

WHEAT WG REPORT FOR PHASE IX (2014-2018)

Submitted to the 15th Steering Committee Meeting, Thessaloniki, Greece, May 2018
by: François Balfourier

Date of compilation: 16 February 2018

1. CONTRIBUTION TO ECPGR OBJECTIVES

1.1. Achievements and success stories

Outcome 1. AEGIS is operational. Accessions in AEGIS are characterized and evaluated.

Outcome 2. Quantity and quality of data in EURISCO have been increased.

- (outcome 1) standards: The AQUAS quality system was adopted and implemented by the WG through the approval in January 2016 of the Wheat-specific genebank standards for orthodox seeds.
- (outcomes 1 and 2) TRAIID and TRISECA activities -
 - A total of 5659 wheat accessions were defined as new candidate AEGIS accessions, characterized and evaluated with both passport and C&E data (TRAIID Activity). All these datasets were added to EURISCO and finally accessions were flagged as AEGIS accessions.
 - 885 new accessions of both wheat and rye species have been defined as new candidate accessions and evaluated (TRISECA Activity). Both passport and C&E data are planned to be added in EURISCO and flagged as AEGIS candidate accessions at the beginning of 2018. This process is still pending.

The Wheat Working Group (WWG) contributed significantly to both outcomes 1 and 2 since, during Phase IX, about 8700 new accessions of small grain cereals were added to EURISCO, from which about 6500 were declared as AEGIS accessions (20% of total AEGIS collection).

Satisfying level of activity within the WWG despite the fact that only a few number of WWG members are really participating to proposed activities: respectively 12 and 11 countries participants to TRAIID and TRISECA activities, compared to 43 countries members registered in the WWG.

1.2. Gaps or constraints identified

Difficulties to obtain reactions and answers from WWG members to successive mails during all Phase IX, even when these WWG members previously declared their Expression of Interest for a specific activity.

2. GRANT SCHEME ACTIVITIES


- **Grant Scheme proposals (submitted: 2; approved: 2)**
 1. [Triticum in AEGIS: Identification and Documentation \(TRAID\)](#) – First Call (2014)
 2. [Identification and updating data of eligible AEGIS accessions in both wheat and rye species \(TRISECA\)](#) – Third Call (2016)

- **Total number of partners involved: 24 from 15 countries**
 - ECPGR-funded: 18 from 14 countries
 - Self-funded: 7 from 4 countries



- **Meetings held**
 1. TRAID Activity Partners, 16-17 September 2015, Tallinn, Estonia
 2. TRISECA Activity Partners, 3-4 October 2017, Radzików, Poland

- **Reports and related data**
 1. **TRAID**

Final Activity report

 [Triticum in AEGIS: Identification and Documentation \(TRAID\) - Activity Report](#) (403 KB)

Documentation status of the selected candidate accessions per country at the end of the project (Nov 2015):

 -  [Passport data](#) (1.4 MB)
 -  [C&E data](#) (585 KB)

 2. **TRISECA**

Final Activity report expected by March 2018

- **Funds mobilized**
 - ECPGR granted funds: € 29 700
 - Inputs in-kind declared in Grant activities: (none)


3. OTHER ACTIVITIES (CROSS-WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES)

- **Cross-Working Group activities:** none

- **Others**
 - [Wheat Initiative](#) (an international framework to establish strategic research and organisation priorities for wheat research at the international level in both developed and developing countries)

The Chair of the Wheat WG was nominated as member of the Steering Committee of the “Global Wheat Germplasm Conservation and Use Community Expert Working Group” of the Wheat Initiative. He attended the Expert Working Group meeting (2-3 February 2016, ICARDA, Rabat) where he gave a presentation on ECPGR and AEGIS and their wheat-related activities.

4. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

 [Crop-specific genebank standards for orthodox seeds \(agreed by the Wheat WG, January 2016\)](#) (97 KB)

5. EXPECTED ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A new activity is planned in the framework of the 6th call of Phase IX. The proposed idea is to organise a 2-3 days training course on wheat botanical classification. Training would be conducted by the botany specialist from N.I.Vavilov Research Institute of Plant Industry. Training would be focused on 16-20 botanical varieties of *T. aestivum* and 16 botanical varieties of *T. durum*. Training would cover theoretical and discussion part (presentation) and practical aspects (observation on spikes and possibly demonstration field with *Triticum* botanical varieties). The meeting would probably be held in Slovakia.