

Steering Committee

Coordinating Secretariat

Cereals Network	Forages Network	Fruit Network	Oil and Protein Crops Network	Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network	Vegetables, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Network	Documentation and Information Network	<i>In situ</i> and On-farm Conservation Network	Inter-regional Cooperation Network
NCG	NCG	NCG	NCG	NCG	NCG	NCG	NCG	NCG
Working Groups	Working Group	Working Groups	Working Group	Working Groups	Working Groups	• National Inventory Focal Points • European Central Crop Database Managers • Information and Communication Technology Advisory Group • EURISCO Advisory Group	• Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves Task Force • On-farm Conservation and Management Task Force	• Inter-regional Cooperation Task Force
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Avena</i> • Barley • Wheat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Malus/Pyrus</i> • <i>Prunus</i> • <i>Vitis</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grain Legumes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Beta</i> • Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp) • Potato 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Allium</i> • <i>Brassica</i> • Cucurbits • Leafy Vegetables • Medicinal and Aromatic Plants • Solanaceae • Umbellifer Crops 			

Crop Networks

Thematic Networks



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AEGIS Web site: www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/AEGIS/AEGIS.htm

Photos courtesy of: P. Fernandez de Cordova,
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European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks



The European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (ECP/GR) is a collaborative Programme among most European countries, aimed at facilitating the long-term conservation on a cooperative basis and the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe.

ECP/GR was founded in 1980 on the basis of the recommendations of the UNDP, FAO and the Genebank Committee of the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA).

The European meeting on Plant Genetic Resources held in Nitra, Slovakia, September 1995, recommended that ECP/GR be used as a platform to facilitate the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the European region as part of the FAO Global System on Plant Genetic Resources.



The objectives

- To facilitate the long-term *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe
- To facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe
- To strengthen links between all plant genetic resources programmes in Europe and promote the integration of countries that are not members of ECP/GR
- To encourage cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders
- To increase the planning of joint activities including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies
- To encourage the sharing of conservation responsibilities for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe
- To increase awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use
- To seek collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives



Timeframe and budget

Phase VII of ECP/GR started in January 2004 for a period of five years (2004-2008). A budget of nearly 2.2 million euro was approved by the Steering Committee, which is mainly dedicated to coordination and Network operations (i.e. meetings, publications, *ad hoc* actions), while the Working Group members and other scientists carry out agreed activities with their own resources as an input in kind.

Activities within the ECP/GR Networks translate into a number of collaborative outputs:

- **CENTRAL CROP DATABASES** (on-line available crop specific accession data from European collections) – www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/Databases/Databases.htm
- **EURISCO** (the largest on-line catalogue of passport data collected from European national inventories of plant genetic resources) – eurisco.ecpgr.org
- **AEGIS** (an initiative to establish A European Genebank Integration System for a more rational conservation and exchange of crop genetic resources in Europe) – www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/AEGIS/AEGIS.htm
- **PROJECTS** (successful project proposals submitted for funding to the EU and other agencies) – e.g.: barley.ipk-gatersleben.de
- **PUBLICATIONS** (Working Group meeting reports, including collaborative workplans and information on the status of genetic resources in the European countries) – www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/Publications/Publications.htm

International context and interactions

The Programme also interacts with other bodies, programmes or collaborative projects addressing plant genetic resources, such as the European System of Cooperative Research Networks in Agriculture (ESCORENA), the Genetic Resources Programme of the EU (EC No 870/2004) and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.



Structure and modus operandi

The Steering Committee, consisting of the National Coordinators, is responsible for guiding the ECP/GR Programme. The European Commission is invited to nominate a representative as full member of this Committee. EuroMab, the European Seed Association (ESA), EUCARPIA, FAO, IPGRI, the Nordic Gene Bank (NGB), and one NGO representative are invited as observers. The Coordinating Secretariat is currently provided by IPGRI, as appointed by the Steering Committee.

The Programme is entirely financed by the participating countries and operates through broadly focused Networks dealing with groups of crops or thematic areas related to plant genetic resources.

The National Coordinators are responsible for nominating members to represent their country's interest and activities in the various Working Groups (WG) and in the other Groups and Task Forces of ECP/GR. Each WG is coordinated by a Chair and a Vice-Chair elected by the WG members.



Priorities for Phase VII

- Four main issues were endorsed as future ECP/GR priorities:
- Characterization and evaluation (including use of modern technologies)
 - Task sharing
 - *In situ* and on-farm conservation
 - Documentation and information

