



EUCARPIA–ECPGR collaboration

Shelagh Kell
Chair, EUCARPIA Genetic Resources section

15th meeting of the ECPGR Steering Committee, Thessaloniki, Greece
15– 17 May 2018



EUCARPIA

European Association for Research on Plant Breeding

- Founded in 1956
- Aims to promote scientific and technical cooperation in the field of plant breeding in order to foster its further development
- Individual and corporate fee paying members
- 11 sections:
 - Biometrics in plant breeding
 - Cereals
 - Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses
 - Fruit
 - Genetic Resources
 - Maize and Sorghum
 - Oil and Protein Crops
 - Organic and Low-Input Agriculture
 - Ornamentals
 - Potatoes
 - Vegetables
- Organizes regular section meetings to share knowledge and forge collaboration between stakeholders
- General Congress every four years (next one in 2020)



EUCARPIA Genetic Resources section

- 491 members from 56 countries worldwide – 25 outside geographical Europe
- Section board comprising Chair plus ten members
 - **Andreas Börner**, Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Germany (EUCARPIA President Designate)
 - **Willem Botes**, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
 - **Derly José Henriques Da Silva**, Universidade Federal de Viçosa, Brazil
 - **Lorenzo Maggioni**, Secretariat, European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR), Italy
 - **Olaniyi Ajewole Oyatomi**, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Nigeria
 - **Anna Palmé**, Nordic Genetic Resource Centre (NordGen), Sweden
 - **Lorenzo Raggi**, University of Perugia, Italy
 - **Beate Schierscher**, Agroscope, Switzerland (Vice-Chair)
 - **Jelka Sustar-Vozlic**, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
 - **Theo van Hintum**, Centre for Genetic Resources, The Netherlands (CGN)
- Section conferences convened every 3 years



EUCARPIA–ECPGR collaboration

- Overlap of membership between EUCARPIA sections and ECPGR working groups – common interests for collaborative projects and joint meetings
- EUCARPIA GR section and ECPGR links via individual members:
 - Chair as observer in ECPGR Steering Committee (and current Chair a member of ECPGR Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves WG)
 - Current Vice Chair as ECPGR NC for Switzerland
 - Three current board members as Chairs of ECPGR WGs
 - Current ECPGR Coordinator as member of the GR section board
 - Current ECPGR ExCo Chair as member of the EUCARPIA GR section



CROP DIVERSIFICATION IN A CHANGING WORLD

Mobilizing the green gold of plant genetic resources

08–11 May 2017, Montpellier, France

- EUCARPIA Genetic Resources section in association with ECPGR
- Hosted by **INRA** (National Institute for Agricultural Research), **CIRAD** (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development), **IRD** (French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development), **Montpellier SupAgro**, **ARCAD** (Agropolis Resource Centre for Crop Conservation, Adaptation and Diversity) and **Agropolis Fondation**
- **197 participants** from 42 countries encompassing eastern, middle, southern and western Africa, northern, Central and South America, and all subregions of Asia and Europe



Oral and poster presentations in four sessions

- PGR conservation – in nature, in production systems and in genebanks
- Breeding for diverse farming systems – the roles of the formal and informal sectors
- Collaborative approaches in plant breeding – public–private partnerships and participatory practices
- Marketing diversity – enhancing the enabling environment for crop diversification



Workshop sessions

- Valuing plant genetic diversity – what are the costs and benefits of PGR conservation and use?
- The *in situ*–*ex situ* conundrum – can we move to a truly integrated approach?
- Searching for diversity – how can information flow be streamlined to improve access to PGR?
- Accessing plant genetic diversity – what are the obstacles and how can they be overcome



Panel discussion and conference resolution on future needs to support a workable and sustainable PGR use system



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CROP DIVERSIFICATION IN A CHANGING WORLD
Mobilizing the green gold of plant genetic resources
 La Citadelle, Montpellier, France, 8-11 May 2017

Conference resolution – DRAFT

Outcomes of the conference, "CROP DIVERSIFICATION IN A CHANGING WORLD: Mobilizing the green gold of plant genetic resources", 8-11 May 2017, Montpellier, France.

Conscious of the critical value of plant genetic resources (PGR) for human survival.

Recognizing the challenges of ensuring food and nutrition security in the context of global change.

Aware of the requirement for greater crop diversity to meet the needs of future generations.

Further recognizing the interdependency of countries and stakeholders of plant genetic resources.

Deeply concerned by the continuing loss of wild and domesticated plant genetic diversity.

Concerned by the on-going constraints hindering the effective conservation and sustainable use of PGR.

Taking into account that the specific causes of these constraints and efforts to remediate them may vary between regions, countries, local stakeholders.

Acknowledging the contributions of the diverse range of actors in conserving, identifying and providing access to PGR and associated knowledge.

Recognizing the diversity of values, structures, priorities and processes that are part of a global multi-stakeholder PGR system.

Further acknowledging existing global, regional and national policies for conservation and sustainable use of PGR and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.

(1) **Reiterate** the need for an improved and sustainable PGR use system that is accurately funded and supported by appropriate policies in the areas of crop diversification for food and nutrition security, in particular by:

- Supporting farmers, promoted area managers and other custodians of wild and domesticated PGR with appropriate policies and resources to enable them to continue in situ conservation.
- Increasing and sustaining appropriate resources to support national genebanks in providing for the conservation of high quality and value, including facilitating improved access to information and material.

EUCARPIA Geneva Resolution 2017
 Conference resolution – DRAFT



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- Establishing processes for conservation and access to PGR that fully integrate in situ and ex situ approaches and actors.
- Encouraging efforts to characterize and evaluate PGR as a means of increasing their potential value for crop diversification and improvement.
- Improving the availability and quality of information on conserved PGR (both in situ and ex situ) to meet the needs of the diverse user groups.
- Increasing resources for pre-breeding programmes as a means of enhancing the value of PGR for crop diversification and improvement.
- Supporting informal seed systems with appropriate policies that recognize their important role in PGR conservation and diversification.
- Strengthening capacities of local communities in using PGR, including underutilized species, for more resilient food and production systems in both urban and rural areas.
- Building market opportunities for farmers and other actors engaged in the maintenance of landraces and heritage varieties.
- Providing water deployment of PGR at both inter- and intra-specific levels in agricultural development plans to reinforce semi-ridged systems, secure the basis of food systems and safeguard the diversity of food cultures around the world.

(2) **Encourage** wider collaboration among the various stakeholder groups on research and crop diversification/development taking into account a proven business approach.

(3) **Urge** governments and regional administrations to develop and successfully administer appropriate policies in support of an improved PGR Use System.

(4) **Invite** governments and regional administrations to provide greater financial and operational support for member PGR custodians of the various actors to conserve, sustainably use and exchange PGR.

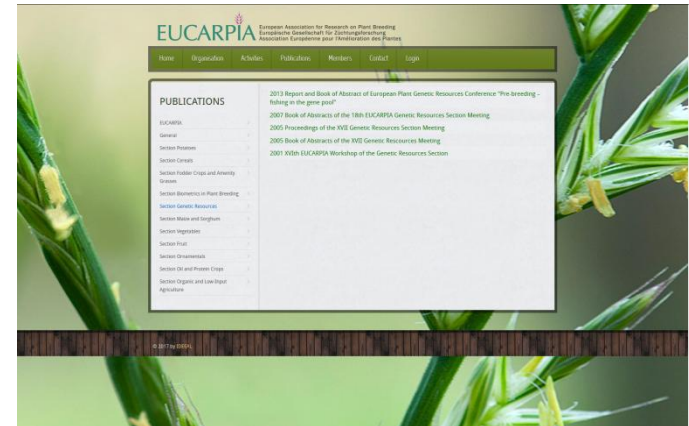
(5) **Call upon** the relevant international bodies—including the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity—to take note of and further promote this resolution or parts thereof, as appropriate.

EUCARPIA Geneva Resolution 2017
 Conference resolution – DRAFT



Conference outputs

- Book of abstracts and presentations
- Proceedings
- Open letter



Book of abstracts

EUCARPIA Genetic Resources 2017
Crop diversification in a changing world
Mobilizing the green gold of plant genetic resources



8–11 May 2017
 Le Corum, Montpellier, France



A call for urgent action to save our plant genetic resources

An open letter to policy-makers¹

Plant genetic resources are essential for human survival and all countries are inter-dependent on these resources.

Due to climate change impacts, there is an urgent need for greater diversity in our crops to meet the food and nutrition needs of current and future generations.

At the same time, wild and cultivated plant genetic resources needed to improve our crops are being lost due to 1) climate change and a range of other human-induced threats, and 2) inadequate conservation measures.

This ongoing loss is despite global, regional and national policies and legislation already being in place for plant genetic resources conservation and sustainable use.

In particular:

- National gene banks are under-resourced and therefore limited in their capacity to provide services of high quality and value
- Insufficient resources are available to conserve wild populations of plant genetic resources in their natural habitats
- Farmers and other maintainers of locally adapted plant genetic resources are discouraged by inappropriate retail and market policies
- The use of plant genetic resources for crop improvement is constrained by a lack of resources for their characterization, evaluation and pre-breeding
- In their current form, access and benefit sharing regulations present an impediment to the utilization of plant genetic resources for crop improvement

To prevent plant genetic resources from disappearing, and to keep them available for immediate and future needs, we urgently call upon governments and regional administrations to develop and adequately administer appropriate policies, and to provide greater financial and operational support to strengthen their maintenance, exchange and utilization.

The world's food supply depends on these resources – once lost they are lost forever.

Signed by:

¹ This letter was released in the context of the conference, 'CROP DIVERSIFICATION IN A CHANGING WORLD: Mobilizing the green gold of plant genetic resources', held in Montpellier, France, 8–11 May 2017
www.eucarpia-geneticresources2017.eu







Next Genetic Resources section conference

- In association with the EU-funded project, Farmer's Pride
- Hosted by Banco Português de Germoplasma Vegetal (BPGV), INIAV, Portugal
- September 2020



Home Context Actions Survey Collaborators Contact



"Networking, partnerships and tools to enhance in situ conservation of European plant genetic resources" (short name: "Farmer's Pride") is a three year EU-funded project which started in November 2017.



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The University of Birmingham hosts and administers this website on behalf of the Farmer's Pride consortium. Site written, created and



Banquet images: Crop wild relatives, Avena fatua, Sinapis alba and Vicia faba, by Pavol Ekšiš, Slovak University of Agriculture / Collecting crop wild relatives by Angelos Kyriatis, Agricultural Research Institute of Cyprus / Farmer of local black cistery variety "Sedano nero di Trevis", Italy by Guido Castellini / Farmer of "Jornal" barley by Maart Heltonen, Natural Resources Institute Finland / Landscape farmer

Establishing the European Network for In Situ Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources

There is a myriad of organizations and individuals involved or with an interest in the in situ conservation of plant genetic resources. However, there is currently no regional mechanism to enable knowledge sharing and to open up opportunities to establish multi-actor partnerships.

In the Farmer's Pride project, we are using survey tools and other outreach mechanisms to gain a better understanding of the roles and interests of the people and organizations involved or with an interest in the in situ conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe and establishing a stakeholder communication and collaboration platform to engender cross-sector partnerships.

In situ management of plant genetic resources across and across Europe-wide site safeguard plant of

By combining the knowledge of the identified



