

FINAL REPORT
12 July 2021

The first meeting took place in Santorini, Greece. For more details about it visit please <https://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/working-groups/wild-species-conservation/inclusion-of-cwr-sites-in-european-in-situ-network>

During the **Between-Meeting** stage the Activity partners were encouraged to nominate sites for the inclusion in the European *in situ* PGR network. Some partners asked for the criteria to be used for that purpose, and Farmer's Pride project coordinating team proposed a list of seven major criteria (Maxted et al. 2016), based on the ECPGR Concept for *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives in Europe (Maxted et al. 2015). The team also presented two approaches available in accomplishing the task:

1. Top-down: the Secretariat has identified a particular location / site / population(s) as being of European significance and the Secretariat will ask the National PGR Coordinator to nominate a certain sites to join the Network.

2. Bottom-up: a country, via the National PGR Coordinator wishes to nominate certain sites to join the Network, the selection of these sites would be at the discretion of the country / National PGR Coordinator.

The list of criteria along with the explanation was distributed among all 10 partners of the Activity.

The second meeting: the final conference of Farmers' Pride Project "International Conference Insuring Diversity for Food and Agriculture: Plant genetic resources – in nature and on-farm" took place online at <https://farmersprideconference.org/> in 28 June through 1 July 2021.

Three members of the Activity, Agnese Gailite (Latvia), Sreten Terzic (Serbia) and Juozas Labokas (Lithuania), took part in all sessions of the FP project final conference. The sessions were as follows:

- 1) Realizing the public and private benefits of *in situ*/on-farm PGR conservation, 28/06/2021.
- 2) Enhancing the use of PGR conserved *in situ*/on-farm, 29/06/2021.
- 3) Optimizing *in situ*/on-farm PGR population management, 30/06/2021.
- 4) Establishing a European network for *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, 01/07/2021.

Questions were posted to the speakers by Sreten Terzic (Session 1) and Juozas Labokas (Session 4).

In the final day of the Conference the stakeholder discussion session on the establishment of a European network for *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources was organized. One of the discussion groups was facilitated by Juozas Labokas. Two questions were dealt with during the discussion:

1. What next steps are needed to ensure the network is established and provided with a viable long-term governance structure?

2. How do you see the network being integrated into relevant biodiversity, agricultural, environmental and genetic resources policy and legislative frameworks (at European and global levels)?

There were four people in a breakout room facilitated by J. Labokas, including Wojciech Mróz (Eurosite), Valeria Negri (University of Perugia, Italy) and Anna Palmé (Nordic Genetic Resource Center, NordGen). The two inter-related questions were properly discussed, and suggestions for the answers elaborated in order of priority. The importance of European Strategy for Conservation and Use of Plant Genetic Resources was emphasized during the discussion. It was agreed by the group that the local – national and regional (in the case of Nordic countries) networks – may significantly contribute to the establishment and functioning of the European *in situ* PGR network. The European Union is a critical political entity for the success of such an endeavor. Some of the existing policy and legislative frameworks, such ECPGR, NATURA 2000, are good examples for the European *in situ* PGR network to be employed rather than start from scratch.

Most of the countries represented by the Activity Project members have expressed their interests in establishment of the European *in situ* PGR network. This could be seen on the map: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1tsXbxRmJJa_INGX4_J6-1MeKeXTtTsLD&ll=49.85847270131032%2C13.690282125&z=4

References

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