Genebank Peer Review

October 18th, 2017 – ECPGR Networking Meeting, Ljubljana
Theo van Hintum

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Genebank Peer Review

- assumptions
  - lack of collaboration between genebanks is largely due to the fact that genebank can not rely on each other's quality
  - some genebanks function well, other still need a few small steps to function well
    - small steps can be made by properly defining them – then opportunities can be created
    - few genebanks are not functional and not trying to improve
  - most genebanks have nothing to hide
  - all genebanks can learn from each other

Genebank Peer Review

- idea
  - based on experiences with reviewing CGIAR genebanks
  - if genebank staff would visit each other and show and discuss everything and report about it, transparency is created and weak spots can be taken away
    - a self assessment is made (based on AQUAS)
    - staff member of three genebanks visit each other during two/three day visits based on a review protocol
    - report is written (, censored) and made available

Genebank Peer Review

- objective
  - make a clear description of management, facilities and procedures of a genebank
    - technical feedback of expert-colleagues
    - when necessary development of an expert-based improvement plan (can be used in fund-raising activities)

    "transparency will benefit the PGR community as it will identify the strong and weak spots in the PGR management infrastructure allowing better use of the strong points and targeted activities aimed at improving the weak spots"

Genebank Peer Review

- initial plan
  - several genebanks were approached – all responded positively
  - genebanks of Poland (Jerzy Czembor), Albania (Ndoc Faslia) and The Netherlands (Theo van Hintum) were chosen for a pilot
  - protocols and procedures were created and agreed
  - mutual visits will be made early 2018
    - travelers cover their travel costs, host covers the local costs
  - experiences will be presented to ECPGR Steering Committee, Global Crop Diversity Trust and ITPRGFA

Genebank Peer Review

- expected results
  - genebanks will learn from each others constructive feedback
  - weak spots can be identified and solutions can be proposed
    - expert based review report as instrument for fund raising
    - quality level (facilities, expertise, protocols) will increase
  - transparency will be created regarding PGR actors

reliability of conservation and access to material increase

Thank you for your attention !

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