



Collaboration -

« The beginning of a beautiful friendship »

ECPGR Steering Committee meeting

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Agenda

- ✦ About ESA
- ✦ ESA members and biodiversity
- ✦ How can ESA benefit from ECPGR?
- ✦ What does ESA have to offer to ECPGR?
- ✦ Conclusions



About ESA – main purpose

- ✦ **SINGLE** voice of the European seed industry
- ✦ Main objective: Represent the European seed industry towards relevant decision makers, in particular **European institutions**

- **European Commission**
- **European Parliament**
- **Council of Ministers**
- **Community Plant Variety Office**



About ESA – how do we work towards?

- ✦ Regional & International involvement and observer status
 - In a number of relevant organizations such as CPVO, UPOV, OECD, ISTA, IPPC, CBD, FAO, ECPGR, WIPO etc.
 - Direct engagement in a number of fora under European Commission and EP

- ✦ Continuous contact with other players:

- **related to agriculture & biotechnology**
- **NGOs**
- **the international and Brussels-based press**
- **the wider interested public (social media)**



About ESA - membership

ESA's Membership today:

- 38 national seed associations (Associations Members)
- 40 direct company members (Individual Members)
- 29 members in seed-related businesses (Associate Members)





About ESA – core activities a

- ✦ **Inform**
- ✦ **Represent**
- ✦ **Lobby**

INFORM:
 ESA members about any relevant policy/legislative development in the field of plant breeding and seeds

REPRESENT:

LOBBY:

At several levels:

- national – via national association members
- EU: Commission; EP; Council – ESA Secretariat

How:

- Contacts (letters, mails, calls, meetings)
- Documentation (promotional material, position papers, sector fact sheets)
- Organizing specific events
- Inviting people for field visits

➤ **seed**

➤ **IPR**

➤ **pla**

➤ **lan**

✦ **Help**

organic seed

GRs; research

ment ; environment



About ESA – How do we work?

Dual structure:

- ✿ 7 Crop sections
- ✿ 2 horizontal committees & many WGs

Who does the work?

- ✿ Secretariat
 - ✿ 8 people with specific responsibilities
- ✿ ESA Bodies
 - ✿ Consist of members
 - ✿ Support by Secretariat





ESA members & biodiversity

How are we engaged in the topic?

- ✿ Horizontal WG on biodiversity – priorities; etc.
- ✿ As ESA secretariat: represent those views v discussions on European and international
- ✿ ESA members: active in-kind support for bi
 - ✿ Via their day-to-day work – plant breed conservation of PGRs;
 - ✿ Involvement in PPPs in pre-breeding ar
 - ✿ Work with and support to national ger various ways – regeneration, evaluatio support
- ✿ Technology transfer & capacity building projects

VOLUNTARY BENEFIT-SHARING ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN SEED INDUSTRY

What is voluntary benefit-sharing?

The basic objectives of biodiversity legislation are conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources and the sharing of benefits that arise from their use. In fact, benefit-sharing is rather a tool enabling the conservation and the sustainable use of genetic resources with crucial importance in achieving the goals of biodiversity legislation.

Benefit-sharing can be mandatory and voluntary. Mandatory benefit-sharing is usually based on contractual terms, whereas voluntary benefit-sharing activities are based on own initiatives of users of genetic resources. Voluntary benefit-sharing can take different forms: it can be monetary providing direct financial support for conservation and use or it can be non-monetary (in-kind). In-kind activities supporting the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources happen in various forms and take place at national, regional or international level.

Filter by type of activity



Providing advice on conservation and sustainable use of PGRs:

It is very common that private breeders participate in the work of national advisory committees on issues concerning plant genetic resources (PGR). In this way they can directly share their expertise and provide their input to responsible authorities in important policy decisions related to PGR.



ESA members & biodiversity

New field of activity (also related to biodiversity): research & innovation

- ✿ New WG set up in 2012
- ✿ Looking mainly at opportunities for project proposals – received many requests for involvement
- ✿ Contribution of the sector may take various forms such as field work, training, take-up of material in breeding, dissemination of project results etc.
- ✿ Several ways of involvement: as ESA (consortium member or advisory board member) or on level of ESA members
- ✿ So far we worked on 4 projects – none successful...
- ✿ In future might consider initiating projects ourselves



How can ESA benefit from ECPGR?

- ✿ access to the genebank community/network
- ✿ bring breeders' needs to the attention of collections
- ✿ benefit from tools developed by ECPGR & assist in making them more effective
- ✿ in many issues identify common interests & strengthen each other



What does ESA have to offer to ECPGR?

- ✿ More active involvement in ECPGR
- ✿ Direct channel to raise awareness towards & interact with users of GRs (get feedback)
- ✿ Experience in outreach
- ✿ Collaboration in projects
- ✿ Joint efforts in lobbying



Conclusion

Time to start mining our opportunities for collaboration!



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