

Draft Proposal for the Establishment of EVN

GERALD MOORE

DRAFT PROPOSAL

- October workshop recommended preparation of MOU between ECPGR and ESA for establishment of European Evaluation Network together with Letter of Commitment
- ESA responded that would prefer more general MOU with less commitment to setting a formal structure
- Proposal for establishment of EVN through decision of ECPGR Steering Committee

“Now therefor the Steering Committee of the ECPGR hereby establishes the European PGRFA Evaluation Network”

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- Preamble sets background and justification for establishment of EVN.
- Originally dropped as more appropriate to MOU
- Then restored as useful background and importance stressed by last workshop
- Suggestion in comments to to drop whereas's on EGPGR, EURISCO and AEGIS, and add the content of EURISCO and AeGIS as footnotes

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- Article 1 deals with definitions.
- Definition of “Evaluation”
 - **“Evaluation”** means the generation and linkage of phenotypic and genotypic data to develop genetic markers and information for the enhanced use of PGRFA in breeding (at a pre-competitive level) and research ;
 - Comment from Frank Ordon: “In my opinion this definition of Evaluation does not quite fit to the common meaning of evaluation with respect to PGRFA. In general evaluation is limited to the phenotypic level.”
 - Note : The original definition was agreed after the workshop in October. To be considered whether definition should be changed.
 - Suggestion in comments to drop definitions section here altogether

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- Article 2 deals with establishment of EVN.
- EVN to be established by Steering Committee of ECPGR
- open to genebanks, academic institutions, breeders including breeding entities, farmers' networks, NGOs, seed companies and already existing public-private evaluation partnerships in the European Region.
- Letter of Commitment

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- Article 3 deals with **Goal, Objectives and expected benefits** of EVN.
- Taken from outcome of October workshop

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- Article 4 deals with **Principles to which Members of EVN should adhere** .
- Taken from outcome of October workshop

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- Article 5 deals with **Structure of EVN.**
 - Steering Unit (8 experts)
 - Coordination Unit (secretariat)
 - Data and Information management support group
- Taken from outcome of October workshop
- Structure reflected in diagram in Annex B
- Note linkage with AEGIS and EURISCO

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- Article 6 deals with **Entry into operation of EVN.**
- Approval of ECPGR Steering Committee
- Note reference to encouraging regional seed organizations or associations to co-sponsor EVN or its work

Letter of Commitment

- Method to elicit interest of prospective members from both public and private sectors
- Indicates the obligations and benefits to be derived
- Comment on limiting responsibility to “foreseeable costs”.

Structure of EVN

- Set out in diagram in Annex B

Form of Cooperation Agreement

- Note that merely a form of cooperation agreement to be varied in specific cases as required
- Based on CGN Evaluation letter
- Selection of accessions to be set out in Appendix 1 and Evaluation protocol in Appendix 2.