attending the meetings of the Governing Board and its subordinate bodies, the privileges and immunities provided in Article V of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.
- 6) UNDP shall provide the Governments with names of personnel including Contractors and their personnel and their dependants to whom the privileges and immunities referred to above shall apply.

B) Government Personnel

7) Personnel of the Governments working on the Project and whose salaries are paid by their respective Governments shall remain the responsibility of their respective Government. The Governments shall indemnify and hold harmless UNDP and FAO from any claims or actions by said Government personnel against UNDP or FAO arising out of the participation of said Government personnel in the Project. Under the same conditions, the UNDP and FAO shall be responsible for dealing with and settling the claims of personnel of UNDP and FAO arising out of their participation in the Project.

8) Each Government shall extend to the personnel of the other Governments performing services for the Project in its territory, the same privileges and immunities accorded to officials of the United Nations under Article V of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

C) Suspension: Termination

9) (a) UNDP may, by notice to the Governments, suspend the assistance to be provided by it in accordance with the Project Document if any condition arises which interferes with or threatens to interfere with the successful completion of the Project or the accomplishment of the purposes thereof.

(b) Any suspension pursuant to sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph shall continue until such time as the UNDP shall give notice to the Governments and the FAO that it is willing to resume such assistance.

(c) If any condition referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph shall continue for a period of fourteen (14) days after notice thereof has been given by the UNDP to the Governments, then at any time thereafter during the continuance of such conditions, UNDP may, by notice to the Governments and FAO, terminate its assistance to the Project.

APPENDIX VI

INTERIM GOVERNING BOARD

Belgium	POPULER, C.
Bulgaria	KOSTOV, K.
Czechoslovakia	CIZEK, J.
Democratic Republic of Germany	LEHMANN, C.
Denmark	SKOV, H. (Vice-Chairman)
Federal Republic of Germany	Open
Finland	REKOLA, O.
France	CASSINI, R.
Greece	SKORDA, E.
Hungary	UNK, J.
Ireland	DUNNE, J.
Italy	PORCEDDU, E.
Netherlands	DORSMAN, C.
Norway	HANSEN, L.R.
Poland	JAKUBIEC, J.
Portugal	MOTA, M.
Spain	PRIETO, J.R.
Switzerland	INGOLD, M.
Sweden	JUNBACK, C.G.
Turkey	TEMIZ, K.
United Kingdom	LUPTON, F.G.H.
U.S.S.R.	MAKAROV, I.
Yugoslavia	PENCIC, M. (Chairman)

