ECPGR *Brassica* Working Group

Progress report for the period June 2006 – June 2008

(Based on the work plans developed at the Vegetable Network meetings in 2003 (Skiernewice, POL) and 2007 in Olomouc,CZ

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 (%)**
Update BrasEDB	Updated in 2007 with new collections and new data of collections already present, using EURISCO descriptors	Not updated for all collections present in earlier versions	80%
Exercise in identification of candidate MAA's for *B. rapa*	Two separate lists of candidate MAA's and two reports on constraints.		95%
Inventory practices in collection management	Overview of practices of 18 collectionholders from 14 countries	Information from some collectionholders	80%
Minimum and recommended standards in collection management	Draft 2006 discussed and amended in 2007		80%
Safety duplication	Status overview near completion	Actual arrangements differ strongly between countries	50%
Characterization and evaluation	Minimum descriptors and all results from RESGEN and AIR3 projects available via BrasEDB		100%
Questionnaire on priorities for evaluation	none		0%
In situ and on-farm conservation	Sites of wild *Brassica* in Sicily have been monitored within the AEGRO RESGEN project	Characterisation, description, in situ conservation strategies	20%

b. Contribution to the four ECP/GR priorities for Phase VII
1. Characterization/evaluation (including modern technologies) Minimum descriptors available through GENRES project. Results of the GENRES *Brassica* and AIR3 projects are downloadable via the Bras-EDB website.
2. Task sharing An inventory of collection management procedures was carried out. An overview of the results of the collection management survey was presented to the Prague and Olomouc meetings. Discussions on the different procedures by the WG members stimulated exchange of knowledge, trust and transparency. A draft of recommended and minimum standards was established and discussed in two meetings. An exercise was carried out in identifying selection criteria for candidate MAA's in the *B. rapa* collections present in updated BrasEDB.
3. *In situ*/on-farm conservation and development In the frame of the AEGRO RESGEN project we start to monitor the Sicilian wild Brassica species (n=9)
4. Documentation and information Most of the former BrasEDB descriptors were replaced by EURISCO descriptors to enable easier future updates. BrasEDB was updated with passportdata received by collectionholders or downloaded from EURISCO.
c. Relevance (regional / international)
Did your work and/or outputs have inter-regional dimension? (if it did, give precisions) Interest from users outside Europe on BrasEDB and results RESGEN project. Plans for collections missions in North-Africa are still pending.
d. Lessons learnt (recommendations)
Which lessons learnt are also relevant for other Working Groups? Transparency of collection management procedures can be established via a survey. The results of the exercise on candidate MAA's can be used by other Working Groups.

II. ANALYSIS	
a. Bottlenecks	
What were the experienced bottlenecks?	How do you plan to solve the bottlenecks?
Low prioritization and therefore only one meeting within the Network meeting. One ad hoc meeting possible with only a selection of WG members.	A formal request not to prioritize WGs within the Vegetables network was sent to the SC last year, but no definitive answer was received. A formal request will again be sent to the SC in 2008.
Many WG members not from genebanks; therefore communication, exchange of information and decision making hampered.	
To improve exchange of experiences and to have a more profittable moment of meeting in addition of official meeting we tried to built up a system for video conference which failed for not specific competence about.	This problem could be overcome by the possibility to distribute without any cost to any WG member of one PC programme which can permit to set up video conference all members can attend easier.
b. Internal support needed (Secretariat, Steering Committee, other Working Groups, etc.)	
Several Brassica WG members held active collections, which need to be organised in the database. Could be of interest have the availability of a programme for database common among the members which facilities to classify each collection and after the trasmission of the data in a common way.	
c. External resources needed (collaboration, external funding)	