



Independent External Review of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR)

Stakeholders' Consultation Report

Report prepared by: Cristina Sette and Lorenzo Maggioni

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European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR)
c/o Bioversity International
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a, 00057 Maccarese (Fiumicino), Rome, Italy
Tel: (39) 0661181, Fax: (39) 0661979661, URL: www.ecpgr.cgiar.org

ECPGR is a collaborative Programme throughout most European countries, aimed at facilitating long-term conservation on a cooperative basis and the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe.

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Summary

The European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) is undergoing an external review in 2010 and, as part of the process, a Stakeholder's Consultation was carried out. The consultation mainly focused on assessing the relevance and effectiveness of ECPGR's strategy, objectives and priorities, as well as the adequacy, efficiency and effectiveness of its structure and management and the usefulness and impact of its outputs. A total of 310 stakeholders responded to the online survey (43% response rate) out of 719 e-mails sent.

The survey results can be summarized in the following points:

- ECPGR's strategy, objectives and priorities are considered relevant and effective (Questions 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10). The current priorities are considered adequate by 87% of respondents (Question 11).
- Cost efficiency in meeting the objectives was considered efficient by a range between 57 and 70% of respondents, depending on the cost efficiency element under scrutiny (Question 8).
- The documentation and information area was considered to be the most effective of ECPGR's current priorities (89% of respondents rated it effective) (Question 10).
- 87% of respondents considered ECPGR the appropriate programme to support the established priorities (Question 12).
- The funding mechanism was considered adequate by 71% of respondents. Bioversity International was considered the adequate host institute for ECPGR by 76% of respondents. The priority setting process driven by the Steering Committee was considered adequate by 77% of respondents (Question 13).
- The management of the ECPGR Programme was regarded as efficient (80%), while the use of available funds was considered efficient by 64% of respondents (Question 14).
- Investments made by member countries in the conservation and use of PGR were reported as insufficient by 33% of respondents, whereas 34% were not able to respond to the question. The size of the Secretariat was considered sufficient by 50% of respondents, insufficient by 19% and too generous by 5% (Question 15).
- The Steering Committee's role in providing leadership and direction to ECPGR was reported as effective (68%). The current network and working group structure was considered effective (85%) and the Programme was regarded as effective in its flexibility to re-align itself with external changes (80%) (Question 16).
- The majority of respondents were not able to judge whether the Steering Committee had an appropriate mechanism and procedures for governance (52%), while 32% indicated that it had (Question 17).
- The ECPGR linkages and partnerships were considered appropriate by 90% of the respondents (Question 18).
- Respondents reported that the outputs produced by ECPGR were useful, in particular the databases, guidelines and project proposals were the most cited (Question 19).
- In general, ECPGR was considered effective in reaching expected impacts (Question 20).

1. Introduction

The European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR), a collaborative Programme throughout most European countries aims at facilitating the long-term conservation and the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe on a cooperative basis.

As part of an external review of the overall ECPGR programme, a study was conducted to assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of ECPGR's objectives and priorities. This report presents the background to the external review, a description of the stakeholder's consultation methods, a profile of the stakeholders consulted, the survey findings and a summary of the main suggestions of survey respondents for future directions. The questionnaire used for this consultation is included as Annex I and was prepared with the contribution of staff from Bioversity International (Jan Engels, Lidwina Koop, Lorenzo Maggioni, Cristina Sette, and Jozef Turok), ECPGR Steering Committee member Jens Weibull and the Review Panel members (Orlando De Ponti, Thomas Gass and Marianne Lefort).

2. Background

The European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) (formerly "European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks - ECP/GR) was founded in 1980 on the basis of the recommendations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Genebank Committee of the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA).

The Programme, which is entirely financed by the participating countries and is coordinated by a Secretariat at Bioversity International, operates through broadly focused Networks dealing with groups of crops or general themes related to plant genetic resources. ECPGR is guided by a Steering Committee.

Established for ECPGR by its Steering Committee during its seventh meeting (1998) and reconfirmed during the subsequent meetings, the objectives of ECPGR are:

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

In September 2008, the Steering Committee decided that an external review should be carried out to assess whether the ECPGR Programme had a well defined and relevant strategy and objectives, and whether it was operating in a functional, effective and sustainable way. It was pointed out that all the aspects of the current operation of ECPGR should be evaluated, including the functioning of the Networks and Working Groups. A verification of whether ECPGR reflected the regional needs was also suggested. The Review Panel, composed of three professionals, was selected on the basis of their international experience and technical expertise. Among all the background documents to be provided to the panel, it was agreed that the Secretariat would also provide a stakeholder analysis based on a representative survey.

3. Evaluation Methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the perception of the plant genetic resources stakeholders in Europe about the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of various aspects of ECPGR (objectives, priorities, management, structure, mode of operation, impact, etc.). Key questions included:

- How relevant and effective are ECPGR's priorities and objectives?
- How cost effective is ECPGR in meeting these objectives?
- How adequate are ECPGR's hosting arrangements and funding mechanisms?
- How efficient is the management of the programme?
- Are the human resources allocated within ECPGR adequate?
- Does the Steering Committee have the proper mechanisms and procedures for governance and evaluation?
- How useful are ECPGR's public goods?
- How effective is ECPGR's programme in reaching the expected impacts?

A web-based survey provider, *Survey Monkey*¹, was used to administer the stakeholder survey. Stakeholders were asked to respond to twenty questions, of which all were choice questions (yes/no or Likert scale questions), as well as asking if the review panel could contact them for further assessment. The survey template is included in Annex 1 of this report.

Professionals who were at least once engaged with ECPGR's activities were invited to respond to the survey, which was available online for a period of two weeks in February-March 2010. Two reminders were sent within this period. 310 of the 719 stakeholders completed the survey, a 43% response rate.

The data described in the paragraph 4 are the numerical results of the survey and have not been interpreted or judged. A selection of the comments made has been reported under each respective analytical figure or table. Repetitions of the same comment have generally not been included.

4. Findings

4.1. Profile of the survey participants (Questions 1, 2 and 3)

Of the 310 respondents, 80% were directly associated with the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR), either as National Coordinator, implementing agency, observer in the Steering Committee or network member (Question 1). Regarding the location of respondents, the majority were from the Mediterranean region (28.3%), followed by West Europe (20%), East Europe (19.7%), South-East Europe (16.3%), and Nordic and Baltic (15.7%). Some respondents were not from the regions listed above, but from North America, India, Iran and Morocco (Question 2). The majority of respondents were under the categories Researcher/Academician, Genebank Operators/Crop Curators, or Plant Breeders (Question 3). Table 1 below illustrates the categories. Please note that respondents were able to choose more than one category.

Table 1: Categories of Survey Respondents (Question 3)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Researcher/Academician	58.0%	174
Genebank Operator/Crop Collector Curator	49.0%	147
Public Plant Breeder	20.7%	62
ECPGR National Coordinator	14.7%	44
Private Plant Breeder	5.0%	15
Policymaker	4.3%	13

¹ www.surveymonkey.com

Botanic Garden	3.3%	10
International Organization	3.0%	9
NGO	2.7%	8

Eighteen respondents used the comment box to write down their positions to illustrate the categories they belong to:

- *Heritage Wheat Conservancy*
- *Coordinator for the Swedish program for plant genetic resources*
- *Civil servant at Agricultural Ministry (retired)*
- *Working group Chair*
- *National coordinator, but connected with NGO-work also*
- *Genebank Curator*
- *On-farm Genetic Resources representative and MC Cost 866 representative*
- *Plant geneticist*
- *I'm curator of Italian collection of garlic*
- *State employee*
- *Retired Public plant breeder and crop curator*
- *Member of Working group*
- *Senior scientist*
- *National development cooperation body*
- *Research Funding Body*
- *Scientific Center Vegetable & Industrial crop*

4.2. ECPGR's strategy (Questions 4 and 5)

Respondents of the stakeholder survey were asked to rate the different elements of ECPGR's strategy according to their relevance and effectiveness. Figure 1 below illustrates the responses regarding the strategy's relevance. Respondents found the statements somewhat relevant or relevant (with a range from 76%, "Programme funded by member countries", to 97%, "Carrying out agreed workplans").

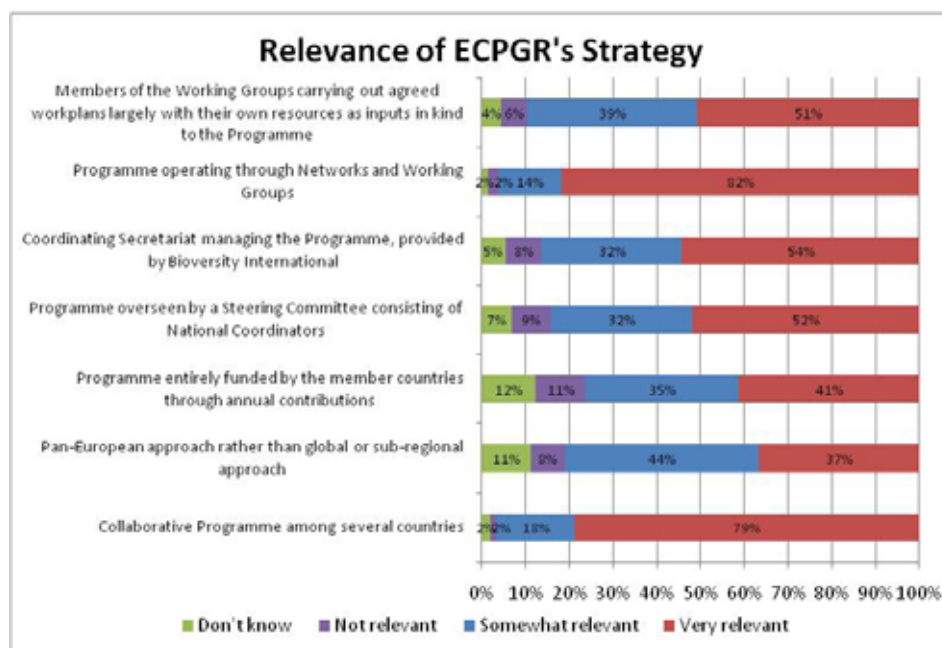


Figure 1: Relevance of ECPGR's Strategy (Question 4)

Thirty five respondents made additional comments related to the relevance of the strategy question. The majority of comments were related to funding, where respondents pointed out the limited resources available and the need to seek alternative financial sources (e.g. EU).

Comments to Question 4:

- *Considering the experience of the Vegetable Network I think this Programme has a good managing and an evidently contribute for every member countries.*
- *In my position, I try lots of elements of the ECPGR strategy very relevant to my job (at least those published).*
- *It is important to have every country on board. The disadvantage is that this slows down developments.*
- *All the elements are very important for development of a consistent PGR strategy in Europe.*
- *Smaller projects carrying out by smaller groups of peoples bring better results than huge projects (for example EU projects). Also the preparation, managing and evaluation of smaller projects is easier for all involved persons.*
- *A programme entirely funded by the member countries is very relevant if the budget would allow the establishment and operation of a NPGS like structure. The steering committee is a very large political body. Decisions of these kind of groups are in practice determined by a few active persons.*
- *The problem is always the funding. When we (researchers) ask to our national agencies, they answer that it is to Bioversity to fund. And Bioversity, that it is to the national agencies. In this way, we do not go anywhere. I think that the genetic resources being a world common good, some direct funding should be provided by the ONU or a multilateral system. There can be national funding but must not be for salaries only. It must include the work of networking, databasing, etc.*
- *Programme difficult to carry out due to: - too much political type decisions or positions at the national level or at the steering committee level - lack of funds to fund real collaborative workplans between countries for the sake of European genetic resources, instead of the uneasy addition of actions that members are willing to do or can do depending if it fits or not in their national work or resources (that would be done for some of them, whether the ECPGR programme exist or not)*
- *More emphasizes need to be developed on the dynamic actions inside and between WG members; therefore more WG meetings would be planned.*
- *For someone outside the European system, it is helpful to have a focal point for communication. However, often the single collection curators may be more helpful.*
- *Funding on the national level is problematic in the present financial situation and not supported by the government*
- *Last question hits the weakness of ECPGR. As long as the contributions expected from participants are not compulsory, investment of resources into the programme remains arbitrary and delivery will be unpredictable.*
- *ECPGR is based mostly on in kind contribution of time, work and researches of the representatives of the national research institutions. Total funding seems to be insufficient to carry out deep scientific researches in the framework of the Program. Nevertheless, country quota provide the possibilities for personal contacts of scientists, especially for the representatives of not very rich countries (institutes).*

- *Georgia carries this project by its own resources. Establishment of Pharmacological Genbank of Medicinal, Aromatic, Spicery and Poisonous Plants and their Enhancement*
- *Members of the WG sometimes do not carry out the agreed workplans. Some of them are not involved on Genetic Resources, but in plant breeding.*
- *Members of WG have too small national funding to carry out agreed workplans. Good intentions at meetings, but coming home we have the hands full with other activities, and no funding to do the agreed ECPGR work means that this work has to be given lower priority*
- *"Workplans largely with their own resources as inputs"... provided there is a realistic approach of the adequacy between 'own resources' and 'programme's objectives': beforehand the objectives tend to be ambitious, and the real amount of work required tend to be undermined - to do the job completely and with quality-*
- *PGR work is global and must be coordinated on all levels. Sufficient funding is crucial, the source is less important, provided. The national anchor is important to secure national support, but less important for the actual work, sometimes it is even disturbing. WP must be carried out but an allocated funding for this will be preferable and secure a better and more timely output.*
- *The personal input of the working group members needs more acknowledgement to enable continuation of inputs in kind.*
- *What is most relevant is that the Programme attempts to contribute to a more rational and effective PGRFA conservation and use system in Europe*
- *I would prefer to interact with a relatively centralized Secretariat within Bioversity International.*
- *As an independent expert paid by the ministry in an inventory project I found and mostly identified 240 historic varieties in old German vineyards during the last 3 years only. Please answer the question why all those varieties have been ignored and overseen by national representatives and federal functionaries during the last 100 years? According to my experience national coordinators just administrate themselves and are busy with creating virtual databases of limited use and quite a high error rate while viruses infect more and more vines in collections and Esca sometimes kills the total of the 3-5 vines in one attack because only the minimum of 3 plants has been planted to maintain a whole variety. Is this sustainable? For a serious maintenance and protection of grape and fruit tree genetic resources private initiatives, NGOs, engaged wine makers, farmers and the expertise of independent experts must be more appreciated and integrated to the program and there must be sources of money to finance independent experts not involved in national research monopolies but seriously engaged in a more sustainable maintenance and conservation of varieties. National research institutes just look for themselves and often take the money for other more hardcore scientific purposes like genetics. Federal Representatives act in closed sworn groups executing orders from administrators and politicians but there is not much effort to develop serious activities for the long term sustainable maintenance of grape and fruit tree genetic resources. The focus on federal collections often is just to maintain a few hundred genotypes like in a zoo without other purposes than maybe genetic research, but for practical use on farm we need virus and disease free clone-selected and multiply secured*

varieties in a minimum number of clonal variability. National collections do not have any use for that and no efforts are visible to improve what breeding institutes do since decades in the same insufficient manner. Clones for practical use are not coming from national or federal collections, where just ESCA is spreading and viruses diseases are transmitted dramatically because of the mix with multiply infected vines. Not to talk of the still frequent cases of wrongly named varieties especially if historic varieties are involved which are left from last centuries without any knowledge. To conclude, the only focus on national monopolists is not really contributing much to the sustainability of nationally conserved varieties. Independent NGOs and private expertise must be more integrated.

Figure 2 below illustrates the responses regarding the strategy's effectiveness. The overall response indicated that the statements are somewhat effective or effective (with a range from 76%, programme funded by member countries, to 94%, programme operating through networks).

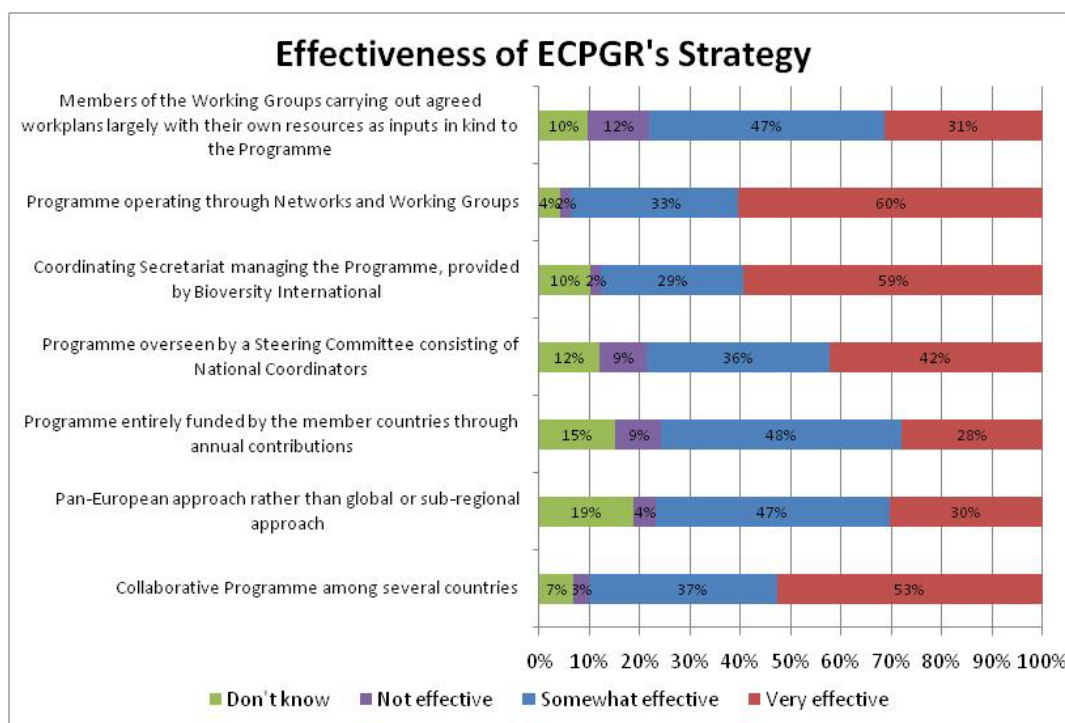


Figure 2: Effectiveness of ECPGR's Strategy (Question 5)

Thirty five respondents made additional comments related to the effectiveness of the strategy question. Most comments were related to lack of funds, insufficient in-kind contributions by country members, and difficulties in carrying out agreed workplans.

Comments to Question 5:

- *The Pan-European approach is important, but it could also be effective to work with a sub-regional approach for certain issues, mainly relevant for a certain area. It is certainly important that the regional aspect "dock in" with other, global initiatives and processes*
- *Effectiveness is dependent on personal engagement of all members - in SC and WGs as well.*
- *Three main comments: (1) In-kind contribution by WG members has become more and more difficult to obtain over the last 10 years, people are squeezed*

*between obligations, funding largely insufficient, more EU money is needed; (2) with many members work in Steering Committee has become rather cumbersome and would need more effective decision routes, perhaps a minor and representative 'Working Committee' to prepare *before* SC meetings; (3) Steering Committee dominated by a few major (Western) countries, former Eastern Europe incl. 'Soviet Union' much less active - how to activate/engage?*

- *The agreed workplans are carried out by only a few members of a working group. Most members state they do not have the financial resources. The steering committee is too large to guide working groups and does not respond adequately to questions. The secretariat is following the guidelines strictly, it is therefore difficult to be innovative. The structure of quota is delaying progress of members who are willing to cooperate.*
- *Workplans separated by 2-3 years between meetings are not sufficiently relevant*
- *Outputs of working groups in terms of publications and release of technical material seem very relevant*
- *Without funding for a certain research program it does not move beyond the Phase of planning meetings, with very little practical results*
- *The most important hinder to WGs to operate effectively is that the WG members may not have time and resources since the home institutes do not have possibilities to resource the work. Possibilities to carry out In-kind work is all the time diminishing due to project-based organisations.*
- *Evidently, the National Coordinators of such countries like Germany, Netherlands, Sweden play much more important even pushing role in Steering Committee, and many of NCs of other participating countries seem to be weak. Is the reason of this caused by low scientific/organizational level of several NCs or bad speaking English becomes an obstacle for effective participation in SC Meetings? The second reason is important, of course.*
- *As some countries could not finance some research programmes even if they are of great interest, but giving priorities to some industrial crops.*
- *For the Vitis group this did not work because the elected coordinator just slept, had no ideas and did not ask for money*
- *The theory of inputs-in-kind from national programmes is a valid formula for efficient activity. However, in practice the system depends upon national programmes actually funding the work as detailed in the WG work plans. This only happens in a relatively low number of ECPGR national programmes. Analysis of historical work plans will show that the same objectives have been raised time & time again simply because the national programmes have not provided the resources to carry out the defined work.*

The network and working groups structure is too static, too dispersed and leads to too many automatisms; outputs seem to be mainly the number of meetings and reports. Some countries do not have actual ECPGR representatives. - Contributing to "input in kind" can be in conflict with one's duties at own institution, if the ECPGR cooperation is not fully supported by the institution. It should be checked for all institutions cooperating in ECPGR networks and working groups whether the present administrations are aware of their institutions' ECPGR commitments and on what basis the cooperation rests (letter of agreement, memorandum of understanding, etc.). It should be attempted to bring these legal documents together, and if necessary remind the institutions about their earlier commitments.

- *To rely on annual contributions from our Governmental Agencies implies a deep understanding and acceptance of goals, which at present is not the case in my Country.*
- *Some members of the Working Groups are not involved in the activities planned by the WG*
- *Steering committee does not have enough permanent connection with the members in the time between its meetings. Sometimes the impression is increasing that Working Group members came to a limit in providing own input-in-kind contribution as the pressure by the own institutions to deliver "internal scientific input" is also increasing.*
- *The effectiveness of each Network is dependent on the effectiveness of the working groups which compose that Network. Although I consider that the majority of the Networks are very effective I think that we can not apply this principle to all of them. So, this should be taken into consideration when evaluating the final results of this point. Some workplans are not totally carried out (lack of staff, low activity of working group members, insufficient task sharing, insufficient funding support from some member's countries)*
- *The absence of funding for practical implementation of the workplans is a limiting factor. The heterogeneity of the effectiveness of national policies from one country to another is another limiting factor: there is also a need of leveling the national policies which are in practice very differently -from very efficient to almost inexistent- put in practice, and there is a need of disposing of capable national coordinators for all countries, and that these national coordinators are in tight communication with their representatives in the working groups. Steering committee happens to propose inconvenient changes to working groups: it is important that the working groups have the last word for the final decision as regard to the proposed changes.*
- *Theoretic effectiveness of WGs operating according to agreed workplans is, undoubtedly, very high, but real effectiveness is often obstacle by differing methods of management of the various involved institutions; Coordination by SC and Secretariat are both indispensable.*

4.3. ECPGR's objectives (Questions 6, 7 and 8)

Respondents of the stakeholder survey were asked to rate the different elements of ECPGR's objectives according to their relevance, effectiveness, and how cost-effective ECPGR is in meeting these objectives.

Regarding the relevance of ECPGR's objectives, respondents found the objectives somewhat relevant/very relevant (percentages above 90%), as presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Relevance of ECPGR's Objectives (Question 6)

	Don't know	Not relevant	Somewhat relevant	Very relevant
To facilitate the long-term in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe	1%	2%	16%	81%
To facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe	0%	3%	22%	75%
To strengthen links between all plant genetic resources programmes in Europe and promote the integration of countries that are not members of ECPGR	2%	2%	32%	63%
To encourage cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders	3%	3%	39%	54%
To increase the planning of joint activities including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies	3%	2%	25%	70%

To encourage the sharing of conservation responsibilities for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe	3%	5%	26%	66%
To increase awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use	1%	4%	25%	70%
To seek collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives	4%	2%	37%	58%

Nineteen respondents made additional comments related to relevance of the ECPGR's objectives.

Comments to Question 6:

- *Within the ECPGR members countries there are very different situations: the comparison with the skilled countries, may help the worst ones to improve themselves*
- *It is certainly important to strengthen the links between all European PGR programmes, but I don't see the relevance to expand further, i e to integrate or include non ECPGR members. Collaborative work with others (regions, individual states etc) should be encouraged for certain issues*
- *It lacks in correct information's according to ECPGR to give a correct assessment!*
- *Collaboration is essential to PGR conservation, ECPGR should provide the platform for that*
- *Again, it is illusory to "facilitate long term conservation" without money. In-situ and ex-situ conservation costs a lot of money. We can spend a lot of time to speak of the necessity of this and that, but to work effectively we need money.*
- *To provide information on other parts of the world regarding PGR and strategies; - to encourage the sharing of responsibilities for PGR between Europe and the other regions of the world*
- *Collaboration should be sought not only at regional and global level but also at sub-regional level which, often has not been taken into account*
- *Most relevant until now are the databases which give overviews of material which should be held in European collections although the development and maintenance is done by a small group of people. It cost much time and money which is not compensated*
- *Inter-sector and international collaborations are crucial to making clear how important biodiversity in agriculture is and to promote its strategic conservation and use*
- *The increased utilization of PGR in Europe is strongly depends on their value for breeders, first of all. That's why attracting of modern varieties (not only landraces) is of great importance for future success of AEGIS*
- *A clearer role and mechanism to support the implementation of the ITPGRFA would be desirable.*
- *Bioersivity should help in developing collaborative projects between different countries and finance them in collaboration with developed countries to enhance plant genetic resources collecting, conservation and use in plant breeding*
- *I would question whether ECPGR is now actively engaged in in situ conservation activities considering AEGIS dominates ECPGR expenditure and in situ activities are excluded from AEGIS!*
- *ECPGR is not facilitating increased utilization of PGR*

- *Conservation needs to have highest priority because there are a lot of other organizations which can utilize genetic resources, whereas the collections themselves or the only instances to conserve.*
- *The objectives of ECPGR are very important because the national initiatives display a very heterogeneous level of efficiency for safeguarding plant genetic resources. ECPGR helps at moving this efficient upward through international collaboration and dialogue between crop curators of European countries, and via its technical publications of outstanding value for people in charge of plant genetic resources.*

Respondents were also asked to assess the effectiveness of ECPGR's objectives. The objectives were considered somewhat effective/very effective, with a percentage range from 71% to 90%), as per Table 3 below.

Table 3: Effectiveness of ECPGR's Objectives (Question 7)

	Don't know	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Very effective
To facilitate the long-term in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe	6%	4%	50%	40%
To facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe	9%	13%	44%	34%
To strengthen links between all plant genetic resources programmes in Europe and promote the integration of countries that are not members of ECPGR	10%	3%	38%	49%
To encourage cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders	16%	13%	48%	23%
To increase the planning of joint activities including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies	9%	8%	44%	39%
To encourage the sharing of conservation responsibilities for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe	10%	7%	43%	41%
To increase awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use	9%	8%	39%	44%
To seek collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives	20%	5%	41%	34%

Thirty-one respondents made comments related to relevance of the ECPGR's objectives.

Comments to Question 7:

- *For years the same people from the most developed EU countries are playing the leading role in ECPGR bodies (rotating places). Refreshment needed in people and ideas. There is obvious separation in that "leading" group and the "follower" group. Better personal cooperation needed between National Coordinators.*
- *Ex situ conservation is well developed, there exist good standards and recommended methods. In situ conservation is more at the level of discussions.*
- *It lacks in correct information's according to ECPGR to give a correct assessment!*
- *Only EURISCO is truly effective*
- *In my view, we have failed to promote utilization of PGR. Although being a national responsibility as well, ECPGR has had very little interaction with the breeders' community or with other user groups.*
- *about the "not effective" answer - long-established ties are more important for project success, along with national support for project funding*

- *I can only repeat that utilization is not increased yet. But of course, there should be finding sufficient funding for implementation of joint projects concerning PGR pre-breeding/utilization.*
- *I have responded as "Somewhat effective" to many of these questions because ECPGR certainly encourages all of these elements, but it is all too frequently the case that much of this work is not properly funded either by Governments or any other organisation. It is futile to have masses of data in genebank databases if the seed they refer to are unavailable!!*
- *Many meetings have no or doubtful results; meetings should not be a goal per se but ECPGR should be result-oriented with clear milestones and indicators.*
- *Conservation activities are related with costs, therefore mostly they are facilitated by the national funds.*
- *A main problem of ECPGR is rather than effectiveness, the lack of transparency and democracy in the decision making processes. In terms of member countries it is a quite a large organisation but in fact, it is always a handful of country/experts that make the decisions, lead and participate in the projects, etc. There is a major gap in representation and participation of less developed, not-northern European countries. In that sense it is not at all an effective regional organisation.*
- *ECPGR concentrates its efforts on European countries knowing that non European countries, which are centre of diversity for many genus, even if they are members of ECPGR but attracting less attention and not concrete help from ECPGR to safeguard PGR*
- *Effectiveness restricted because of everything on a voluntary basis, no strict projects with finances and output check*
- *Given the general shortage of funding at national level, there is a need of more initiatives of joint project proposals for EU funding, to allow all members to maintain and characterize (at least) National genetic resources*
- *Collaboration with global initiatives probably in limited and quite specific cases only (collaborative conservation for example) , as far as all ECPGR members may want to be included, and this may be too complicated to manage*
- *Concerning Germany and Vitis ECPGR is just known by the national coordinator but information is not transmitted and conservation work is not affected*
- *In situ conservation would benefit from strengthening collaboration with nature conservation and vice versa*
- *The possibilities of ECPGR to control the quality and sustainability of ex situ conservation in some countries and genebanks are limited/non existing.*
- *Looking at my answers, you can see that I am really pessimistic about the efficiency of ECPGR now. Actually, I am a member of the ECPGR "fruit" group for quite a long time. In the past we had the opportunity to meet all the participants of the group every 2 years. Now the number of meetings is close to 0. As a consequence, according to me, the efficiency of this group is null. One proof is the inability to answer European calls although our collections are very important and rich. According to me, the only way to keep this group alive is to allow regular meetings with all the participants.*

- *Sometimes priority of conservation seems to fall back behind priority of utilization, which may weaken the position of the collection holders and exhaust the collections.*
- *The effectiveness in meeting the objectives depends in part of the ECPGR secretariat (very effective) and in part of the working groups. The efficiency of these latter is limited by the self funding and general overloaded schedule of working group members. time and money are limiting factors for improving the efficiency . Hence, without strong and harmonized national politics in matter of plant genetic resources, the efficiency will remain limited but ECPGR is not responsible. However, ECPGR should be recognized as an important partner by European community, and deserves to be listened at by the European commission and the European parliament. The link of ECPGR with the European and national political levels is a key factor for effectiveness.*
- *In my experience a more effective planning of joint proposals for funding was needed.*
- *The linkage to other regions with similar crops could be stronger.*

On the cost efficiency of ECPGR’s objectives, a high percentage of respondents indicated that they do not have enough information on the budget management to respond to this question. Figure 3 below illustrates the responses.

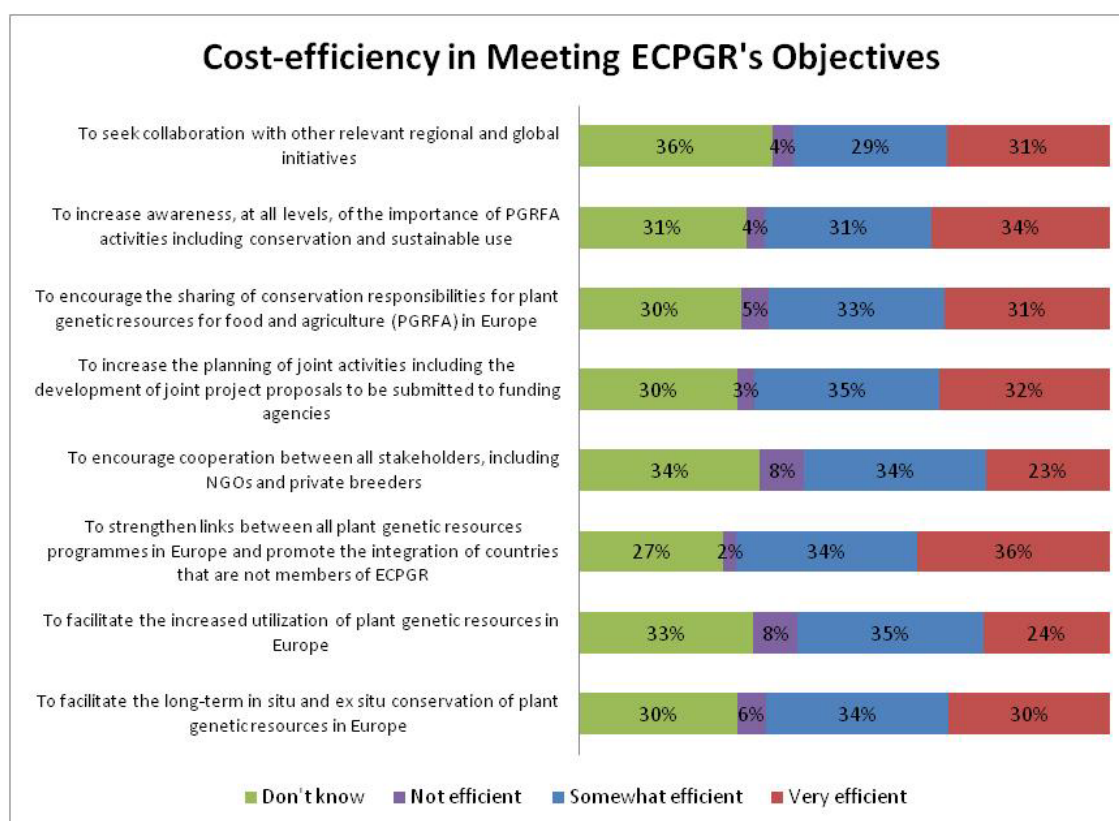


Figure 3: Cost efficiency in Meeting ECPGR’s Objectives (Question 8)

Thirty-two respondents made comments related to how cost-effective ECPGR is in meeting its objectives.

Comments to Question 8:

- *It is impossible to evaluate cost-effectiveness - there are not known details of costs spent on separate objectives.*
- *Budget is low, most members are weak, so what can be expected?*

- *Awareness: again, this is mainly a national responsibility. An awareness message from ECPGR to the public in my country will never be understood.*
- *The costs for long term conservation are for the collection holders, not ECPGR. More money should be allocated for specific meetings without the obligation to invite all members of a WG.*
- *ECPGR budgets are definitely too small for having any chance to meet these objectives, too many efforts are devoted on bureaucratic coordination and big systems of management that seems to be pushed TOP DOWN instead of BOTTOM UP based on more practical experiences*
- *As main incomes are input in kind, and unaware of real costs, any activity should be considered as highly cost-efficient.*
- *Increased utilisation is strongly linked with the legislation in the field of seed and propagating material. EU seed legislations is very restricted in this respect. More activity should be done in this respect*
- *For all these five questions: There is huge difference between rich and poor European countries that are members of ECPGR and there is not enough understanding about situation and needs regarding poor countries.*
- *The cost efficiency evaluation of the ECPGR activities arises from many topics. The evaluation can take place having in our mind participation in ECP GR actions as well as the conduction of a cost-benefit analysis.*
- *In order to increase public awareness of the importance of PGRFA it's necessary to find (or create) lobby in EU, FAO, etc. structures. Close friendly contacts with journalists of relevant newspapers and magazines are needed, too.*
- *Aegis initiative is highly important*
- *The cost efficiency in points 1 & 2 is relevant to national programmes rather than ECPGR.*
- *The cost efficiency evaluation of the ECPGR activities depends on many factors. The evaluation can take place having in our mind participation in ECPGR actions as well as the conduction of a cost-profit analysis.*
- *ECPGR seems to be not enough aware that new technological developments need more financial support for implementation. Prioritization policy which is seemingly caused by financial shortage can lead to undesired (non-scientific) competition between working groups causing frustration instead of encouragement.*
- *ECPGR budget does not cover the payment of technical issues. So long communication, meetings, publications, and collaboration between countries is concerned, cost efficiency is excellent; However, ECPGR efficiency depends in part on the achievement of technical issues, which are limited by the absence of funding for real actions to be carried out by WGs and WG members. Countries with strong national politics for plant genetic resources (such as the Netherlands) are the driving force which help at achieving some efficiency in ECPGR practical issues, but too many WG members cannot be as efficient as they would like to be given the lack or insufficiency of real national support (in terms of willingness, acknowledgement of the importance and interest of the work done for ECPGR, budget) that many of them suffer from.*

4.4. ECPGR's priorities (Questions 9, 10 and 11)

Regarding the assessment of ECPGR's current priorities in Phase VIII, respondents were asked to rate the relevance of these priorities. Respondents consider all four priorities somewhat relevant/very relevant. However, 12% of respondents (37 individuals) considered the in situ and on farm conservation management not relevant. Results are presented in Figure 4 below.

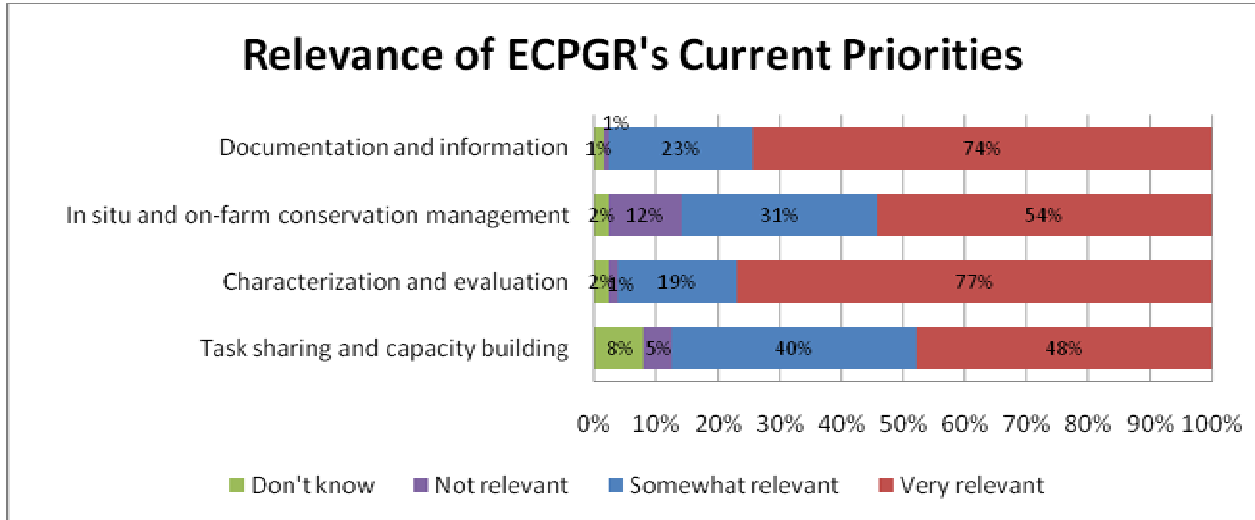


Figure 4: Relevance of ECPGR's Current Priorities (Question 9)

Thirteen respondents made comments related to the relevance of the current Phase VIII strategy.

Comments to Question 9:

- *In my opinion, ECPGR has to develop from administration of PGR in genebanks to multiplication in the public awareness*
- *D&I and C&E are the most important priorities.*
- *I want Kosovo to be part of ECPGR. In the beginning it needs professional and technical help, for starting its new developing Phase.*
- *All topics are very relevant, but progress does not depend on ECPGR because of the lack of incentives and national level decisions. However, the priorities should be more precise as these priorities are general and correspond to basic activities of PGR management. No funds are directly available for these priorities, except for meetings, which is an important limitation for their implementation*
- *(1) Following 30 years of work, C & E and D & I now should have reached a state of 'near completion'. Much additional C & E work has been carried out within EU funded projects, e.g. AVEQ. (2) With CAP and rationalisation within agriculture still dominating - and expanding - in Europe, I feel that much more should be focused on crop wild relatives (CWRs) and other conservation methods than ex situ.*
- *The exchange with research techniques, methodology and experience in order to unify the results obtained is important, too.*
- *ECPGR should give assistance to developing countries and supervise their research programmes willing ex situ and in situ conservation*
- *There is today too much emphasis on large data management without sufficient scientific support on GR collection construction and choice of relevant samples*

Still regarding the assessment of ECPGR's current priorities in Phase VIII, respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of the current priorities. Documentation and information was considered the most effective of ECPGR's current priorities (89% somewhat effective/very effective). 11% of respondents considered characterization and evaluation not effective. Figure 5 below illustrates the responses.

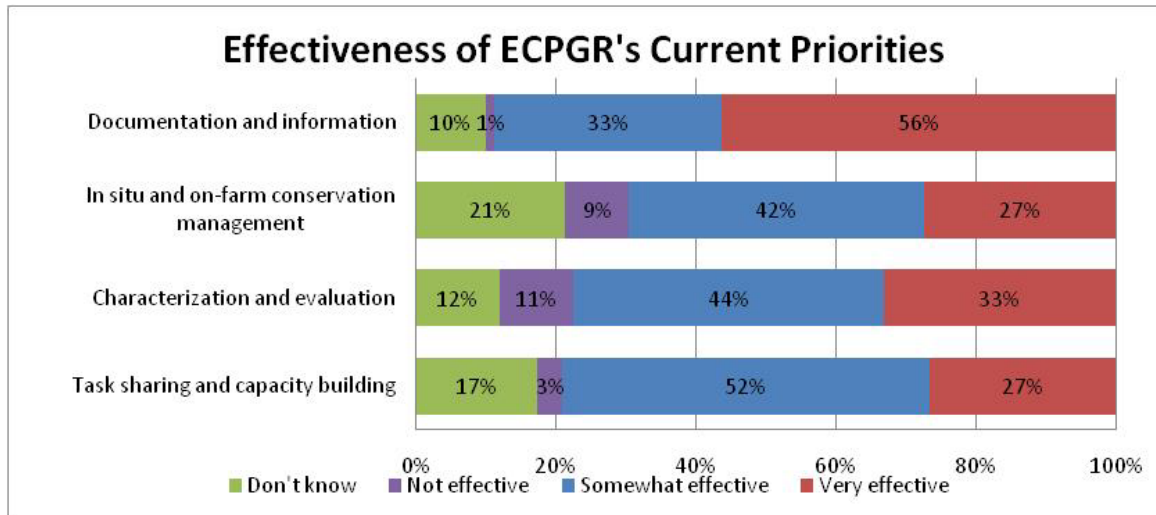


Figure 5: Effectiveness of ECPGR's Current Priorities (Question 10)

Eighteen respondents made comments related to the effectiveness of the current Phase VIII strategy.

Comments to Question 10:

- *Task sharing should be made on quality principles and not on level of financial contribution.*
- *ECPGR facilitates these actions but the effectiveness depends more on national programmes and people willingness. We need to identify the added value of ECPGR in meeting these priorities and evaluate ECPGR on it*
- *(1) General comment: we are still early in Phase VIII to really make a judgment. (2) Specific comment: D & I during Phase VII was not always effective (too much workload on DB managers, countries not providing data as agreed, etc) - output for Phase VIII still to be seen.*
- *The effectiveness suffers from the fact that ECPGR has no "contracts" with member countries/institutes on carrying out different tasks.*
- *Process and progress is very slow as there is no power for firm commitments of the partners*
- *Depends on outcome of ongoing activities*
- *Task sharing has not materialised to any serious extent; EURISCO has been major achievement*
- *So long national politics for plant genetic resources are, for many countries, insufficiently planned, implemented, carried out and financed by each country, the ECPGR effectiveness will be limited, because it is strongly dependant on the effectiveness of member countries.*

Respondents were asked to assess the adequacy of ECPGR's current priorities in Phase VIII. The majority of respondents indicated that the current priorities were adequate, as per Figure 6 below.

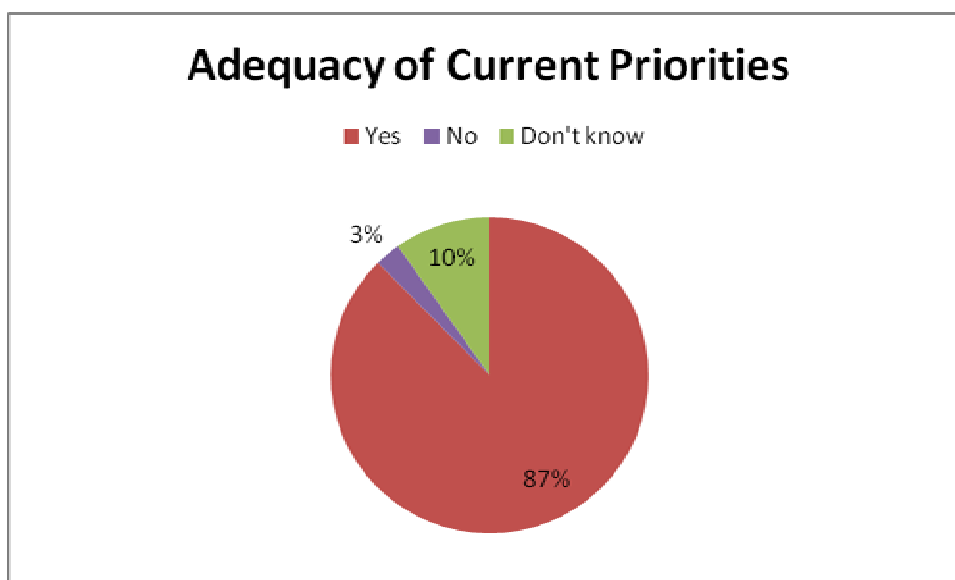


Figure 6: Adequacy of ECPGR's Current Priorities (Question 11)

Twenty-five respondents made comments related to the adequacy of the current Phase VIII strategy. Some respondents suggested adding public awareness among the current priorities.

Comments to Question 11:

- *Sharing responsibilities (aegis program) is very important to economize money*
- *Is very important to collect, characterize, evaluate and conserve and to document all of genetic material, because the erosion in some east countries is high level*
- *It needs developing usage strategy for PGR.*
- *Need for more precise priorities and objectives of progress (with the corresponding means and agreements between countries) Still a lot to do!*
- *They can only be more adequate if participation of members can be forced*
- *The in-situ and on-farm priority may be difficult to combine with the more ex-situ oriented approaches. What about including genebank clients? Perhaps an overview who actually requests what kind of germplasm presently is useful.*
- *One priority should be added: -better utilization of PGR -*
- *It is important to increase the characterization and evaluation activities. Also, In situ and on farm conservation could be improved.*
- *As mentioned above, one more priority should appear: exchange with methodology and experience. As for in situ and on-farm conservation, we should respect and carry out CBD and GPA requirements.*
- *But in situ / on farm should be less important.*
- *PGR are undergoing a speed genetic erosion and ECPGR should concentrate its efforts to help all country members to safeguard their resources. It is the duty of the ECPGR and a highly important task*
- *Although I wish to stress that I support AEGIS activities in general I also feel the almost exclusive focus of ECPGR on AEGIS has been to the detriment of non-AEGIS related activities within ECPGR.*
- *Interactions are too vague and largely depending on the willingness of specific people*

- *Scarce funding is problematic*
- *Lacking priorities: 1. Raising public awareness. 2. Raising public participation (e.g. home gardens)*
- *When we really want to have a European Genebank System (either centralised or de-centralised) we need much more task sharing and capacity building activities whereas in situ and on-farm conservation can be done better in local (country-specific) organization.*
- *I think that another priority should be the lobbying with the European parliament and commission for getting the politics aware of what is going on, what is planned, what is necessary, in matter of plant genetic resources. The absence of articulation between ECPGR and EU is a strong weakness. Politics is almost the sole (except patrons) able to decide and provide financial support to any collective project. Without financial support, collaborative projects have a structurally limited efficiency.*

Asked if ECPGR was the adequate programme to promote and support the activities related to the established priorities, the majority of respondents indicated yes (87%), however 10% of respondents would not know how to answer the question. Figure 7 below illustrates the responses.

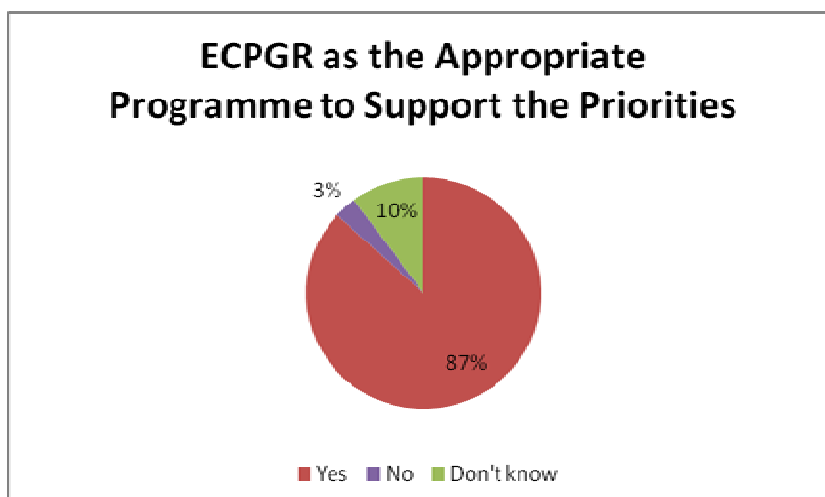


Figure 7: ECPGR as the Appropriate Programme to Support the Established Priorities (Question 12)

Asked to justify why ECPGR was or was not appropriate, one hundred and nine respondents justified their answer. Respondents who answered yes justified their answers by saying that there was no other programme doing similar work. In addition, the long history, experience, adequate framework, and strong network made ECPGR the right programme to carry out the established priorities. Respondents who answered 'no' indicated that the lack of direct funds made ECPGR powerless. In addition, some pointed out the missing research support.

Comments to Question 12:

Yes, ECPGR is the appropriate programme

- *Standardization of the documentation, basis for collaboration*
- *Because working group members get used to work together*
- *Simply, there is no other cost-efficient programme specifically devoted to these questions*
- *Has broad based awareness of all member state activities and objectives*
- *It is best placed body with the relevant international contacts and linkages to help ensure priorities are met*

- *I know ECPGR objectives and I hope that ECPGR programme is an appropriate programme (not the best) that can promote and support all the activities related to these priorities.*
- *Because is a regional network effective for active relationship among Institutions work on PGR*
- *ECPGR is well known and it is a strong network.*
- *I strongly support international cooperation in preserving, managing, utilizing and exchanging biodiversity material. I strongly support the idea of equality and necessity in biodiversity preservation and handling. ECPGR is basically appropriate programme to achieve all of those if managed to preserve fundamental values of fairness and equality*
- *There is no other organization in Europe which has the broad overview and knowledge, high credibility, efficient organization, is non-political and with the aim to promote work on PGRFA*
- *This programme has a good background and great potential for rapid results*
- *ECPGR is well organised, sustainable, open community, keeping good personal relations among WG members on European level.*
- *Cooperation between EU and non-EU countries*
- *Yes but ECPGR do not have any tools to push individual countries and stock holders to desirable way. National and private politics can easily ignore recommended instructions and decisions.*
- *It is the main existing structure in Europe related to PGR*
- *Yes, because ECPGR is the right level of coordination for the general needs. However, ECPGR need more means to really support the established priorities and their real implementation. This should be done through network and WG with increased means.*
- *Currently the only programme that aims at streamlining conservation efforts in Europe*
- *Well established, cost effective, trust amongst partners*
- *Yes, but not the only one! ECPGR should strength the existing and start other mutually beneficial and complementary collaboration activities with other existing networks and initiatives in the region*
- *The programme is ok but, members must be obliged to cooperate in the agreed workplan. If not, participation should be limited until a member will fulfil the obligations*
- *Key stakeholders belong to ECPGR despite big countries have often more leadership than smaller ones*
- *ECPGR has managed to create a valuable network of scientists and collect important experience through the years of its operation, thus making it a valuable programme for supporting the above activities*
- *It is important to facilitate continuous communication among the collections within Europe.*
- *It should be a really good starting point and it should coordinate funding provided by EU. Lack of real funds limits the benefits of ECPGR to Europe and in particular to EU.*
- *Because of its wide pan European outlook and scope*
- *Need the breeders insight to add more information pre-breeding research*

- *Because of participation of the experts from ECPGR members, NGO's and relevant support from the Secretariat*
- *Presence of the priorities will promote understanding of the general way of development for global preservation of plant genetic resources*
- *The programme has the necessary well-established links to the actors. However, support to affect national PGR policies would be needed to strengthen the programme realization by the member countries.*
- *In principle a programme such as ECPGR is adequate and necessary. However, it lacks proper funding. hence ECPGR should make more efforts to leverage eu money for PGR-related issues. (e.g. lobby for better representation of ex situ activities in ESFRI programme.*
- *ECPGR is appropriate, but I do think this should be enhanced with further projects (e.g. ERA NET programme on plant genetic resources and Marie Curie training networks)*
- *ECPGR involve and "exploit" national genebanks and breeding centres. So, it is and should be in fact the most important European Program on PGR. All activities mentioned are closely concerned with PGR.*
- *Experience, building capacity and achieved results*
- *D&I: as the most relevant agencies are involved. C&E: relevant agencies are involved but need to be broader. ECPGR is less important for in situ / on farm.*
- *The programme is appropriate although the EU Commission for the EU countries should also be doing it and funding it.*
- *Because it is the "ECPGR" and the safeguard of plant genetic material is the first task of its priorities*
- *Because the structure in Networks and Working Groups seems to be an effective framework to get the established priorities*
- *Because give the opportunity to co-operate scientists from developed and undeveloped countries, to know new plant kinds and to use some of them as food or as genetic material to improve the cultivated plants*
- *All potentially participating countries and genetic resources programmes are involved in a relatively 'democratic' and open structure.*
- *National programmes participate in ECPGR have appropriate scientific and technical capacity to contribute to the regional activities on the priority areas. ECPGR provides a flexible frame for effective cooperation in ex situ conservation and on farm maintenance of PGRFA.*
- *Is essential and important support proving the importance of PGR in front of country and institute authorities*
- *To facilitate changes of information and material.*
- *ECPGR is, with its well-developed working-group system, the only instance (to my knowledge), which is able to coordinate actions Europe-wide. It should be strengthened by much more funds and develop higher flexibility.*
- *Sharing resources and pooling national funding sources is the most effective way to deal with the comprehensive task of ex-situ and in-situ conservation activities.*
- *ECPGR has a strong experience, based on almost 40 years of existence, on international collaboration on plant genetic resources management. Such a European programme, backed up by CGIAR programmes at the worldwide*

level, is the appropriate programme for Europe. The weakness of ECPGR is that it has ideas and a programme, but is based on the collaboration between countries that, for many, do not have an efficient national politic for plant genetic resources. Hence, so long the countries will have an insufficient national politics for PGR, ECPGR will be limited in its efficiency. The problem is the shift between official commitments (such as signing the Rio Convention or the ITPGRFA) and the national implementation of these commitments for European countries.

- *National activities need to be incorporated into a regional (=Pan-European) vision; moreover, ECPGR has a continuous mission and is therefore able to gradually unite national activities according to a long-sighted provision*

No, ECPGR is not the appropriate programme

- *Activities and priorities are not well defined. ECPGR can not have the priority to conserve and characterise RG in the field, since it has no money. There is a confusion between networking (a good initiative of EPCGR), lobbying (for which ECPGR can do much more) and actual work of conservation in the field (for which there is a need of money and investment that ECPGR does not have).*
- *Little or no direct funding, therefore no power.*
- *Not all relevant people are included*
- *Too much talking , missing support in research*
- *Characterization and evaluation are crucial to improve utilization of PGR but these activities are not funded through the programme*
- *It is simply unknown in Germany, grape conservation is done by national and private breeders not affected by ECPGR programs. Only the national breeding institute is profiting from it which is paid by governmental money*

4.5.ECPGR's management and resources (questions 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18)

Respondents of the stakeholder survey were asked to rate the different elements of ECPGR's management and resources according to their adequacy, efficiency, sufficiency, effectiveness, and appropriateness.

Regarding the adequacy of ECPGR's funding mechanisms, respondents found it somewhat adequate/very adequate (71%), with a high percentage (22%) not knowing enough to respond to the question. There were similar responses regarding hosting arrangements (76% somewhat adequate/very adequate) and priority setting process (77% somewhat adequate/very adequate), as presented in Figure 8 below.

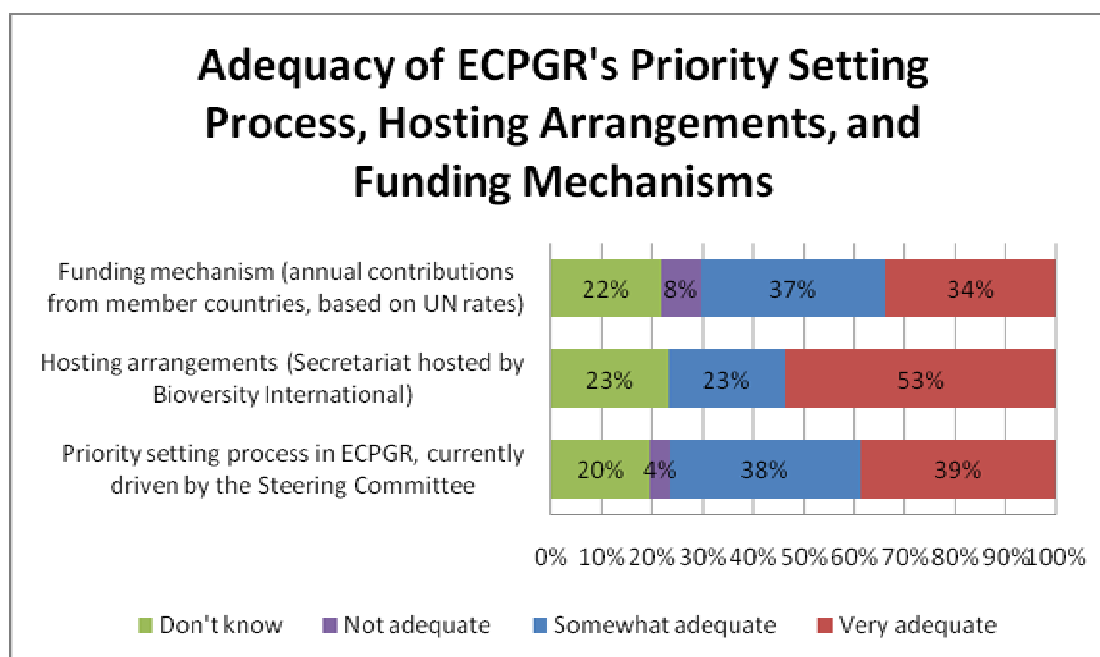


Figure 8: Adequacy of ECPGR's Priority Setting Process, Hosting Arrangements, and Funding Mechanisms (Question 13)

Twenty-five respondents made comments to this question.

Comments to Question 13:

- *Some countries, especially developed countries have to contribute more*
- *Funding of chairs and NI focal point is no longer available for working group meetings*
- *Even assuming that all member countries contribute equitably, today where is going the money ? I do not know exactly. I can draw two conclusions: 1) Transparency is lacking on how countries' contributions are spent ; 2) not enough money is going to actual activities in the field*
- *I don't know how the priorities are set by the Steering Committee, on which basis. Too much distance and poor relations between the Steering Committee and the people doing actually the job. Funding must be open to other sources (European projects, private companies, foundations...) and is too sensitive to national politics.*
- *(1) The SC is a 'bulky' body that needs to become more effective in decision-making at meetings. Procedures have improved and supportive documents have been developed to help WGs in their planning and reporting. I think, as previously mentioned, that the establishment of a representative 'Working Committee' - operative in between SC meetings - would be worthwhile. (2) Funding mechanism sound, but need to be complemented by EU support other than project funding. Current level of in-kind contributions not sustainable.*
- *More should be done to get funding from the EU, especially for the programmes relevant for the EU ie AEGIS and other.*
- *Structural funding must be searched from EU.*
- *For some countries the secretariat could provide justifications to secure the funding. E.g. for national policy making processes.*

- *If a steering group has a majority of database managers it follows that they will probably prioritize the database rather than the seed conservation and evaluation*
- *Funding mechanism is okay but the level of funding among the networks need to be much more result-oriented and priority-driven.*
- *More generosity and consequence desired, would EU be a better host?*
- *We will only get what national programmes are willing to pay for. Currently the levels of funding nationally & for ECPGR are inadequate for such an important science in comparison with space exploration & the hadron.*
- *Contributions based on UN rates and related country quotas not always ensure even distribution among participating countries in term of collaborative activities and responsibilities.*
- *Sometimes priority setting seems to be too much driven by financial constraints, and the opinion of the working groups is not enough considered.*
- *The funding mechanism of ECPGR is OK. The problem is the insufficient funding and insufficient political willingness to support PGR actions, of national politics in countries members.*
- *The selection of the host of the Secretariat should be based upon a call of expression of interest.*
- *Secretariat could be offered by any attractive bidder*
- *The importance and attractiveness of any project is based on total funding it controls and uses. So, ECPGR needs to be focused on encreasing of funds attracted from additional sources - Crop Trust, EU, FAO, etc. It's difficult to solve the problem of additional funding through rising of annual contributions.*

Regarding the efficiency of use of available funds, respondents found it somewhat efficient/very efficient (64%), with a high percentage (28%) responding ‘don’t know’. There were similar responses regarding the management of the programme (80% somewhat adequate/very adequate), as presented in Figure 9 below.

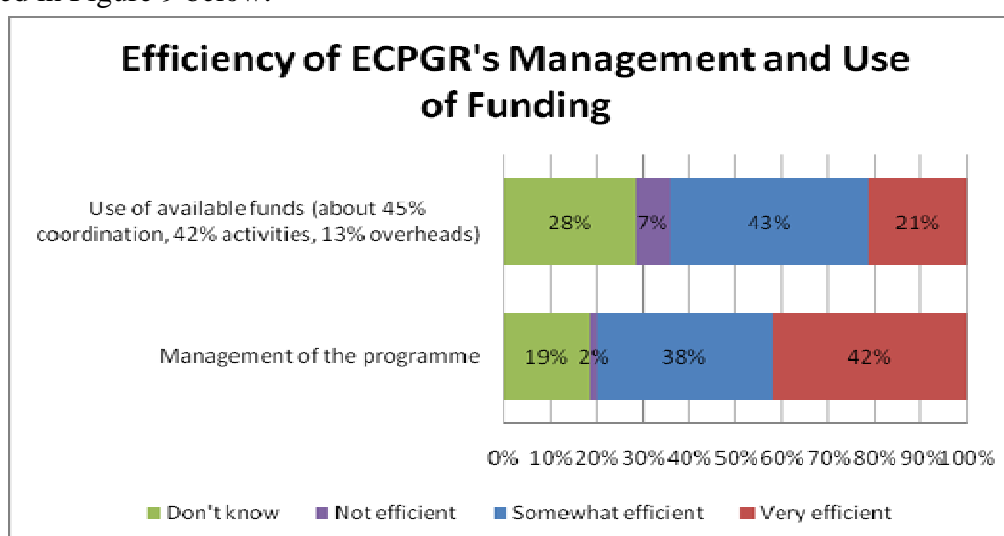


Figure 9: Efficiency of ECPGR's Management and Use of Funding (Question 14)

Thirty-one respondents made comments to this question. The majority of respondents pointed out that more financial resources should go to activities.

Comments to Question 14:

- *Secretariat efficiency very good, SC efficiency moderate*
- *I think is more efficient to have funds 40% - coordination, 48% activities, 12-overheads*
- *In my opinion, the % for coordination is very high*
- *Overhead too high; need more activities and less coordination, get on with the job*
- *The support for activities is recent and need to be encouraged. However, it is too small to be significant*
- *A strong coordination for a programme is needed. At the moment activities suffer from the low budgets. Also WG budgets based on historical resources seems somewhat unfair.*
- *Too much coordination, too much meetings, not enough activities.*
- *Meetings should be more effective; in kind contributions of country reps should be more visible and effectively used.*
- *Efficiency is hampered simply by the goodwill of the participants*
- *Funds are not sufficient for larger projects, but well spent for networking activities (mostly meetings).*
- *I think the funds for the activities have to be more than 42%.*
- *Given available resources I think the management is cost efficient.*

Assessing the sufficiency of investments made by country members, the majority of respondents indicated that they do not know enough about the investments made (34%) to respond the question. However, 33% indicated that the investment was not enough and 31% that it was sufficient. On the sufficiency of human resources, the majority (50%) indicated that it was sufficient, however, 26% indicated that they didn't know enough to respond to the question, as presented in Figure 10 below.

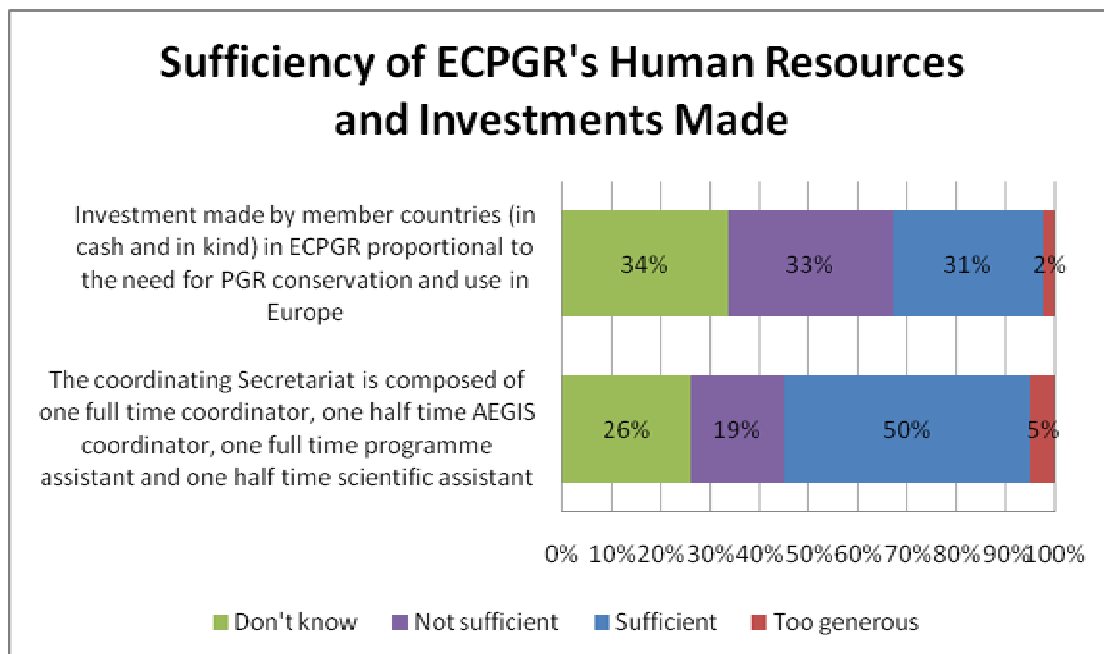


Figure 10: Efficiency of ECPGR's Management and Use of Funding (Question 15)

Twenty-five respondents made comments to this question.

Comments to Question 15:

- *Some countries (East Europe) have lacking budget. The programme has to stimulate these countries.*
- *Even including the programme of DG-Agri 870/2004, in Europe there is no real funding program for conservation of genetic resources. The money is at present derived from other budgets (research for example), which is bad both for one or the other objective. For example, when the budget is derived from research, research is not well done because money is paying RG instead of research, and RG are not well conserved because the research objective is more implemented than other objectives (society for example)*
- *I would think that the Secretariat needs to be reinforced, that it is really small regarding what is at stakes. It depends on the ambition of European countries regarding PGR, which is clearly not sufficient!*
- *Member country investment: not realistic to expect more. We must have EU see the huge advantages of this collaborative programme.*
- *The input in kind is expected to be high from all countries. This is not the case. Input in kind is only done by a few members, most of the time also the members which contribute the most in cash*
- *This proportionality should cote the PGR that are being used by seed companies. It is important to quote the need for conservation but also its return.*
- *Desirable would be more characterization on genetic material to be done, in situ protocols to be more developed or applied to forage species*
- *The work programme could perhaps be prioritized and fewer items be selected for implementation (but these result-oriented).*
- *Although the personnel of the coordinating secretariat seems not enough, it's very high efficiency make that the coordination of the programme is adequate*
- *There is much more need for PGR conservation and use in Europe but to be effective it would need to be set up as projects with financing, milestones , results and controlling*
- *Although the Coordinating Secretariat has been efficient, I admit that the total members of this secretariat could be not sufficient to carry out the several tasks they have to perform.*
- *I understand that it's easy to speak but it's difficult for NC to find sponsors for additional in kind contribution. Nevertheless the strength of ECPGR can be increased from this source, so, we together can try to do this and exchange the successful experience.*
- *Investment by member countries could probably be increased.*

On the topic of ECPGR being effective at re-aligning itself with external changes (i.e. climate change, new member, Treaty existence or Convention on Biodiversity existence), 80% of respondents indicated somewhat effective/very effective, while 16% would not know. There were similar responses for being effective in its current network and working group structure (85% somewhat effective/very effective). Respondents also assessed ECPGR's Steering Committee effectiveness in providing leadership and direction. 68% indicated somewhat effective/very effective, but 24% would not have enough information to respond to the question. Figure 11 below illustrate the results.

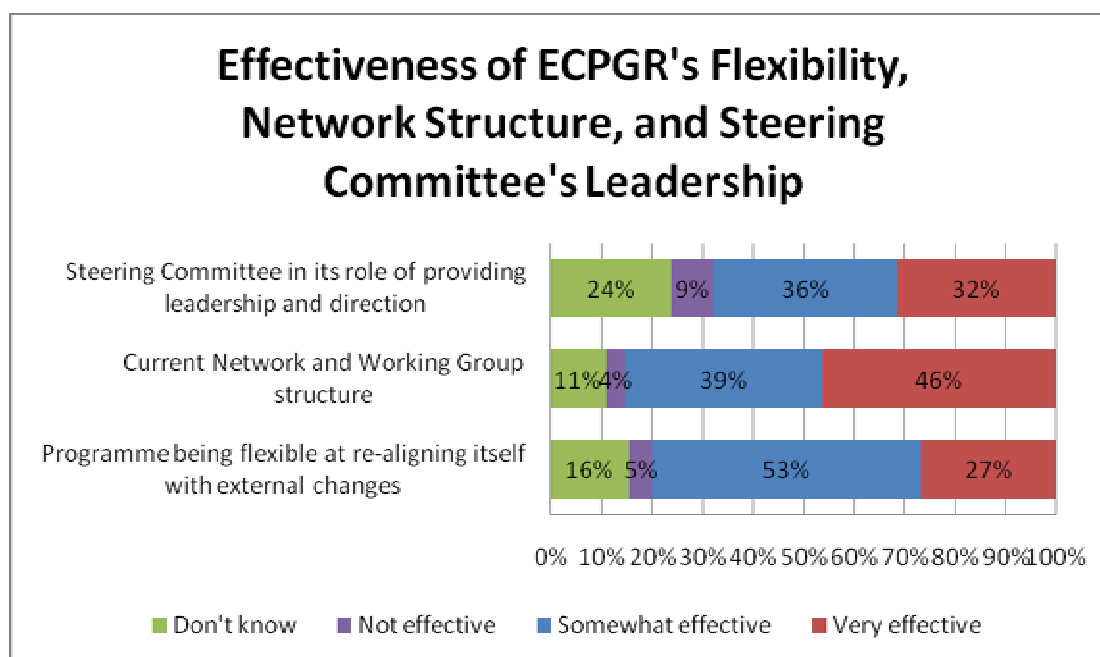


Figure 11: Effectiveness of ECPGR's Flexibility, Network Structure, and Steering Committee's Leadership (Question 16)

Twenty-five respondents made comments to this question.

Comments to Question 16:

- *Sounds to be a high number of networks and working groups,*
- *The output of the working groups are generally too low; the productive ones are not sufficiently supported, the SC is too political and not sufficiently output oriented, many WGs have members that do not speak English - effective groups are not sufficiently supported*
- *Number of WGs too large in proportion to funding. The SC has acted accordingly, asking Networks to prioritize and this has caused a lot of frustration.*
- *The structure is ok but participation of single members is not ok. Wrong representatives in WG, no mandate to do work for WG*
- *With the current WG structure the minor crops and minor crop gene pools may not receive enough attention. Steering committee leadership is lacking and is based on the "strong individuals" or countries.*
- *Networks and Secretariat sometimes seem to be more important and effective than SC. On the national level the effectiveness of NC depends basically on his/her position in the country*
- *There are good examples [programme being flexible] - WIEWS-EURISCO, MLS-AEGIS, CBD-in situ/on-farm Network.*
- *The Steering Committee in practice has little time to discuss issues and a very limited option to actually not adopt items presented.*
- *The Networks & WGs are very effective in terms of output in relation to cost. The SC is dominated by a few country representatives and does not encourage active development of the other partners.*
- *Flexibility sometimes is an issue because of a big overall structure of the network and rapid changes occurring.*
- *Little political awareness; organization too static and dispersed*

- *Former structure having Crop working groups and Thematic networks was more effective. Crop networks have little if any contribution to increase effectiveness of the programme.*
- *Some important crops not covered by networks or working groups, some central crop databases inactive or not adequately staffed/funded.*
- *Steering Committee should appoint a few members to be contacted by WG/NCG members and to make quicker decisions*
- *Flexibility is only given in regard to some outer factors (however, the Biodiversity Convention is already a rather "old" change and climate change is a "modern" slogan. The internal development (e.g. development of new conservation technologies) is not considered by flexibility. If the Steering Committee (as it is my impression) is only able to act during its meetings, flexibility is not enough.*
- *The Steering Committee needs to be composed by members that are technically relevant, and that are supported by their national politics in matter of PGR. The communication between SC members and their national representatives in the WGs needs to be improved.*
- *Crop-specific Network structure (with few cross-cutting Networks) should be maintained in order to prevent ECPGR from losing its priorities. New challenges to be incorporated in NW tasks instead of creating more NWs and WGs*

Asked how appropriate ECPGR was in linkages and partnerships, 90% respondents indicated somewhat appropriate/very appropriate. Figure 12 illustrates the results.

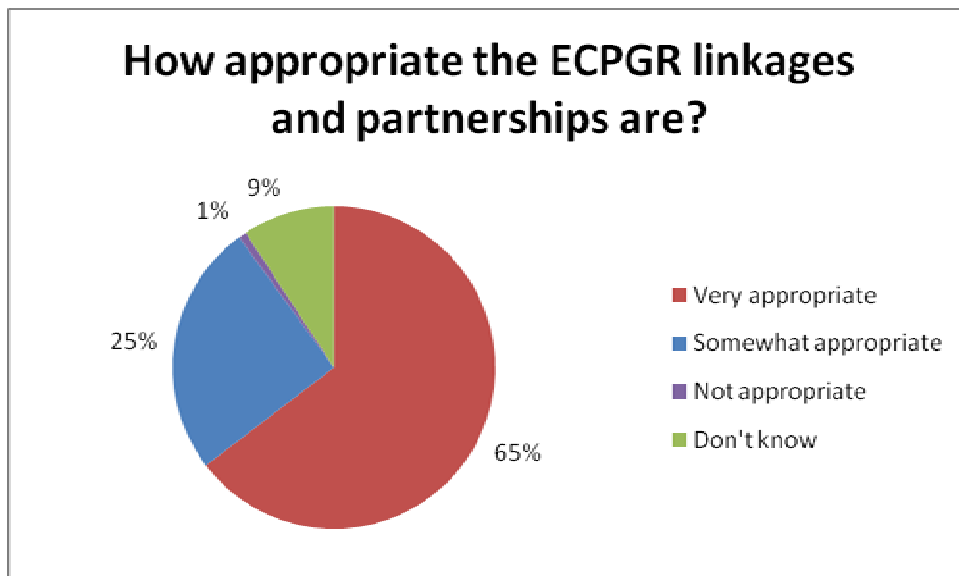


Figure 12: ECPGR's Linkages and Partnerships (Question 18)

Thirty-three respondents made comments to this question.

Comments to Question 18:

- *I have no idea how these observers can influenced Steering Committee's decisions.*
- *Very appropriate, but I don't know their influence.*
- *The linkage and partnership with the NGOs could be much better*
- *It will be useful to invite more observers from big national genebanks, dealing with real collections of genetic resources*

- *Most SEEDNet partners are also members of the SC. Perhaps also [partnership between] ECO-PB (European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding)*
- *The more awareness of each other's existence, the better. Representatives of the EU should be included.*
- *Very appropriate for their diversified approach to genetic resource research, conservation and use*
- *Linkages to breeding and organic farming is still weak*
- *Composition seems to be a bit arbitrary. What about the countries not represented by nordgen and seednet?*
- *Of course, I respect SEEDNet, but much more useful to listen to Balkan countries NCs and their opinion than what wants SIDA to say about PGR at Balkans. I think that presence of potential and actual sponsors of PGR projects is necessary, in fact.*
- *It would be very useful if Mediterranean countries were also represented through some kind of organisation given that their biological region is a center of origin and are therefore major potential providers of material, although are often underrepresented in the various bodies.*
- *As far as 'observers' are concerned and not 'members', these may contribute to a better transparency of and information on all the procedures, provided they are not unnecessarily too numerous, thereby making heavier the cost of the coordination.*
- *I don't believe in federal organisations which depend on the actual political constellations and play the game as it must be politically played while losing the sense for the urgent work which must be done*
- *I think most of them are very appropriate. Only as regards NGO's I am not sure if they could adequately represent all countries members or even groups of them. But probably that is a minor issue.*
- *Linking to institutions are very appropriate, linking to projects (seednet) are not, South East European countries are represented anyway*
- *SEEDNet project is very useful for development of PGR in South East Europe*
- *Research scientists from institutes and universities could be included in some extent also*
- *The European Society for Agronomy (ESA) could be tentatively included as permanent observer*
- *WANA is not included*
- *National Ministers of agriculture, and European parliament representatives in charge of the Agriculture and environment, should be invited. These are people which have the possibility to make things moving on, practically speaking. FAO, EUCARPIA, etc. are impersonal structures, far from daily real life and far from any real power.*
- *No observers from the European Commission, instead observers from ISTA / Zurich and UPOV / Geneve.*
- *The linkage and partnership with the NGOs could be much better*
- *Perhaps it would be convenient to invite some people of the USDA ARS GRIN to learn from the American system*

- *I would suggest adding other observers with a broader conservation remit to try to engender a joined up conservation approach in Europe such as Planta Europa.*

4.6. ECPGR's outputs (Question 19)

ECPGR generates meeting reports with working groups recommendations, databases, guidelines, project proposals, opportunities for increased contacts and knowledge exchange. Asked if these outputs (public goods) generated by ECPGR were useful, the majority of respondents indicated that they were very useful (68%), and somewhat useful (29%). 3% of respondents would not know. Respondents were then asked to make comments or to list which outputs were useful. Eight-six respondents filled this second part of the question.

Table 4 shows the outputs that were considered most useful.

Table 4: ECPGR's Outputs (Question 19)

Outputs	Frequency mentioned
Databases	36
Guidelines	32
Project proposals	20
Working group meeting reports	17
Recommendations	13
Increase contacts	12
Knowledge exchange	9
Publications	6
Descriptor lists	3
Genebank manuals	2
Newsletter	1

Comments to Question 19:

- *[The outputs] are very useful, especially for us NCs, to trace back and encourage nationally to cooperate within the scope of ECPGR. No evaluation on how effective they are at international level...*
- *ECPGR generates meeting is for all members very useful and opportunities for increased contacts and knowledge exchange. I have no outputs (public goods) generate by ECPGR. I shall thank for you if I shall to get from you through e-mail scientific work about the conservation of genetic resource of the natural flora. Point please the better scientific magazines out the dealing with the question.*
- *The very engaged staff generating the reports should be better supported (increased).*
- *Reports are synthesis and landmarks of the progresses achieved along the time. They are important, but need to be completed with real achievements at the level of germplasm curators. That is this practical level of achievement that is problematic, given the heterogeneity of national politics for PGR of European countries.*

- *Multiplication and regeneration, core collections, molecular markers, conservation methodologies..*
- *AEGIS documents*
- *ECPGR have to print and make distribution the meeting reports, as it was in previous years.*
- *Working groups recommendations are the most 'dynamic' outputs*
- *The effect of WG recommendations dubious. Project proposal are good if they were fair and if there was two-way communication. There are cases that proposed projects stay without any answer for more than two years. Databases are very effective. Increased contacts and knowledge exchange are the best part if worked.*
- *The databases, guidelines, recommendations had taken a good effect in the managing of genetic resources in my country.*
- *Too much information repetitious all the time again. Expensive production and distribution of hard copies.*
- *Recommendations, if there are funds to implement them. Databases (ECCDBs), if there is support to develop them towards comprehensive crop specific information systems.*
- *Databases are very helpful; the guidelines are sometimes a little bit theoretical and not relevant for practical work*
- *The time between a meeting and the publication of the report is to long.*
- *CCDB's indeed to become back the base of information providers for EURISCO and not the opposite*
- *Very practical, specific and down to the point, they give a good overview of the situation at European level*
- *All information provided by ECPGR is of great importance but sometimes is confined in specialized network and limited in circulation*
- *While it cannot be expected that all the reports have equal relevance I do consider most reports very useful, the ECPGR Secretariat should have a more active role is ensuring they are all useful*
- *All the publications are very high quality*
- *Unfortunately, it is seldom possible to follow up on the recommendations, due to lack of resources and national political will.*
- *Databases, conservation guidelines and project proposals. Policy support could be added.*

4.7. ECPGR's evaluation and impact (Questions 17 and 20)

Asked if the Steering Committee had the proper mechanisms and procedures for governance and evaluation, the majority of respondents indicated that they did not know (52%), while 38% indicated 'yes', and 10% indicated 'no'.

Forty-two respondents provided comments to this question. Those comments were grouped into two categories, those who responded 'yes, the Steering Committee has the proper mechanisms' and those who said 'no, the Steering Committee does not have the proper mechanisms'.

'Yes, ECPGR's Steering Committee has the proper mechanisms and procedures for governance and evaluation' (**Question 17**):

- *I think the Steering Committee have the proper mechanisms; the national coordinators mainly are vice ministers of MoA*
- *All SC members should be encouraged to fully and actively participate in all activities and decision-making processes. Seems that many SC members feel uneasy and overwhelmed, not feeling at ease to express their opinions and give their suggestions during and between SC sessions*
- *More brief information could be shared between SC members about the work of Networks.*
- *The committee ought to give priority to evaluation of the existing and new genetic materials. It is not useful to spend the most money for collection and keep the materials in refrigerators without evaluate them.*
- *Since it is the EC, it should have these m & p. They are national experts, mostly chosen for their expertise and we should, also in future, rely on their capacity*

‘No, ECPGR’s Steering Committee does not have the proper mechanisms and procedures for governance and evaluation’ (**Question 17**):

- *National Coordinators which compose the Steering Committee sometimes do not know anything about common troubles and every day topics of peoples which are responsible for individual crops.*
- *Committee should be much smaller, emphasize should be given to expertise instead to political representation and balance between member countries.*
- *There is no good information system between the Steering Committee and the working groups*
- *The Steering Committee must reinvent the whole story. Apart from the historical heritage, there is no need that research and RG are intermixed. It would be much better if RG have an independent budget. There is no much initiative on this direction. An evident consequence for example: the last update of the Vitis working group dates back to 2008, and there is no news of the new European Project of DG-Agri (started 2007).*
- *Clear result-oriented activities should be presented to the Steering Committee for approval, including milestones and indicators.*
- *The SC has actually very limited powers in decision-making. It is not the governing body it should be. It seems that the recommendations presented to the SC have to be decided anyway in line with what the Secretariat has already decided with a handful of close collaborators. Inability of the SC is directly proportional to the excessive powers the Secretariat has in practice. Like in other international instruments/organisations the Secretariat should provide a service and follow the decisions and instructions of the whole of the parties represented in the SC.*
- *This is likely to be country dependent but in my country the Steering Committee member is remote from those actually undertaking PGR activities and does not adequately reflect national PGR views, I would like to see Network / Working Groups members having some say in ECPGR policy decisions*
- *Depending to the national politics of the country and the priorities*
- *A circulating chairmanship could help in some extent. Also the meeting preparations could be reviewed. For example budget evaluation requires tools to secure effectiveness and fairness.*

- *The only suggestion is to think about possibility of internet-conferencies of SC for strengthening the personal contacts between NCs in order to create an effective team.*
- *Need to create an independent scientific and technical steering committee, different from the current committee which is composed of country coordinators and therefore dependant on national situation or politics. The independant committee would set goals and evalaute the progress. The national coordinators committee would make the relation with countries and implement the strategy at the national level, with a european coordination*

Considering the overall ECPGR programme, respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of the programme in reaching expected impacts. Respondents indicated that expected impacts were effective/somewhat effective, with a range from 70%, better integration of countries that were not members of ECPGR, to 89%, improved ex situ conservation. Table 5 below shows the results.

Table 5: ECPGR's Effectiveness in Reaching Expected Impacts (Question 20)

Answer Options	Don't know	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Very effective
Improved Ex situ conservation	7%	5%	37%	51%
Improved In situ conservation	19%	10%	44%	27%
Increased use of PGR in Europe	13%	10%	50%	27%
Strengthened links between PGR programmes in Europe	9%	3%	36%	52%
Better integration of countries that are not members of ECPGR	25%	5%	41%	30%
Increased cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders	20%	12%	43%	25%
Increased number of joint activities, including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies	14%	7%	45%	35%
Increased sharing of responsibilities for conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe	12%	6%	43%	38%
Increased awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use	12%	7%	38%	44%
Increased collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives	24%	5%	43%	27%

Sixteen respondents made comments to this question.

Comments to Question 20:

- *Improved in situ conservation activities have been started only recently compared to the ex situ conservation work lasting since a several decades. In the field of in situ conservation there is not a lack of concepts but a lack of means and operational structures, i.e. organised cooperation with the species conservation sector, required for their implementation.*
- *EURISCO was highly effective*
- *Comment: the ECPGR - just as any gene bank manager, in fact - must be better in conveying the message of 'what's-in-it-for-me' to all stakeholders. I would like to the vision of ECPGR as a forum where these different views meet and interact, alongside with the national PGR programmes.*

- *(Lack of) Mandates in many countries prevent real cooperation and sharing responsibilities between ECPGR members*
- *Sharing of responsibilities is mostly affected by funding (and it is national)*
- *In relation to "Increased collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives" ECPGR is currently too insular and should look to extend links with non-agrobiodiversity organisations - bridge the conservation gap!*
- *There has been significant development in collaboration, but there is still room for improvement. Some WG reps come to meetings, but are not effective in their own national programme and therefore do not move the WG work plan forward. The functional side of ECPGR has done a good job, but there is still much to do to develop the activities in a significant number of national programmes.*
- *ECPGR effectiveness would be much greater if national politics for PGR of all country members were stronger.*
- *Missing the bigger world players input and cooperation*
- *Concerning "increased sharing of responsibilities"(AEGIS): we will see this only in the future, since AEGIS is not fully operational yet; anyhow, the idea promises great synergy and shared partnership awareness*

Annex 1. Survey template

ECPGR External Review 2010	
1. Stakeholder information	
* 1. Are you associated with the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR), either as National Coordinator, implementing agency, observer in the Steering Committee or network member?	
<input type="radio"/> Yes	
<input type="radio"/> No	
Comments	<input type="text"/>
2. From which geographic location are you operating?	
<input type="radio"/> Mediterranean: Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain, or Turkey	
<input type="radio"/> Nordic and Baltic: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, or Sweden	
<input type="radio"/> South-East Europe: Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia FYR, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, or Slovenia	
<input type="radio"/> West Europe: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Switzerland, or United Kingdom	
<input type="radio"/> East Europe: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, or Ukraine	
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>
3. Indicate to which of the following categories you belong (can tick more than one)	
<input type="checkbox"/> ECPGR National Coordinator	
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy maker	
<input type="checkbox"/> Genebank operator/Crop collector curator	
<input type="checkbox"/> Researcher/Academician	
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Plant breeder	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private Plant breeder	
<input type="checkbox"/> NGO	
<input type="checkbox"/> International organization	
<input type="checkbox"/> Botanic garden	
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>

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2. Assessing ECPGR

4. The following are the different elements of the ECPGR strategy. Please rate each of the elements below regarding their relevance to you. We encourage you to use the comment box placed at the end of each question.

	Not relevant	Somewhat relevant	Very relevant	Don't know
Collaborative Programme among several countries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pan-European approach rather than global or sub-regional approach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programme entirely funded by the member countries through annual contributions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programme overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of National Coordinators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coordinating Secretariat managing the Programme, provided by Bioversity International	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programme operating through Networks and Working Groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Members of the Working Groups carrying out agreed workplans largely with their own resources as inputs in kind to the Programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

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5. The following are the different elements of the ECPGR strategy. Please rate each of the elements below for their effectiveness according to your opinion.

	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Very effective	Don't know
Collaborative Programme among several countries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pan-European approach rather than global or sub-regional approach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programme entirely funded by the member countries through annual contributions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programme overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of National Coordinators	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coordinating Secretariat managing the Programme, provided by Bioversity International	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Programme operating through Networks and Working Groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Members of the Working Groups carrying out agreed workplans largely with their own resources as inputs in kind to the Programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

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6. Regarding ECPGR objectives, please rate each of the objectives below for their relevance to you.

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

Comment

ECPGR External Review 2010

7. Regarding ECPGR objectives, please rate, according to your opinion, how effective is ECPGR in meeting those objectives.

	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Very effective	Don't know
To facilitate the long-term in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To strengthen links between all plant genetic resources programmes in Europe and promote the integration of countries that are not members of ECPGR	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To encourage cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To increase the planning of joint activities including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To encourage the sharing of conservation responsibilities for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To increase awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To seek collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

ECPGR External Review 2010

8. Regarding ECPGR objectives, please rate, according to your opinion, how cost-efficient ECPGR is in meeting those objectives. Please use the comment box for suggestions.

	Not efficient	Somewhat efficient	Very efficient	Don't know
To facilitate the long-term in situ and ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To facilitate the increased utilization of plant genetic resources in Europe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To strengthen links between all plant genetic resources programmes in Europe and promote the integration of countries that are not members of ECPGR	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To encourage cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To increase the planning of joint activities including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To encourage the sharing of conservation responsibilities for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To increase awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To seek collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

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3. Priorities for ECPGR

9. Regarding the priorities of ECPGR in the current Phase VIII, please rate each of the priorities below for their relevance to you.

	Not relevant	Somewhat relevant	Very relevant	Don't know
Task sharing and capacity building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Characterization and evaluation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In situ and on-farm conservation management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Documentation and information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

10. Regarding the priorities of ECPGR in the current Phase VIII, please rate, according to your opinion, how effective ECPGR is in meeting each of the priorities below.

	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Very effective	Don't know
Task sharing and capacity building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Characterization and evaluation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In situ and on-farm conservation management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Documentation and information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

11. Do you agree that these priorities for the current phase are adequate?

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Comment

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12. Do you feel that ECPGR is the appropriate programme to promote and support the activities related to the established priorities? Please respond yes or no and indicate why.

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Why?

4. General assessment

13. Please rate the items below regarding their adequacy.

	Not adequate	Somewhat adequate	Very adequate	Don't know
Priority setting process in ECPGR, currently driven by the Steering Committee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hosting arrangements (Secretariat hosted by Bioversity International)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Funding mechanism (annual contributions from member countries, based on UN rates)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

14. Please rate the items below regarding their efficiency.

	Not efficient	Somewhat efficient	Very efficient	Don't know
Management of the programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of available funds (about 45% coordination, 42% activities, 13% overheads)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

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15. Please rate the items below according to their sufficiency.

	Not sufficient	Sufficient	Too generous	Don't know
The coordinating Secretariat is composed of one full time coordinator, one half time AEGIS coordinator, one full time programme assistant and one half time scientific assistant. Please rate how sufficient those managerial resources for coordination are.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investment made by member countries (in cash and in kind) in ECPGR proportional to the need for PGR conservation and use in Europe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

16. Please rate the items below regarding their effectiveness.

	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Very effective	Don't know
Programme being flexible at re-aligning itself with external changes (i.e. climate change, new member, Treaty existence or Convention on Biodiversity existence)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Current Network and Working Group structure (6 Crop and 3 Thematic Networks, 20 Working Groups)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Steering Committee in its role of providing leadership and direction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comment

ECPGR External Review 2010

17. Does the Steering Committee have the proper mechanisms and procedures for governance and evaluation? Please make suggestions using the box below.

- Yes
 No
 Don't know

Please make some suggestions on mechanisms and procedures.

18. The Programme invites permanent observers to the Steering Committee. These observers are representatives of the following institutions: Bioversity International, European Commission, the European Association for Research and Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), The Nordic Genetic Resource Centre (NordGen), the South East European Development Network on Plant Genetic Resources (SEEDNet), and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Please rate how appropriate those linkages and partnerships for the Programme are.

- Not appropriate
 Somewhat appropriate
 Very appropriate
 Don't know

Comment

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19. ECPGR generates meeting reports with Working Groups' recommendations, databases, guidelines, project proposals, opportunities for increased contacts and knowledge exchange. Are the outputs (public goods) generated by ECPGR useful in your opinion? Please rate how useful these outputs (public goods) are and indicate which of these outputs you found most useful.

- Not useful
 Somewhat useful
 Very useful
 Don't know

Most useful outputs:

5. Impact

20. Considering the overall ECPGR programme, please rate the effectiveness of the programme in reaching each of these expected impacts

	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Very effective	Don't know
Improved Ex situ conservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved In situ conservation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased use of PGR in Europe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthened links between PGR programmes in Europe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Better integration of countries that are not members of ECPGR	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased cooperation between all stakeholders, including NGOs and private breeders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased number of joint activities, including the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to funding agencies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased sharing of responsibilities for conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in Europe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased awareness, at all levels, of the importance of PGRFA activities including conservation and sustainable use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased collaboration with other relevant regional and global initiatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Others (please specify)

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6. Further contact

21. The review Team will be working from March to July and will seek to contact some of the respondents to obtain a clarification or further feedback. If you are available to be contacted, please include your name, email and affiliation below.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Affiliation	<input type="text"/>