

# REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

(Fifth meeting) held at the  
St Kirik Arts Complex  
Rhodope Mountains  
Bulgaria  
26-28 August 1993

Compiled by:  
E.A. Frison, M. Bolton,  
S. Perrins and C. Populer



*Prunus spinosa* L.

The International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) is an autonomous international scientific organization under the aegis of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). IBPGR was established by the CGIAR in 1974 and is administered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. IBPGR's mandate is to advance the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations. Financial support for the core programme of IBPGR was provided in 1993 by the Governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, the USA and the World Bank

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IBPGR Headquarters  
Via delle Sette Chiese 142  
00145 Rome  
Italy

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## INTRODUCTION

The fifth meeting of the ECP/GR Technical Consultative Committee (TCC) was convened at the "St Kirik" Arts Complex, Rhodope Mountains, Bulgaria from 26 to 28 August 1993. The meeting was attended by 34 participants from 22 countries. Since the last TCC meeting in 1989 four countries had joined or rejoined the ECP/GR: the Soviet Union in 1990, Albania in 1992 and Ireland and Romania in 1993.

The list of meeting participants is provided in Appendix I. The following were unable to attend and sent their apologies: Dr. Alexanian (Russia), Dr. Cristea (Romania), Dr. Gómez Pérez (Spain), Dr. Redl (Austria) and Dr. Serghiou (Cyprus). Dr. Serwinski, FAO, Dr. Tao, FAO and Dr. van Hintum, CGN, Wageningen attended the meeting as observers; Dr. Ryabchun (Ukraine) was invited as an observer but was unable to attend. Invitations had also been sent to the Ministries of Agriculture of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Dr. R. Koeva, Director of the Institute for Plant Genetic Resources, Sadovo, welcomed the participants and wished them a successful meeting.

Mr. van Sloten welcomed the participants on behalf of IBPGR and thanked Dr. Koeva and the Institute staff for the excellent local organization put in place for the meeting. He also thanked the Bulgarian Government for covering the local expenses of the meeting as a contribution in kind to the ECP/GR.

Mr. van Sloten presented an introductory paper describing recent changes at IBPGR (Appendix III). He presented the new strategy of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) which is expected to become operational shortly, after the ratification of its Headquarters Agreement by the Italian Parliament. He also introduced the new structure of IBPGR which was put in place in the spring of 1992 and which includes three thematic groups based in headquarters and five regional groups covering the world.

He further mentioned that in view of the recent changes in eastern Europe, and in order to implement IPGRI's new strategy, about 4% of IBPGR's core budget will be allocated to Europe. This covers one senior staff member, Mr. E. Frison, Group Leader for

Europe, one senior secretary and some operational funds. Mr. Frison will devote most of his time to the implementation of a programme of assistance to eastern European plant genetic resources programmes and to seeking funding for this initiative.

Mr van Sloten concluded by stressing the role of the ECP/GR in promoting the more than ever needed collaboration between eastern and western Europe and he hoped that the TCC would approve the proposed extension of the ECP/GR and that member Governments will provide the necessary support for Phase V.

The meeting unanimously elected Dr. P. Perrino as Chairman and Dr. G. Kleijer as Vice-Chairman. The agenda, as approved, is provided in Appendix II.

A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Pierre Perret, the ECP/GR Coordinator during Phases II-IV, for the excellent work he has done.

## REPORT

### Evaluation of working group activities and recommendations for future action

At the end of Phase III there were six active working groups (*Allium*, *Avena*, barley, forages, *Prunus* and sunflower). During Phase IV a seventh working group was established dealing with Brassicas, and preliminary arrangements were made for the setting up of a *Pisum* working group after Phase IV.

In order to analyse the achievements of the different working groups the TCC divided into three subgroups. The first subgroup dealt with *Allium*, *Brassica* and sunflower; the second dealt with *Avena*, barley and forages; the third dealt with *Prunus*.

The TCC was generally pleased with the progress made by the different working groups.

Major achievements in Phase IV included the further development of European databases and the transfer of the *Prunus* and *Brassica* databases to new host institutions: the *Prunus* database from the Nordic Genebank to INRA, Bordeaux and the cultivated *Brassica* database from IHAR to CGN, Wageningen. The successful conclusion of both moves is an illustration of the high level of cooperation achieved within the ECP/GR.

The TCC stressed the high priority of analysing the databases and urged the collaborating institutes to promote their use and to make them readily accessible.

A major achievement of the barley working group has been the development of a precise concept of a core collection. This initiative has been extended to the world barley collection in the framework of the International Barley Genetic Resources Network and the establishment of the barley core collection is making good progress. The forage working group has initiated the establishment of a core collection for *Lolium perenne* and plans to extend this undertaking to other forage species.

The *Avena* working group also decided to initiate the establishment of an *Avena* core collection based on the concept developed by the barley working group. The TCC

**supported** the development of core collections as a means to make the collections more useable.

The achievements of the Programme over the four Phases are described in more detail in the paper "Proposed continuation of the ECP/GR: Phase V" (Appendix IV).

It was stressed that besides the more immediate achievements of the Programme, the ECP/GR has played an important role in accelerating the development of national programmes in several countries and has fostered bilateral and multilateral cooperation; it has also improved the flow of information and germplasm, in agreement with the principle of free availability.

However, the TCC noted that a number of activities planned for Phase IV had not been fully implemented. This was attributed to a lack of funds available to the national institutions dealing with plant genetic resources and to the insufficient resources allocated to the ECP/GR Secretariat. On the recommendation of the fourth TCC the input of the IBPGR coordinator had been reduced from full time in the first three Phases to one quarter time in Phase IV.

With an enlarged programme this inevitably led to a substantial decrease in interaction with national institutes and working group members between meetings, and also with national coordinators and relevant ministries.

The evaluation of the different working group activities and recommendations for their future activities are given in Appendix V.

Concerning the sunflower working group the TCC **agreed** with the working group's recommendation to continue its activities under the umbrella of the FAO European Research Network on Sunflower. The TCC also **agreed** with the creation of the planned *Pisum* working group.

The TCC acknowledged the importance of *in situ* conservation of certain species or ecotypes as stressed by several working groups.

## **Approval of financial report**

Mr. Frison presented the revised budget for Phase IV (Appendix VI) taking into consideration German reunification and the non-participation of Ireland in Phase IV. He was particularly pleased to report that with one exception all countries had paid their contribution in full (Appendix VII).

The financial report for Phase IV was presented (Appendix VIII) noting that the figures for 1993 were provisional. The TCC **approved** the financial report.

Considering that Phase IV officially ended on 31 December 1992 and that the decision had been taken to postpone the TCC meeting until August 1993, a reduced financial contribution for 1993 had been requested by IBPGR from the member countries to cover the interval between Phase IV and Phase V, planned to start on 1 January 1994. The amount requested was equal to one quarter of the total contribution for Phase IV (Appendix IX).

The TCC **agreed** that any unallocated funds remaining at the end of 1993 would be used to set up an emergency fund of approximately US\$ 25,000 to cover the cost of saving endangered collections, especially in eastern Europe. Any resources available in addition to the proposed contributions for Phase V should be used to finance the participation of non EC member countries in joint projects with EC member states in which the latter are receiving EC funding.

## **Identification of information needs**

Mr. P. Stapleton presented a discussion paper on the identification of information needs in Europe (Appendix X) and briefed the TCC about the publication and information activities of IBPGR. It was suggested that the distribution of IBPGR publications could be targeted more effectively in view of the high cost involved.

There was general agreement on the usefulness of a European Plant Genetic Resources Newsletter and the TCC **encouraged** IBPGR, when initiating its publication, to devote



a substantial section to ECP/GR activities. It was **recommended** to send the newsletter to individuals rather than institutions.

It was suggested that IBPGR use its facilities to make known the existence of the crop databases to a wider audience, for example through announcements in the FAO/IBPGR Plant Genetic Resources Newsletter.

The TCC **agreed** that an updated version of the "Directory of European Institutions Holding Crop Genetic Resources Collections" be published by IBPGR, as well as a booklet describing ECP/GR actions and achievements, to replace the earlier edition published in 1984.

### **Continuation of the ECP/GR**

The TCC discussed the proposal for the continuation of the ECP/GR after 1993 (Appendix IV).

The TCC **unanimously recommended** the continuation of the ECP/GR into a Phase V and recognised that the greater range of activities to be undertaken represented a significant evolution of the Programme which will enhance its effectiveness. The strong recommendation was based on the following elements:

1. The TCC considered that the achievement of the ECP/GR through its first four phases had been substantial, especially in view of the low financial input.
2. It was felt important that the results already attained should be capitalised on by a continuation of the programme with a view to increasing the utilization of plant genetic resources. This was also stressed by most of the working groups (see Appendix V).
3. In addition, and more importantly, there was unanimous support for new action to be taken in view of new developments in the area of plant genetic resources in Europe, namely:

- the threat to genetic resources programmes in eastern Europe and
- the proposed EC programme for conservation and use of genetic resources in agriculture.

The TCC **stressed** the importance of genetic resources programmes in eastern European countries and encouraged the further strengthening of links between east and west European countries within the framework of the ECP/GR.

The TCC considered that the ECP/GR working groups and national coordinators could play an important role in the identification of priorities and the formulation of projects for the EC programme. The mode of operation planned for Phase V enhances the synergism between and complementarity of the ECP/GR and the proposed EC programme.

4. Furthermore, the TCC feels that throughout Europe, east and west, the long term security of genetic resources collections is still not ensured and that the ECP/GR has an important role in monitoring the situation and taking the necessary steps to safeguard collections at risk. Safety duplication of unique accessions remains a priority for the ECP/GR.

The TCC was also of the opinion that conservation of plant genetic resources is of such importance to sustainable agriculture, and thereby for the future wellbeing of humankind, that raising public awareness of the importance of plant genetic resources should be given a priority at all levels, including in the ECP/GR.

Last but not least, in view of the implementation of Agenda 21, the TCC **urged** national governments to recognise that plant genetic resources are the most directly useful component of biodiversity and that resources allocated to the conservation of biodiversity should reflect this fact.

The objectives of Phase V are given in Appendix XI.

## Operation of the ECP/GR in Phase V

The TCC **agreed** that the duration of Phase V should be five years, starting 1 January 1994.

It **agreed** that there should be a TCC meeting before the middle of Phase V to decide on the scope of the working groups and to address a number of key issues of relevance to the programme. A second meeting of the TCC should take place during the last year of Phase V to review progress and decide on the future of the programme.

The TCC **considered it essential** that a full-time coordinator be appointed by IBPGR to serve the needs of working groups and maintain the necessary level of contact with national institutes and coordinators, and with the relevant ministries. The role of the working groups, national coordinators and IBPGR are documented in Appendix IV.

The TCC discussed the proposed budget (Appendix XII) and **approved** it as the minimum required to ensure the success of the ECP/GR.

The proposed annual contributions of individual countries for Phase V were approved as given in Appendix XIII.

Letters of Agreement, including the amounts to be contributed in cash and the contributions in kind, will be sent to member countries by IBPGR before the end of October 1993.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman

**Dr. Pietro Perrino**  
 Instituto del Germoplasma  
 Via G. Amendola 165/A  
 70126 Bari  
 ITALY  
 Tel: 39-80-558 3463/3400  
 Fax: 39-80-558 7566  
 Telex: 810565

Vice-Chairman

**Dr. Gert Kleijer**  
 Station Fédérale de Recherches  
 Agronomiques de Changins  
 Route de Duillier  
 CH-1260 Nyon  
 SWITZERLAND  
 Tel: 41-22-363 44 44  
 Fax: 41-22-362 13 25  
 Telex: 419975

Members

**Dr. Sigfús Bjarnason**  
 Nordic Gene Bank  
 P.O. Box 41  
 Alnarp S-230 53  
 SWEDEN  
 Tel: 46-40-461 790  
 Fax: 46-40-462 188  
 Telex: 32717 NGB S  
 Email, internet: nordgen@gemini ldc.lu.se

**Dr. André Charrier**  
 Bureau des Ressources Génétiques  
 57 rue Cuvier  
 75231 Paris CEDEX 05  
 FRANCE  
 Tel: 33-1-47 07 15 75  
 Fax: 33-1-45 35 70 15  
 Telex: FFSPN 260921 F

**Dr. Even Bratberg**  
 Department of Horticulture  
 Agricultural University of Norway  
 PO Box 22  
 N-1423 Ås  
 NORWAY  
 Tel: 47-649-47804  
 Fax: 47-649-47802

**Prof. H.J. Czembor**  
 Plant Breeding and  
 Acclimatization Institute (IHAR)  
 Radzikow near Warsaw  
 05-870 Blonie  
 POLAND  
 Tel: 48-22 552 611  
 Fax: 48-22 554 714  
 Telex: 812914 IHAR PL

**Dr. Ignatius Byrne**  
 Department of Agriculture  
 Agriculture House  
 Kildare Street  
 Dublin 2  
 IRELAND  
 Tel: 353-16-789 011  
 Fax: 353-16-678 5214/662 0198  
 Telex: 25118 AGRI EI

**Ing. František Debre**  
 Research Institute of Plant Production  
 (VURV)  
 Bratislavská cesta 12  
 921 68 Piešťany  
 SLOVAKIA  
 Tel: 42-838-223 11/12/30  
 Fax: 42-838-263 06  
 Telex: 938 22

**Dr. Ladislav Dotlacil**  
Research Institute of Plant Production  
Ruzyne 507  
161 06 Praha 6  
**CZECH REPUBLIC**  
Tel: 42-2-360 851/9  
Fax: 42-2-365 228  
Telex: 123 093 VURV C

**Dr. Luís Gusmão**  
Estação Agronomica Nacional  
Quinta do Marquês  
2780 Oeiras  
**PORTUGAL**  
Tel: 351-1-443 1505/0442/1510  
Fax: 351-1-442 0867  
Telex: 63698 EAN P

**Dr. Karl Hammer**  
Institute of Plant Genetics and  
Crop Plant Research (IPK)  
Corrensstrasse 3  
D-0-6466 Gatersleben  
**GERMANY**  
Tel: 49-39-482 5280  
Fax: 49-161-2519332/39-482 53 66  
Telex: IPK 351868

**Dr. Lázló Holly**  
Research Institute for Agrobotany  
IPPQ  
H-2766 Tapioszele  
**HUNGARY**  
Tel/Fax: 36-53 315 107  
Telex: 226981 AGBOT H

**Prof. Erkki Kivi**  
Anttila Plant Breeding Institute  
FIN-04300 Tuusula  
**FINLAND**  
Tel: 358-0-273 20 11  
Fax: 358-0-273 24 14

**Dr. Rada Koeva**  
Institute for Plant Genetic Resources  
4122 Sadovo  
Plovdiv  
**BULGARIA**  
Tel: 359-32-993118 2221/2251  
Telex: 44444 IIRGR BG

**Dr. M. Penčić**  
Federal Ministry for Science,  
Research & Development  
Lenjinov Bulevar 2  
11070 Novi Beograd  
**YUGOSLAVIA**  
Tel: 38-11-199 195  
Fax: 38-11-222 29 09/222 34 92

**Ms. Shirley Perrins**  
Research Policy Coordination Division  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Nobel House, 17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR  
**UNITED KINGDOM**  
Tel: 44-71-238 5568  
Fax: 44-71-238 5597

**Mr. Charles Populer**  
Plant Pathology Station  
Agricultural Research Center  
Chemin de Liroux 8  
B-5030 Gembloux  
**BELGIUM**  
Tel: 32-81-61 20 99  
Fax: 32-81-61 35 11  
Telex: 59165 CRAGX

**Mr. Nikolaos Stavropoulos**  
Agricultural Research Centre  
of Makedonia and Thraki  
Greek Gene Bank  
57001 Thermi-Thessaloniki  
**GREECE**  
Tel: 30-31-471544  
Fax: 30-31-471209

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Macit Ulubelde**  
Aegean Agricultural Research Institute  
P.O. Box 9  
35661 Menemen-Izmir  
**TURKEY**  
Tel: 90-542-311 05/06  
Fax: 90-542-311 07  
Telex: 51293 AARI TR

**Dr. Miriam Waldman**  
Life Sciences Division  
Ministry of Science  
P.O. Box 18195  
91181 Jerusalem  
**ISRAEL**  
Tel: 972-2-277062/322399  
Fax: 972-2-820591  
Telex: 26188 RECO IL

**Dr. P. A. Werry**  
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature  
Management and Fisheries  
P.O. Box 59  
Mansholtlaan 4  
Wageningen  
**THE NETHERLANDS**  
Tel: 31-8370-986 01  
Fax: 31-8370-240 60  
Telex: 75044 DLOWA NL

**Prof. Dr. Lufter Xhuvëli**  
Plant Breeding & Biology Department  
Higher Institute of Agriculture  
Rruga Myslym Shyri, K-3, Ap-25  
Tirana  
**ALBANIA**  
Tel/Fax: 355-42-27 481  
Tel (home): 355-42-291 47

Members unable to attend

**Dr. Sergey Alexanian**  
Foreign Relations  
N.I. Vavilov Institute  
42-44 Herzen Street  
190000 St. Petersburg  
**RUSSIA**  
Tel: 7-812-314 48 48  
Fax: 7-812-311 8762  
Telex: 121414 ALEX SU

**Dr. Mihai Cristea**  
Gene Bank Suceava  
Bd 1 Mai, No 17  
R-5800 Suceava  
**ROMANIA**  
Tel: 40-987-27087/15847  
Fax: 40-987-27087  
Telex: 23296

**Dr. Mario Gómez Pérez**  
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones  
Agrarias (INIA)  
Jose Abascal 56  
Madrid 28003  
**SPAIN**  
Tel: 34-1-441 2165  
Fax: 34-1-347 3931  
Telex: 48989 INIA E

**Dr. Hermann Redl**  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry  
Stubenring 1  
1010 Vienna  
**AUSTRIA**  
Tel: 43-222-711 00 67 66  
Fax: 43-222-711 00 65 06

**Dr. C.S. Serghiou**  
Agricultural Research Institute  
Ministry of Agriculture and  
Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 2016  
Nicosia  
**CYPRUS**  
Tel: 357-2-30 5101  
Fax: 357-2-31 6770  
Telex: 4660 MINAGRI CY

## IBPGR

**Ir. Emile A. Frison**  
International Board for  
Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR)  
Via delle Sette Chiese 142  
00145 Rome  
**ITALY**

Tel: 39-6-518921 (switchboard)/51892221 (direct)  
Fax: 39-6-5750309  
Telex: 4900005332 (IBRUI) (via USA)  
Email: E.FRISON@CGNET.COM

**Mr. Paul Stapleton**  
Tel: 39-6-51892233 (direct)  
Email: P.STAPLETON@CGNET.COM

**Ir. Dick H. van Sloten**  
Tel: 39-6-51892239 (direct)  
Email: D.VANSLOTEN@CGNET.COM

## Observers

**Dr. Jerzi Serwinski**  
FAO  
AGP  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
**ITALY**  
Tel: 39-6-57971 (switchboard)/5797 5767 (direct)  
Fax: 39-6-5797 3152/5797 5155  
Telex: 625852 FAO I / 610181 FAO I  
Email: J.SERWINSKI-FAO@CGNET.COM

**Dr. Kar-Ling Tao**  
FAO  
Address as above  
Tel: 39-6-57971 (switchboard)/57975347 (direct)  
Fax: 39-6-5797 3152/5797 5155

**Ir. Theo van Hintum**  
Centre for Genetic Resources  
The Netherlands (CGN)  
CPRO-DLO  
P.O. Box 16  
NL-6700 AA Wageningen  
**NETHERLANDS**  
Tel: 31-8370-77078  
Fax: 31-8370-18094  
Email: HINTUM@CPRO.AGRO.NL

**Dr. S. Angelova**  
**Dr. L. Krasteva**  
**Dr. Z. Popova**  
**Dr. S. Stoyanova**  
**I. Peeva**  
**I. Alexiev**  
Institute for Plant Genetic Resources  
4122 Sadovo  
Plovdiv  
**BULGARIA**  
Tel: 359-32-993118 2221/2251  
Telex: 44444 IIRGR BG

## Observer unable to attend

**Dr. Victor K. Ryabchun**  
Ukrainian Centre for Plant  
Genetic Resources  
Yurjev Plant Breeding Institute  
Moskovsky Prospekt, 142  
310060 Kharkov  
**UKRAINE**  
Tel: 7-572-92 21 63/92 12 85  
Fax: 7-572-478 563

Meeting of the ECP/GR Technical Consultative Committee

26-28 August 1993

AGENDA

1. Opening Statements
2. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Evaluation of working group activities and recommendations for future action
5. Financial report of Phase IV
6. Identification of information needs of European countries
7. Proposal for continuation of the ECP/GR
8. Any other business
9. Writing of meeting report
10. Consideration of report and approval by the Technical Consultative Committee



## OPENING ADDRESS

D.H. van Sloten

First of all I would like to welcome you, also on behalf of IBPGR's Director Dr. Geoffrey Hawtin, to this meeting of the TCC of the ECP/GR. I also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our Bulgarian hosts for all the excellent arrangements they have made for us.

Some of you will wonder whether IBPGR is still IBPGR, or whether the institute already operates as IPGRI (International Plant Genetic Resources Institute). In the early 1990s a decision was taken for IBPGR to separate administratively from FAO and to create a new international institute entitled IPGRI. Seventeen countries (including 9 European countries: Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Switzerland and Turkey) have signed IPGRI's Establishment Agreement, thereby creating this new Institute. We have also concluded a Headquarters Agreement between IPGRI and the Government of Italy. IPGRI will become operational as soon as the Italian Parliament has ratified the HQ Agreement (hopefully within the next few months). Thereafter IBPGR will cease to exist and its work will be carried on through and by IPGRI.

After very wide consultations with our partners, including a European consultation in Rome, we developed a new Strategy which has recently been published and which is entitled: "Diversity for Development". The Strategy describes the four major objectives of IBPGR/IPGRI:

1. to assist countries, particularly developing ones, to assess and meet their needs for plant genetic resources conservation and to strengthen links to users.
2. to strengthen and contribute to international collaboration in the conservation and use of plant genetic resources.
3. to develop and promote improved strategies and technologies for plant genetic resources conservation.
4. to provide a global information service on plant genetic resources.

In order to implement our objectives we have consolidated our operations in five distinct regional groups and three thematic groups. The regional groups are as follows: Europe; Asia, the Pacific and Oceania; West Asia and North Africa; Sub-Saharan Africa; the Americas; whilst the thematic groups are: Documentation, Information and Training; Genetic Diversity; and Germplasm Maintenance and Use.

All the thematic groups and the Europe Group are based at Headquarters in Rome, while the other regional groups are consolidated in a limited number of offices around the world.

Plant genetic resources cross national and regional boundaries, so the conservation of genetic resources must be a truly global activity. It cannot be confined to developing countries alone, but must also be extended to developed countries. There is thus an essential role for IBPGR/IPGRI in developed as well as developing countries. Our role in the developed countries consists primarily of acting as a catalyst to stimulate action on the conservation of genetic resources, to foster South-North linkages, to extend knowledge, methods and techniques, and to encourage developed countries to provide their own funding for the necessary activities. In order to respond to the urgent needs of the East European plant genetic resources programmes, which are facing serious difficulties linked with the economic and political changes, and to implement our Strategy which also includes the coverage of developed countries, we have taken a decision to appoint, from our own core resources, a full time member of staff dealing with Europe (Mr. Emile Frison, Group Leader for Europe).

In addition to stimulating the North-South Interactions, we have always seen the ECP/GR as instrumental in promoting collaboration between East and West Europe. With the likely approval of an EC programme on plant genetic resources and the special project we are operating to support plant genetic resources programmes in Russia and Eastern Europe, there is even a stronger need for ECP/GR to continue to provide the appropriate linkages. It is our hope, therefore, that you and your Governments will approve the proposed extension of ECP/GR and that your Governments will provide the necessary financial (or other) support for Phase V.

I wish you all a fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay in Bulgaria. Thank you.

## PROPOSED CONTINUATION OF THE ECP/GR: PHASE V

## 1. Introduction and background

The European Cooperative Programme for the Conservation and Exchange of Crop Genetic Resources (ECP/GR), as it was originally called, began operating in 1980 as a regional UNDP/FAO project, with the aims of facilitating interaction between countries and mobilising new action on specific problems. Under Phase II of the Programme, which began in 1983, coordination was provided by IBPGR, as a special project, and this coordinating role continued throughout the subsequent phases III and IV.

At the end of Phase I an evaluation mission recommended that the programme be organised around a number of crop-specific working groups, with members selected for their expertise in the particular species. Consequently groups were established for the following crops: *Allium*, *Avena*, barley, forages, *Prunus* and sunflower. At the end of the second and third phases a number of other crops were considered for inclusion in the programme. Beet, *Brassica*, *Pisum*, *Vitis* were recommended for *ad hoc* action during Phase III and the implementation of working groups for *Brassica*, *Pisum*, *Vitis* was recommended for Phase IV, an international network for *Beta* having already been established outside the framework of the ECP/GR.

Phase IV, renamed the European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (whilst retaining the familiar abbreviation ECP/GR), formally concluded at the end of 1992.

Interest in a subsequent phase has been expressed by all countries so far contacted and, most importantly, by the various working groups themselves, having recognised the continuing need for an overall coordinating mechanism.

## 2. Progress achieved in Phases I-IV of the ECP/GR

The ECP/GR has proved itself to be a valuable forum for the exchange of information and ideas within Europe. Almost every country has participated in at least one phase, with 28 countries being members in 1993 (Annex I).

- European Databases

The most impressive development - and the major area of activity of the ECP/GR - has been the implementation of crop databases for some 24 species, groups of species or genera, located in 13 countries (Annex II). These have grown steadily through the different phases and for the most part are now considered very comprehensive in their coverage of European institutes' holdings. Some of the databases, such as those for wild and cultivated sunflower, have already taken the step of making their coverage still more international through the inclusion of data from collections outside Europe.

The European databases have started to demonstrate that they can be a powerful, and indeed vital, tool for the efficient interactive management of collections. One important task for which a central database is indispensable is the identification of unduplicated unique accessions, that is those which are only held in a single collection. Curators have a particular responsibility in preserving such material and for arranging its safety duplication as a priority.

More importantly, however, the databases are essential to make germplasm and its related information available to users, either by means of printed catalogues or, increasingly, through direct access and searching of copies of the database files. All the databases contain passport data and to an increasing degree are including characterisation and evaluation data as well. Rationalisation of collections through the identification of "redundant" duplicates is another area where databases can be useful - for example the *Avena* database has estimated that about 48% of the named accessions in its files are duplicates, although at least some of these represent safety duplication.

Whilst database development has perhaps been the most striking advance it should not be allowed to overshadow significant developments in other areas:

- Coordinated collecting activities for filling gaps identified by working groups

The working group meetings have been important channels for the exchange of information on collecting plans and for the identification of regions under-represented in existing collections. Collecting missions for wild *Avena* species, for *Brassica* species and for forages, in particular, have been undertaken as collaborative ventures and much other collecting has been done at national level.

- Developing descriptor lists and priority descriptors for characterisation and evaluation

From the start the working groups have been aware of the need to record and make available characterisation and evaluation data in order to increase the usefulness of collections; much effort has been put into standardising the descriptors in use and identifying recommended sets of priority descriptors. Descriptor lists for sunflower, several *Prunus* species and *Avena* have been prepared and published with input from working group members.

- Selection of standard reference varieties

The Sunflower, *Prunus* and Forage working groups have identified common standard varieties to allow meaningful comparison of the results of evaluation trials from different locations. Efforts have also been made to multiply these reference varieties so that there is sufficient stock to meet requests.

- Establishment of core collections

A major achievement of the barley working group has been the development of a precise concept of a core collection. This initiative has been extended to the world barley collection in the framework of the International Barley Genetic Resources Network and the establishment of the barley core collection is making good progress. The forage working group has initiated the establishment of a core collection for *Lolium perenne* and plans to extend this initiative to other forage species.

The *Avena* working group also decided to initiate the establishment of an *Avena* core collection based on the concept developed by the barley working group.

- Development of national programmes

The ECP/GR has played an important role in accelerating the development of national programmes in several countries through its efforts in raising awareness at Government level of the importance of plant genetic resources and through the bilateral and multilateral cooperation fostered as a result of working group and TCC meetings.

- Improved flow of information and germplasm

The development of databases and the increased characterisation and evaluation of collections, both major activities of the various working groups, have helped to improve the flow of both information and germplasm, in agreement with the principle of free availability. For example, the files of the European *Allium* database have increasingly been used for data screening, particularly in countries with active breeding programmes. Other working groups have also reported increased exchanges of information and material.

- Development of an International Beta Genetic Resources Network.

The European Beta working group of ECP/GR became an international network after Egypt, India, Iran, Japan and USA joined the group. The International Beta database is managed by the Institute of Crop Sciences and Plant Breeding, Braunschweig, Germany.

### 3. Phase IV

Phase IV, which began in 1990, was primarily a continuation of previous work, based on the workplans elaborated in Phase III. During the phase two databases were transferred to new hosts: the *Prunus* database from the Nordic Genebank to INRA, Bordeaux, and the cultivated *Brassica* database from IHAR, Poland to CGN, Wageningen. The successful conclusion of both moves is an illustration of the high level of cooperation achieved within the ECP/GR.

Following a recommendation of the fourth meeting of the Technical Consultative Committee (TCC) the input of the IBPGR coordinator was reduced from full time in Phase III to one quarter time in Phase IV; with an enlarged programme this inevitably led to a less proactive approach. Whilst it was possible to keep members apprised of developments and to coordinate input to the various meetings it was not feasible to take the initiative in programme development. Nor was it possible to give as full a response as might have been desirable to working groups' suggestions and recommendations or to ensure all the follow-up necessary.

Nevertheless, all the working groups were able to meet once; in addition a new working group was established for *Brassica* and contacts have been made to initiate a *Pisum* working group in early 1994.

#### **4. Justification for Phase V**

Progress towards self-sustainability was one of the key elements or targets for Phase IV. Several of the working groups consider that this has more or less been achieved at the technical level, whilst others are less advanced, but all believe that an overall proactive coordination is essential for the continued success of the programme.

Development of a database essentially requires only the input of staff time, the cost of postage and diskettes being quite minor elements. Given a willingness to exchange data it is thus a relatively easy first step in cooperation and one which serves to unite collaborators and provide a focus; it can also be done 'at a distance'. Nevertheless, there are still some important gaps in the databases' coverage; for example data from Russia and other newly-independent states have yet to be incorporated in most databases.

However, other important, long-term, collaborative activities - such as the rationalisation of collections, the enhancement of wild species, pilot studies for *in situ* conservation - are more complex, costly, and require more face-to-face planning. The working groups have made suggestions and proposals in these areas but in several instances the plans have not yet been realised. The ECP/GR has always been a coordinating mechanism with the actual work taking place within the countries themselves, with their own funding, and the relative lack of progress in some areas can therefore be partly attributed to scarcity

of funds and also perhaps partly to a lack of real commitment from countries to the programme.

Such activities are important for the better conservation and use of plant genetic resources in Europe and a key element of Phase V would be the elaboration of projects in these areas and the search for donors to fund them.

In addition the political and economic changes in eastern Europe are putting at risk valuable collections of germplasm. An FAO/IBPGR mission in 1992 surveyed the security of collections in six countries and found that most programmes were experiencing serious difficulties as a result of drastic budget and staff cuts. Recommendations were sent to Governments of the countries visited to raise awareness of the problem and to try to increase their commitment to maintain the collections, and a special activity account has been opened at the CGIAR Secretariat to receive funds from various donors, for which IBPGR was requested to be the executing agency.

The collaborative links forged through the ECP/GR are an important safeguard for protecting these threatened materials and related research; the working groups are invaluable partners for IBPGR in its monitoring task as they serve as an effective early warning system for threats to particular collections and work programmes (as in the case of the *Allium* field genebank at Olomouc, Czech Republic). In addition, the authoritative voices of working groups aid IBPGR in its search for support for eastern European collections.

The ECP/GR, over the course of its first four phases, has greatly stimulated awareness among European nations of the benefits of collaborative activities on genetic resources. At the same time there has been a growing public realization of the need to take action in combatting the global loss of biodiversity. It is essential that this public awareness is maintained and developed in order to ensure wide recognition of the vital role that plant genetic resources play as a fundamental component of biodiversity. This will be a crucial factor in ensuring continued support for plant genetic resources activities.

Recently the EC has proposed implementing a programme on genetic resources in agriculture. This would include action to prevent genetic erosion and to preserve existing collections, help for characterisation and evaluation activities and assistance for



the support of existing European networks and the creation of new ones. Pure research projects would be excluded. The proposed programme is broad in scope and general in nature, whilst the ECP/GR is essentially a coordinating mechanism focussed on specific crops, operating through expert working groups; the two programmes are therefore complementary. Indeed the working groups are ideal platforms for identifying priorities and developing proposals which could be submitted for funding to the EC programme; the proposals would cover joint activities among EC member countries but, at the same time, close links would still be maintained with activities in countries outside the EC.

## 5. Operation of the ECP/GR in Phase V

Operating through short phases of only 2-3 years duration has meant that there is relatively little time for working group activities to progress before questions arise concerning the programme's continuation. There is also little opportunity for the TCC to get feedback from the working groups, particularly from those that meet after the TCC. For this reason it is suggested that Phase V should be planned to last for five years, covering the period 1994-98. This would permit both a meeting of country coordinators in late 1995, at which they would be able to discuss issues other than simply the immediate past and future activities of the working groups, and also a TCC meeting towards the end of the phase in 1998 to review its operation.

- Role of working groups

The concept of working groups has been found successful because it promotes direct contact between scientists actually working with the genetic resources, rather than general discussion at inter-governmental level. Besides the existing working groups consideration could be given to inclusion of other crops: those assessed during previous phases include *Citrus*, cotton, *Lupinus*, maize, olive, *Phaseolus*, potato, *Secale*, tobacco, *Vicia faba*, *Vitis*, wheat; a proposal has also been made to establish a flax working group. Other potential crops include *Daucus*, *Lactuca*, and *Malus*. Further cooperation with other networks such as those of FAO should be strengthened.

The scope of the working groups will be discussed at the Phase V mid-term TCC meeting and consideration will be given to the possible broadening of some working groups to cover several similar crops such as small grain cereals and grain legumes.

In each working group, one or several lead institutes take on the responsibility to develop and maintain the European database for a species or group of species as a contribution in kind to the programme.

An important role for the European databases and working group members will be to ensure that concrete steps are taken to increase the use of germplasm in collections. A key function of the databases is to analyse the data they contain so that working groups can take the necessary action to ensure that all unique accessions are duplicated, that primary responsibility for regeneration and long-term conservation is assigned to individual genebanks, and that measures are taken to reduce redundant duplication.

For some crops, European collections have been or could be established. Within the framework of ECP/GR this has happened for *Allium* with two collections in Israel and the Czech Republic. An independent initiative with support from the EC has been undertaken for strawberry.

- Role of Country Coordinators

The Country Coordinators would continue to represent the ECP/GR to sponsoring Ministries and would act as a liaison point between IBPGR, Ministries and participating institutes. An important task is to maintain close contact with working group Chairmen or members to monitor progress and identify potential problems with databases and collections.

It is the responsibility of the Country Coordinators to obtain the necessary government commitment to the programme in general and more particularly to ensure that the required support is provided to institutes to allow them to make the contributions in kind (maintenance of databases, maintenance of collections, collecting, etc.) which are the basis of the success of the programme.

- Role of IBPGR

As mentioned previously, it has been found that an input of one quarter of the time of the network coordinator was insufficient. A full time coordinator would allow the secretariat to better respond to the requests of working groups and would allow increased activity in terms of:

- support to the working groups and closer interaction with them between meetings to ensure that the planned activities are kept to schedule
- technical support to national programmes
- information gathering and distribution
- ensuring full complementarity with other initiatives, especially that of the EC.
- assisting in formulation of proposals for joint activities and in identifying partners
- searching for donors to support particular elements of workplans, especially for eastern European countries
- linking with other regions
- contributing to raising public awareness of the importance of PGR conservation.

## 6. Links with the "informal sector"

It is now widely recognized that research institutes, universities and other organizations, often referred to as the "formal sector", are not the only ones playing an important role in the conservation and use of PGR. In many countries, associations, NGOs and private initiatives can contribute significantly to the overall PGR effort.

The ECP/GR could usefully explore the practical means by which the best complementarity of both formal and informal sectors can be ensured and could investigate possible areas and mechanisms of collaboration. Working groups are felt to be the most appropriate fora to explore means to collaborate with both NGOs and the private sector.

## **7. Budget**

A five-year budget is presented in Appendix XII. It allows for two meetings of each of the nine proposed working groups and two meetings of the TCC. One new item is a contribution towards the publication of a regular newsletter, including a major section covering the whole ECP/GR, which would permit discussion of issues cutting across the work of all working groups.

The average annual cost of the programme remains modest, at around US \$300,000; this amount is equivalent to the yearly budget for Phase I, which began more than twelve years ago. The increase over Phase IV is mainly accounted for by the extra cost of a full time coordinator, the larger number of working group meetings and the broader scope of activities. This budget is considered the minimum required to operate a meaningful programme.

MEMBERSHIP OF PHASES I-IV OF THE ECP/GR				
	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
Albania				✓
Austria		✓	✓	✓
Belgium		✓	✓	✓
Bulgaria	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cyprus	✓	✓	✓	✓
Czechoslovakia	✓	✓	✓	✓
Denmark	✓	✓	✓	✓
Finland	✓	✓	✓	✓
France		✓	✓	✓
FRG		✓	✓	✓
GDR	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greece	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hungary	✓	✓	✓	✓
Iceland	✓	✓		
Ireland		✓	✓	✓*
Israel	✓	✓	✓	✓
Italy	✓	✓	✓	✓
Netherlands	✓	✓	✓	✓
Norway	✓	✓	✓	✓
Poland	✓	✓	✓	✓
Portugal	✓	✓	✓	✓
Romania	✓			✓*
Spain	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sweden	✓	✓	✓	✓
Switzerland	✓	✓	✓	✓
Turkey		✓	✓	✓
UK	✓	✓	✓	✓
Yugoslavia	✓	✓	✓	✓
USSR				✓

\* Joined during 1993

**Databases established within the framework of the ECP/GR, the number of  
accessions registered and their lead/host institutes**

i.	<i>Allium</i>	<b>HRI, Wellesbourne, UK</b>
	No. of accessions registered in	Dec. 1985: 3187
	" "	June 1988: 3853
	" "	June 1991: 5129
ii.	<i>Avena</i>	<b>FAL, Braunschweig, Germany</b>
	No. of accessions registered in	March 1986: 9056
	" "	March 1989: 16874
	" "	May 1993: 17451
iii.	<i>Barley</i>	<b>IPK, Gatersleben, Germany</b>
	No. of accessions registered in	July 1985: 49767
	" "	May 1986: 53970
	" "	April 1989: 55369
	" "	May 1993: 55369
iv.	<i>Beta</i>	<b>FAL/CGN, Braunschweig, Germany</b>
v.	<i>Brassica (cultivated)</i>	<b>CGN, Wageningen, The Netherlands</b>
	No. of accessions registered in	May 1993: 10178
vi.	<i>Brassica (wild)</i>	<b>INIA-UPM, Madrid, Spain</b>
vii.	<i>Pisum</i>	<b>Plant Breeding Station, Wiatrowo, Poland</b>
viii.	<i>Prunus</i>	<b>INRA, Bordeaux, France</b>
	No. of accessions registered in	Oct. 1985: 7148
	" "	Aug. 1989: 12358
	" "	Dec. 1992: 12358
ix.	<i>Rye</i>	<b>PBAI, Radzikow, Poland</b>
x.	<i>Cultivated Sunflower</i>	<b>GKI, Szeged, Hungary</b>
	No. of accessions registered in	April 1986: 1338
	" "	July 1988: 1400
	" "	May 1991: 1400
xi.	<i>Wild Sunflower</i>	<b>IFVC, Novi Sad, Serbia</b>
	No. of accessions registered in	April 1986: 1384
	" "	May 1991: 1588

**Forages:**

xii.	<i>Bromus</i> No. of accessions registered in	RCA, Tapioszele, Hungary 1991: 385
xiii.	<i>Dactylis and Festuca</i> No. of accessions registered in	PBAI, Radzikow, Poland 1991: 2754 ( <i>Dactylis</i> ) 2314 ( <i>Festuca</i> )
xiv.	<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i> and <i>Medicago</i> (annual spp.) No. of accessions registered in	INIA, Badajoz, Spain 1991: 2447 ( <i>T. subterraneum</i> ) 1246 ( <i>Medicago</i> )
xv.	<i>Lolium perenne, L. multiflorum</i> and <i>Trifolium repens</i> No. of accessions registered in	WPBS, Aberystwyth, UK 1991: 3340 ( <i>L. perenne</i> ) 475 ( <i>L. multiflorum</i> ) 562 ( <i>T. repens</i> )
xvi.	<i>Lolium spp., Phalaris spp.</i> and <i>Vicia spp.</i>	CNR, Bari, Italy
xvii.	<i>Medicago</i> (perennial spp.) No. of accessions registered in	INRA-GEVES, Guyancourt, France 1991: 1314
xviii.	<i>Poa spp.</i> No. of accessions registered in	FAL, Braunschweig, Germany 1991: 1137
xix.	<i>Phleum spp.</i> No. of accessions registered in	NGB, Alnarp, Sweden 1991: 1950
xx.	<i>Trifolium pratense</i> No. of accessions registered in No. of accessions registered in	SFRA, Changins, Switzerland 1985: 1173 1991: 1690
xxi.	<i>Lathyrus latifolius, L. tuberosus,</i> <i>L. heterophyllus, L. silvestris</i> No. of accessions registered in	IBEAS, Pau, France 1991: 1239
xxii.	Other <i>Lathyrus spp.</i>	Southampton University, UK
xxiii.	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> and <i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Grassland Res. Stn., Zubri, Czech Republic
xxiv.	<i>Trifolium alexandrinum</i> and <i>T. resupinatum</i>	Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem, Rehovot, Israel

EVALUATION OF WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION

Allium

The working group was congratulated for the work it had carried out and for publishing its achievements in scientific publications, and through a paper presented at the International Symposium on *Allium* for the Tropics in Thailand.

The TCC **stressed** the importance of maintaining *Allium* collections in both the short and the long term and urged the relevant Governments to continue to allocate the necessary funds for their upkeep.

*Allium* is considered to be a good crop example for genebank work in general. *Allium* seed is almost recalcitrant, it requires foreign and insect pollinators, and vegetative propagation can result in disease.

In order to verify the current position, the TCC **recommended** that the working group make a situation report on the extent of *Allium* data, and that it give consideration to setting up duplicate collections to safeguard those genetic resources.

The TCC **recommended** that the objectives for Phase V should be realistic, in order that they have a good chance of being met.

Avena

The TCC **agreed** with the general work plan of the *Avena* Group and recognized that good progress has been made in many aspects. The TCC recognized, however, that several of the activities recommended by the third meeting of the *Avena* Group in 1989 have not been carried out.

In particular, the TCC's opinion was that the initial phase in the implementation of the *Avena* database should by now be finished and work should now concentrate on making full use of the database, e.g. for identification of duplicates, unique accessions and gaps in collections. There is also a need to publish some information about the database to make it known to users.

The TCC realized that lack of funding seriously hampers this operation and therefore **recommended** that the ECP/GR seek a commitment from the institute holding the database to allocate adequate funds (or to request external funds) to be able to perform basic database operations.



The TCC considered it important that compilation of the database be completed as a priority so that it can as soon as possible be used to implement an effective *Avena* network. In the process of compilation as much data as possible should be included on the Russian collection.

The TCC recognized that in many countries breeding and research efforts on oats are decreasing or have ceased, and that consequently there is a need to identify collections that are in danger and, if necessary, find new home institutes for them. The *Avena* database should be a valuable tool for that purpose.

The TCC supported the idea of constructing an *Avena* core collection and **recommended** that the *Avena* group make use, as far as possible, of the experience of the Barley Core Collection group.

### Barley

The TCC studied and **approved** the report of the Barley working group and noted the following points:

- the progress made in implementing the Barley Core Collection is highly appreciated;
- the initiative to appoint a dedicated coordinator is encouraged;
- the workplan of the fourth meeting of the working group is attractive and comprehensive.

The TCC **stressed** the importance of the European Barley Database being kept up to date, and the workplan of the fourth meeting being executed.

In general there was broad approval and appreciation for the progress made. Barley is a historically well-studied and important crop, and can be considered as a model crop for an ECP/GR working group.

### Brassica

One of the priorities of the *Brassica* working group was to establish a central database, which should be supplied with passport data on accessions. This has been achieved by the setting-up of the European database for *Brassica* at Wageningen.

The recommendation for the duplication of samples of brassicas has not yet been accomplished; it is important for security reasons that this be done.

The TCC **recommended** that the working group should endeavour to make further progress in rejuvenation and duplication of accessions (which would be for storage purposes only). The working group could also consider how wild species of *Brassica*, important in the Mediterranean area, can be conserved *in situ* in protected areas, in addition to collecting for *ex situ* conservation.

### Forages

The TCC studied and **approved** the report of the forages working group and noted the following points:

- the working group has a very detailed and comprehensive plan to deal with outstanding problems;
- the working group provided an inventory of tasks not completed in particular the establishment of core collections;
- guidelines have been agreed to set up core collections with *Lolium perenne* being used as a pilot study with 10% of accessions to be evaluated;
- the active interest of the working group in relation to collection of material, throughout Europe. The TCC **recommended** that the working group continues to pay close attention to this activity in the future;
- regeneration of *Poa pratensis* is problematic due to its apomictic nature. The TCC proposed that funding should be sought from seed companies to conduct research into this problem.

### Prunus

The TCC fully appreciated the work done by the working group on *Prunus*. It **agreed entirely** with the statements made by the group in the report of its fourth meeting in Bordeaux, in 1992 (pp. 7-8), which concerned updating the European *Prunus* database, producing a newsletter, security of collections, action by crop coordinators, and which recommended appointment of a full-time coordinator for the ECP/GR in Phase V and the establishment of an emergency fund to safeguard threatened collections.

In the area covered by the *Prunus* working group, the continuation of the ECP/GR into a Phase V stands out clearly as a necessity for the completion of several former objectives and for initiating a number of new ones.

Cataloguing and the development of databases should be continued and perfected. The *Prunus* Newsletter will have to be developed into an efficient tool for information and coordination among institutions dealing with *Prunus* germplasm.

Particular attention should be paid to safeguarding endangered field collections of *Prunus* and there is also an urgent need for collecting local cultivars and wild genotypes before they disappear altogether.

Concerning new initiatives, the TCC considered that emphasis should be laid on the following objectives:

- further work on the virus status of genetic material and on descriptors of the virus status, which are essential for the safe movement of vegetatively propagated material;
- further development of reliable cryopreservation procedures, which are particularly needed in the context of ecogeographic studies of wild *Prunus* populations;
- the use of molecular techniques for cultivar fingerprinting and for characterizing genetic diversity;
- screening for resistance to diseases and pests in view of the increasing interest in biological control methods in fruit production;
- promoting *in situ* conservation of wild fruit species in areas where this is relevant;
- encouraging *in situ* conservation of *Prunus avium* in northern European forests and screening for its suitability as a substitute for tropical timber in furniture making and other uses.

### Sunflower

The Sunflower working group appears to have successfully completed its programme. The TCC agreed with the Group's recommendation that there would be advantages in continuing the activities of the Group under the umbrella of the FAO European Research Network on Sunflower. This would enable ECP/GR funds to be released for new crop networks.

## APPENDIX VI

## REVISED BUDGET FOR PHASE IV OF ECP/GR

REVISED BUDGET FOR PHASE IV OF ECP/GR FOR GOVERNMENT CASH CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH IBPGR <sup>1</sup>				
	Total US\$	1990 US\$	1991 US\$	1992 US\$
1/4 Time IBPGR Crop Network Coordinator	49,500	16,000	16,500	17,000
Direct administration support 1/4 time IBPGR secretary	22,500	7,000	7,500	8,000
Official travel	42,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Crop meetings/Consultations <sup>2</sup>	174,000	34,000	100,000	40,000
Technical Consultative Committee <sup>3</sup>	40,000	---	---	40,000
Publications and programme administration (telephone, telex, etc.)	60,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Contingencies	15,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>403,000</b>	<b>96,000</b>	<b>163,000</b>	<b>144,000</b>
Overhead (indirect support) 13% <sup>4</sup>	52,000	12,000	21,000	19,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>455,000</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>184,000</b>	<b>163,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> Budget revised to account for the loss of the GDR contribution following German reunification, and for the withdrawal of Ireland from Phase IV of ECP/GR.

<sup>2</sup> One meeting each of working groups on *Allium*, *Avena*, Barley, Forages, *Prunus*, Sunflower, *Brassica*, *Pisum* and *Vitis* and preparation meetings on Barley Core Collections (US\$ 20,000 for each activity). Covering local expenses will be considered as an input equivalent to US\$ 5,000.

<sup>3</sup> Covering local expenses considered as input equivalent to US\$ 10,000.

<sup>4</sup> This includes provision of space in IBPGR Headquarters the overhead of 5% which IBPGR has to pay to FAO the input and time of IBPGR, Professional staff, etc.

## ECP/GR PHASE IV CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY 31 AUGUST 1993

Country	Pledge	Contribution received	Still due
Austria	20,000	20,000	
Belgium	20,000	20,000	
Bulgaria (1)	10,000	10,000	
Cyprus	5,000	5,000	
Czechoslovakia (2)	10,000	10,000	
Denmark	20,000	20,000	
Finland	10,000	10,000	
France	50,000	50,000	
Germany	50,000	50,000	
Greece	10,000	10,000	
Hungary (3)	10,000	10,000	
Israel	10,000	10,000	
Italy	50,000	50,000	
Netherlands	20,000	20,000	
Norway	10,000	10,000	
Poland	10,000	10,000	
Portugal	10,000	10,000	
Spain	20,000	20,000	
Sweden	20,000	20,000	
Switzerland	20,000	20,000	
Turkey	10,000		10,000
UK	50,000	50,000	
Yugoslavia	10,000	10,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>455,000</b>	<b>445,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>

- (1) Contribution in kind - Local expenses of TCC meeting.
- (2) US\$ 5,000 in cash + Contribution in kind - Local expenses of *Brassica* working group meeting.
- (3) Contribution in kind - Local expenses of *Avena* and Forages working group meetings.

## APPENDIX VIII

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR PHASE IV OF ECP/GR

<b>PHASE IV OF ECP/GR EXPENDITURE<sup>1</sup></b>					
	<b>Total US\$</b>	<b>1990 US\$</b>	<b>1991 US\$</b>	<b>1992 US\$</b>	<b>1993<sup>2</sup> US\$</b>
1/4 Time IBPGR Crop Network Coordinator	77,923	18,345	19,785	21,731	18,062
Direct administration support 1/4 time IBPGR secretary	27,483	6,296	6,225	5,534	9,428
Official travel	21,811	86	7,555	4,795	9,375
Crop meetings/Consultations <sup>3</sup>	109,397	1,322	57,678 <sup>a</sup>	15,875	34,522 <sup>a</sup>
Technical Consultative Committee <sup>4</sup>	42,012	---	---	---	42,012
Publications and distribution	81,406	6,356	22,080	15,672	37,298
Contingencies (incl. communications)	15,000	---	---	---	15,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>375,032</b>	<b>32,405</b>	<b>113,323</b>	<b>63,607</b>	<b>165,697</b>
Overhead (indirect support) 13% <sup>5</sup>	48,754	4,212	14,732	8,269	21,541
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>423,786</b>	<b>36,617</b>	<b>128,055</b>	<b>71,876</b>	<b>187,238</b>

<sup>1</sup> Some countries facing difficulties with foreign exchange were allowed to pay their contribution by hosting working group meetings or the TCC and covering local expenses (see also 3/ and 4/).

<sup>2</sup> Up to 31 August 1993

<sup>3</sup> One meeting each of working groups on *Allium*, Forages, *Prunus*, Sunflower and *Brassica* and preparation meeting on Barley Core Collections. <sup>a</sup> The figures for 1991 and 1993 include \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively, as inputs from Hungary and the Czech Republic in covering local expenses of working group meetings.

<sup>4</sup> Includes a contribution equivalent to \$12,500 from Bulgaria in hosting the TCC meeting and covering local expenses.

<sup>5</sup> This includes provision of space in IBPGR Headquarters the overhead of 5% which IBPGR has to pay to FAO the input and time of IBPGR, Professional staff, etc.

## ECP/GR CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED FOR 1993

Country	Contribution requested (1)
Austria	5,000
Belgium	5,000
Bulgaria (2)	2,500
Cyprus	1,250
Czech Republic	1,500
Denmark	5,000
Finland	2,500
France	12,500
Germany	12,500
Greece	2,500
Hungary	2,500
Ireland	2,500
Israel	2,500
Italy	12,500
Netherlands	5,000
Norway	2,500
Poland	2,500
Portugal	2,500
Slovakia	1,000
Spain	5,000
Sweden	5,000
Switzerland	5,000
Turkey	2,500
UK	12,500
Yugoslavia	2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,250</b>

- (1) A reduced contribution was requested for 1993 equal to 25% of the total contribution for Phase IV.
- (2) Contribution in kind (excess cost of TCC).

## IDENTIFICATION OF INFORMATION NEEDS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Paul Stapleton

The word 'information' is used in two ways within plant genetic resources. One meaning refers specifically to documentation work, dealing with data on material that is held in genebanks, number of accessions, their characteristics, databases, etc. The second meaning of 'information' refers to the more general bibliographic knowledge on the most recent developments in the field that is available in books, journals, abstracts, abstracts databases and the grey literature (that is, literature that is not generally published and so is not easily available). For convenience the terms 'documentation information' and 'bibliographic information' will be used here to distinguish the two meanings.

One of IBPGR's strategic aims is inform the world's plant genetic resources community of both practical and scientific developments in the field. It will seek to provide an information service and a publications programme targeted primarily at staff of National Programmes. As part of a broader project on improving information and publications activity on plant genetic resources, IBPGR is investigating ways to improve access to essential bibliographic information in the pursuit of agricultural development objectives.

From 1993 to 1995, IPGRI will be running a series of regional meetings to discuss the information needs, particularly in the bibliographic/publications area, of plant genetic resources work. The project has adopted the five IBPGR geographical regions as a convenient subdivision of effort:

- Europe
- Asia, the Pacific and Oceania
- West Asia and North Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- The Americas.



### **Information in ECP/GR**

Good plant genetic resources work is assisted by a free flow of both documentation and bibliographic information. The ECP/GR has proved itself to be a valuable mechanism for exchanging documentation information within Europe. In particular, the crop networks have successfully promoted collaboration and the free flow of information. Working groups have coordinated collecting activities and promoted collaboration. Crop databases are proving to be efficient ways of managing collections, both within Europe and more recently internationally. Such databases are making the material they deal with more easily available. Descriptor lists have established basic criteria that are used internationally for the characterization of species. The Directories of Germplasm Collections provide massive amounts of documentation information.

IBPGR is seeking ways to ensure that its work in producing bibliographic information, in the present form of publications, abstracts and selected data, contributes to the information flow within the ECP/GR and consequently the plant genetic resources programmes of the whole of Europe.

This meeting has brought together specialists in plant genetic resources from most of the European countries. This session of the TCC meeting could take the time to discuss the ways that bibliographic information is both circulated within the region and the approach that IBPGR takes towards information, i.e. addressing individuals through direct mailing. This would produce discussions aimed at improving cooperation and collaboration in information work initially at the national and regional levels. Needs will be very different amongst the European countries.

A complex web of information flow already operates within the formal Crop Networks and more informal networks of the working groups. This session could also discuss the status quo, whether the ECP/GR needs to take other action, and how IBPGR can complement existing information activities. One approach may be to look at establishing one major contact point within a country towards which IBPGR can direct its bibliographic outputs to complement the ECP/GR's work. In other regions of the world, IBPGR intends to recruit a clear network of institutes and personnel dealing in plant genetic resources, either as part of existing network activities or as a new initiative.

Because of the global nature of plant genetic resources work, and the volume of information that is associated with the field, IBPGR will be developing clear objectives for a special project researching the application (as opposed to the development) of new methodological and technological advances to plant genetic resources information. Much new technology has barely touched plant genetic resources. The technical basis of some of the new techniques is quite simple, so their application to developing country situations might well be very easy, robust and useful. Examples of such technology would be small-scale production of CD-ROMs, video technology, multimedia applications, and storage methodologies of image-based data. Such technology would allow many developing country institutes to bypass the trial and error phases through which many developed countries have passed.

#### *Discussion topics*

- how effective are the existing bibliographic information activities of IBPGR in relation to ECP/GR's work?
- how can IBPGR's information work be integrated into that of ECP/GR?
- within Europe, what are the national needs for current awareness services, publications and published information on plant genetic resources?
- how could the application of new technologies be used to advantage in plant genetic resources work in the region?
- can ECP/GR networks facilitate IBPGR's access to the grey literature?

#### **Regional Newsletters**

IBPGR's Regional Newsletters have become extremely effective means of communication. Their continued appearance was endorsed by IBPGR in June, 1993, particularly as they are to be produced in the relevant languages. It is proposed to produce five Regional Newsletters:

for Europe	in English and French
for the Americas	in Spanish and English
for Sub-Saharan Africa	in English and French
for WANA	in English and Arabic
for Asia, the Pacific and Oceania	in Chinese and English

The production of newsletters is time-consuming and requires experienced and trained staff. The work requires expertise in reporting, writing, editing and translating, and establishing production routines with an understanding of layout and printing technology.

Obviously any newsletter dealing with plant genetic resources in Europe will be intimately connected with ECP/GR activities. Since the ECP/GR has representatives from most European countries here, and it is suggested that there be an IBPGR Newsletter for Europe with a major section on ECP/GR activities, this meeting could:

- examine the target audiences of the newsletter
- discuss and identify the roles of the newsletter in relation to ECP/GR, IBPGR and its Regional Newsletter for Europe, and National Programmes
- investigate ways of collaborating to share information
- discuss methods of production.

The primary intention would be to ensure a complementarity between IBPGR's programme work and the work of ECP/GR.

OBJECTIVES OF PHASE V

- The first and most important objective of the ECP/GR is to ensure the long term conservation and to facilitate and encourage the increased utilisation of plant genetic resources in Europe.
- To increase the planning of joint activities.
- To develop joint project proposals to be submitted for funding to the EC and other programmes.
- To strengthen links between eastern and western European plant genetic resources programmes.
- To contribute to monitoring the safety of plant genetic resources collections and take appropriate action when required.
- To increase public awareness at all levels of the importance of plant genetic resources activities.

## BUDGET FOR PHASE V OF ECP/GR

BUDGET FOR PHASE V OF ECP/GR FOR GOVERNMENT CASH CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH IBPGR <sup>1</sup>						
	Total US\$	1994 US\$	1995 US\$	1996 US\$	1997 US\$	1998 US\$
Full-time IBPGR ECP/GR Coordinator	420,000	80,000	82,000	84,000	86,000	88,000
Direct administrative support: ½ time IBPGR secretary	105,000	20,000	20,500	21,000	21,500	22,000
Official travel	70,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Crop meetings/Consultations <sup>2</sup>	432,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	48,000
Technical Consultative Committee <sup>3</sup>	100,000	---	50,000	---	---	50,000
Publications	153,000	25,000	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Newsletter	15,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Communications and contingencies	50,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>1,345,000</b>	<b>248,000</b>	<b>307,500</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>262,500</b>	<b>267,000</b>
Overhead (indirect support) at 13% <sup>4</sup>	175,000	32,300	40,000	33,800	34,100	34,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,520,000</b>	<b>280,300</b>	<b>347,500</b>	<b>293,800</b>	<b>296,600</b>	<b>301,800</b>

<sup>1</sup> Some countries facing difficulties with foreign exchange will be allowed to pay their contribution by hosting working group meetings or the TCC and covering local expenses (see also 2/ and 3/).

<sup>2</sup> Two meetings each of working groups on *Allium*, *Avena*, *Barley*, *Forages*, *Prunus*, *Sunflower*, *Brassica*, *Pisum* and *Vitis* (US\$ 24,000 for each activity). Covering local expenses will be considered as an input equivalent to US\$ 7,500.

<sup>3</sup> One mid-term meeting of country coordinators and a TCC meeting towards the end of the phase. Covering local expenses considered as input equivalent to US\$ 15,000.

<sup>4</sup> This includes provision of space in IBPGR Headquarters, the input and time of IBPGR Professional staff, etc.

## ECP/GR PHASE V YEARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Country	UN assessment rates (%)	ECP/GR Members = 100%	Contribution /year Phase V
Albania	0.01	0.02	2,000
Austria	0.75	1.66	10,000
Belgium	1.06	2.35	10,000
Bulgaria	0.13	0.29	5,000
Cyprus	0.02	0.04	2,000
Czech Republic	0.42	0.93	5,000
Denmark	0.65	1.44	10,000
Finland	0.57	1.26	5,000
France	6.00	13.30	30,000
Germany	8.93	19.80	30,000
Greece	0.35	0.78	5,000
Hungary	0.18	0.40	5,000
Iceland	0.03	0.07	2,000
Ireland	0.18	0.40	5,000
Israel	0.23	0.51	5,000
Italy	4.29	9.51	30,000
Netherlands	1.50	3.33	10,000
Norway	0.55	1.22	5,000
Poland	0.47	1.04	5,000
Portugal	0.20	0.44	5,000
Romania	0.17	0.38	5,000
Russia	6.71	14.88	30,000
Slovakia	0.13	0.29	5,000
Spain	1.98	4.39	10,000
Sweden	1.11	2.46	10,000
Switzerland	1.16	2.57	10,000
Turkey	0.27	0.60	5,000
UK	5.02	11.13	30,000
Ukraine	1.87	4.15	10,000
Yugoslavia	0.16	0.35	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.10</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>304,000</b>

## Key to calculation of contributions

ECP/GR Members % contribution to UN	Yearly Contrib.
X < 0.1%	2000
0.1% < X < 1.3%	5000
1.3% < X < 5%	10000
5% < X	30000