

ECPGR concept for on-farm conservation



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The concept



ECPGR Concept for on-farm conservation and management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

Endorsed by the ECPGR Steering Committee in January 2017



Includes:

- A rationale for on-farm conservation and management in Europe
- Framework for the ECPGR concept – how conservation might be implemented
- Discussion of
 - legislation and policy implications,
 - type of materials grown on-farm,
 - different management approaches and their objectives,
 - actors and stakeholders

Priority actions to be taken

a) Create a European Inventory

- Develop a European Inventory of on-farm genetic diversity
- Coordinate activity to reach agreements on common descriptors, data exchange format and data flow mechanism

b) Develop indicators for monitoring diversity and level of threat

- Establish and operate a Task Force to propose indicators
- Establish a knowledge base of case studies on genetic erosion and monitoring of diversity in the field in Europe

c) Promote practices for on-farm management and conservation and adding value

- Establish the knowledge base of success stories and best practices in Europe

d) Establish European sites of on-farm diversity of cultivated plants

- Coordinate a sub-group of country representatives towards the creation of a European Network of sites of on-farm diversity of cultivated plants

e) Propose legal and technical solutions

- Establish and implement Task Forces of dedicated experts to study, analyse and propose solutions to issues hampering on-farm conservation and management, as well as its complementarity to ex situ conservation.

Priority actions: state of the art

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a), b), c), e):

- Achievements reported for some countries in biblio
- Other significative achievements obtained by previous projects and , in particular, by *PGR Secure*, see

<http://www.pgrsecure.bham.ac.uk/>



Future expected achievements on all items (a-e):

Farmers' Pride



Plus for e) on-farm and *ex situ* complementarity:

LINKAGES _ ECPGR 3° call

Challenges

- The main actors in on-farm conservation are farmers (not conservationists)
- Farmers are the *owners* of their genetic resources
- Farmers maintainers for PGR on-farm are scattered all over Europe

Needs

- Tight cooperation with Crop WG specialists in order to:
 - Identify and collect information on on-farm PGR (to create the European Inventory)
 - Develop indicators for monitoring diversity and level of threat
 - Promote practices for on-farm management and conservation
 - Establish European sites of on-farm diversity of cultivated plants
 - Propose legal and technical solutions