

Independent External Review of the European
Cooperative Programme
for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR)
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Marianne Lefort
Orlando de Ponti
Thomas Gass (Chair)

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Current goals of ECPGR

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- facilitate the long-term in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- strengthen links between all plant genetic resources programmes in Europe and promote the integration of countries that are not members of ECPGR
- encourage cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders;
- increase the planning of joint activities including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies;
- encourage the sharing of conservation responsibilities for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe;
- increase awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use; and
- seek collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives.

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- If the purpose remains as in past phases
 - facilitate the long-term in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe;
 - facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe;
- Then the questions before this board are not very complicated:
- The responsibility and accountability remains totally with the national programmes;
- ECPGR has merely a supportive role – to achieve more efficiency and synergies;
- Many of the recommendations remain valid;
- The outcomes reached within the next 15 years are likely to be modest;

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- Core recommendation
 - The Review Panel feels that ... ECPGR ... now has the potential to and should take more responsibility for conservation and use of PGRFA by establishing more accountability among its membership..
 - Basically this is a call to be result oriented
 - And not to become locked into a discussion about institutionalization or funding..

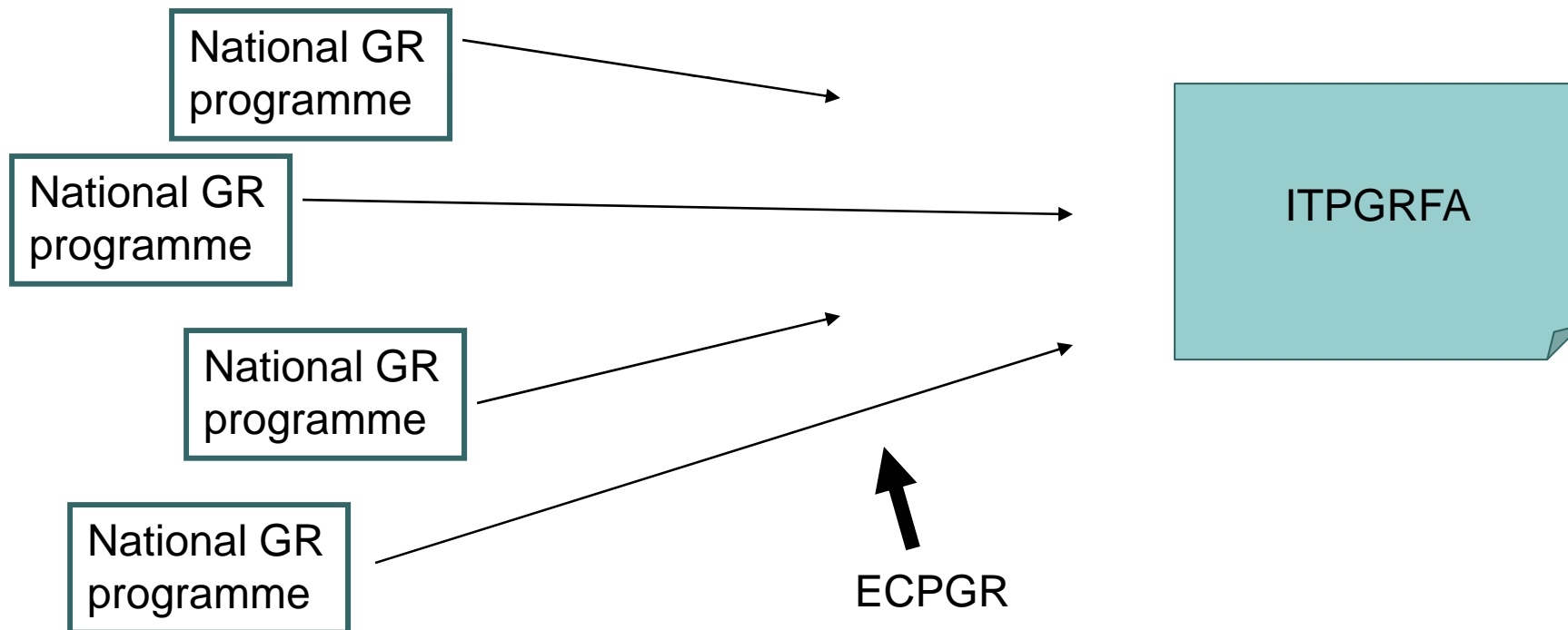
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- **The rational**
 - (for more responsibility and accountability within ECPGR)
 - The legal framework has changed (ITPGRFA)
 - The geo-political context in Europe has changed
 - Experience and achievements within ECPGR
 - Initial commitment already made through AEGIS
 - Users are not constrained by national boundaries. They access the regional and global PGRFA “market”..
 - A coherent regional offer will enhance the likelihood of utilization and thus the ability to attract funding for maintenance, evaluation and documentation of collections

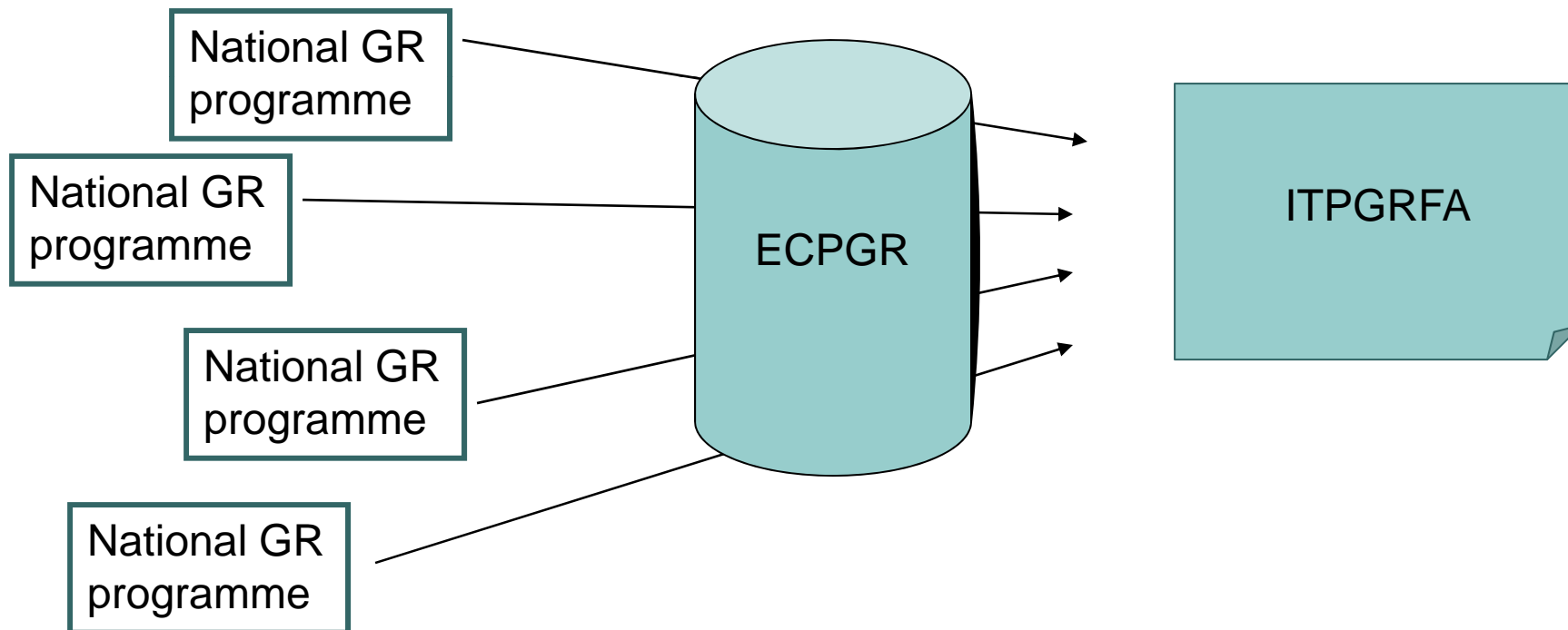
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- **The consequences**
 - Outcomes and outputs formulated in terms of (for example)
 - The competitive edge which European breeders can get by making use of the ECPGR collections (goal)
 - The increase in intensity of use of collections (outcome – within a phase)
 - The increase in percentage of accessions evaluated (outputs)
 - More authority and resources needed
 - Modus operandi needs to be adapted

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- Questions and Answers about the report and its recommendations..