

ECPGR Working Group / Task Force / Thematic Network

Avena Working Group

Progress report for the period June 2006 – June 2008

I. RESULTS			
a. Comparison of workplan (milestones) versus results obtained			
Workplan (milestones)	Which results have been obtained?	Which aims/goals have not been (fully) reached?	Completeness ratio (%)
Milestone 1 <i>In situ</i> conservation	Species <i>A. insularis</i> , <i>A. murphyi</i> , <i>A. maroccana</i> and <i>A. prostrata</i> were identified as priority species for <i>in situ</i> conservation	The three countries, Spain, Morocco and Italy have not identified sites for <i>in situ</i> conservation for the species mentioned	10
Milestone 2 Collecting <i>Avena</i> species	<i>A. murphyi</i> and <i>A. prostrata</i> species were collected	No collection was done in Morocco	50
b. Contribution to the four ECP/GR priorities for Phase VII			
1. Characterization/evaluation (including use of modern technologies)			
<p>For most of the genebanks characterization and evaluation of the accessions are being carried out, not only for morphological markers but also for β-glucan content, protein content, winter hardiness and cold tolerance, disease resistance, seed storage proteins, lipids and fatty acids. The EU funded project AVEQ (<i>Avena</i> genetic resources for quality in human consumption) was initiated in September 2007. The main objectives are to screen a large number of cultivated and wild material for protein content, fat, avenins, minerals, antioxidants (tocols and avenanthramides), β-glucans, fibres, starch, check for <i>Fusarium</i> and mycotoxin presence in inoculated material and evaluate cold tolerance.</p>			
2. Task sharing			
<p>AEGIS was and still is a priority for the AWG, since <i>Avena</i> will be used as a model crop. An AEGIS final report from an <i>Avena</i> subgroup was compiled. A major part during the Cereal Network Meeting in Foça, Turkey was spent discussing better ways to implement AEGIS for <i>Avena</i>, and actions were agreed.</p>			
3. <i>In situ</i> /on-farm conservation and development			
<p>The EU funded project AEGRO (An integrated European <i>in situ</i> management workplan: implementing genetic reserves and on farm concepts) was initiated in November 2007. <i>Avena</i> is used a model crop for self-pollinated crops. The main objective of the project is to develop an <i>in situ</i> management workplan, including sites suited to establish genetic reserves, technical guidelines, procedures and database required for population management and monitoring. During a meeting in Athens in March 2008, <i>Avena</i> species were prioritized based on threat and/or their distribution for <i>in situ</i> conservation.</p>			

<p>4. Documentation and information</p> <p>Current EADB status:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34541 accessions documented 15933 discriminable origins (= "duplicate groups") 156 descriptors (from three descriptor lists: IPGRI, UPOV, COMECON + additional descriptors from data providers) 316 methodological variants for determination of these descriptors 169799 single C&E observations 197 identified alleles 902 pictures of <i>Avena</i> entries were added
<p>c. Relevance (regional / international)</p>
<p>Did your work and/or outputs have inter-regional dimension? (if it did, give precisions)</p> <p>AWG members participated in the Oat Strategy Meeting of the Global Crop Diversity Trust held in St. Petersburg; the German member of the Avena WG is coordinating the compilation of the Strategy.</p>
<p>d. Lessons learnt (recommendations)</p>
<p>Which lessons learnt are also relevant for other Working Groups?</p> <p>EU funded projects (AVEQ and AEGRO) stimulated interaction among members of the AWG.</p>

<p>II. ANALYSIS</p>	
<p>a. Bottlenecks</p>	
<p>What were the experienced bottlenecks?</p> <p>Problems were encountered for collecting material in different countries although the MTA had been signed by the countries.</p>	<p>How do you plan to solve the bottlenecks?</p> <p>Negotiations needed to be held between Bioversity International and the countries where collections were going to be made.</p>
<p>b. Internal support needed (Secretariat, Steering Committee, other Working Groups, etc.)</p> <p>Support for meeting organization and project coordination</p> <p>Importance of Network and WG meetings</p> <p>Importance of public awareness for European PGRFA and information</p>	
<p>c. External resources needed (collaboration, external funding)</p> <p>External funding for collaboration among members of any WG is a necessity. The AWG completed a GEN RES project (CT99-106) and two more (AVEQ and AEGRO) are underway. These projects boosted collaboration among AWG members.</p>	
<p>III. PLANS</p>	
<p>a. Planned activities</p>	<p>b. Expected results</p>
<p>1. Set regeneration procedures for <i>Avena</i> wild species.</p>	<p>Develop procedures for future regeneration of <i>Avena</i> wild material.</p>
<p>2. <i>Avena</i> WG meeting (full participation) and Cereals Network Meeting (limited participation)</p>	
<p>3. Participation in the pre-breeding meeting and project proposal development with Barley WG.</p>	
<p>4. Participation in the <i>in situ</i> conservation meeting (limited participation)</p>	