

Report to the Ninth ECP/GR Steering Committee meeting (October 2003)

Working Group on *Allium*

Progress made by the Group during Phase VI (1999 - 2003)

Specific objective	Achievements
Meetings	
Organize a small technical meeting to discuss about sharing of responsibilities for the maintenance of vegetatively propagated <i>Allium</i> germplasm	A workshop was organized on 21-22 May 2001 in Gatersleben, Germany. A report on "European collections of vegetatively propagated <i>Allium</i> " was published. Recommendations were made on: phytosanitary requirements, in vitro storage and cryopreservation, and management of the European collections
Documentation	
Preparation of EADB for on line access	EADB available on line as a searchable and downloadable file in either MS Access or MS Excel at HRI, Wellesbourne, UK
Development of EADB with inclusion of additional national passport and characterization data	The EADB was revised continuously between 1998-2002, new national data sets were included and characterization data produced by GENRES and FAIR project partners. The database contains 7832 accessions representing the 5 major <i>Allium</i> crops and the wild taxa from 8 institutions in 8 countries plus the Nordic Gene Bank
Contribute to the preparation of the IPGRI <i>Allium</i> descriptors	IPGRI <i>Allium</i> descriptors published in 2001
Characterization	
Improve level of characterization of collections	New characterization data were produced by GENRES project partners
Sharing of responsibilities	
Provide for safety duplication of all accessions	Several new bilateral 'black box' arrangements have been established for seed <i>Allium</i> (100% of Dutch collection duplicated in the UK; UK sent 50% of their collection to the Netherlands, plus bilateral agreements Austria-Germany, Austria- Netherlands, etc.); safety-duplication agreements were established for vegetatively propagated <i>Allium</i> (e.g. Czech Republic/NGB; Czech Republic/Poland; Poland/IPK; Spain/IPK, etc.)
Identify Most Original Samples for wild taxa	Determination is in the initial phase
Rationalization of collections	
Establish a programme to characterize European garlic accessions with molecular markers	Draft project prepared and preliminary estimates of costs made (i.e. in the range of 237 000 Euro)
Improve taxonomic identification of wild material in collections	Taxonomy experts from IPK helped the WG in identifying accessions
Reduce duplications in collections	Within the GENRES project, rationalization trials were grown for onion and leek and garlic groups identified at morphological and molecular level

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Plan of action for Phase VII (2004 - 2009)

Note: A better definition of actions, timeframe and funding support is conditioned to a better knowledge of the possibilities available for funding within Phase VII and would then require larger discussion within the group

Specific objective	Action	Timeframe	Request of support from ECP/GR for specific actions	
			Funding requested	Type of support requested
<u>Meetings:</u> Develop a new GENRES <i>Allium</i> project	One <i>ad hoc</i> meeting	2004	YES	Only funds for logistic & technical support from IPGRI during the meeting
Review WG actions and future inputs	7 th WG meeting	2006	YES	Funds for logistic & technical support from IPGRI during the meeting, & technical support from IPGRI after the meeting
<u>Documentation:</u> Keep EADB up to date	Update EADB by extracting data from EURISCO			
<u>Characterization:</u> Improve characterization, mainly of vegetatively propagated material				
<u>Evaluation:</u>	Apply for EU funding, whenever possible			
<u>Tracing duplicates:</u> Focus on vegetatively propagated material				
<u>Regeneration:</u> Focus on wild <i>Allium</i>	Identify who is holding unique material and the best way to ensure production of high quality seed. Prioritize among taxa			
<u>Safety-duplication:</u> Improve the level of safety-duplication for European collections by increased use of <i>in vitro</i> storage and cryopreservation for vegetatively propagated material. Also improve level of safety-duplication for seed material	Survey the level of safety-duplication & promote action by curators to establish protocols for safety-duplication			

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<u>Wild relatives:</u> Study the wild genepool taxonomy and structure	Define taxa that should receive priority attention			
<u>Sharing of responsibilities:</u> Rationalize European collections supporting a Conservation Consortium for vegetatively propagated <i>Allium</i>	Apply for funding through the new EC Regulation on genetic resources or raise funds through ECP/GR (model project)	2 nd call of proposals, in order to wait for the eligibility of new accession countries		Fund raising and/or technical and diplomatic involvement to kick start the creation of an appropriate Conservation Consortium
<u>Collecting:</u> Continue monitoring of collecting needs and encouragement for action at the national or regional level				

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