

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

Working Group on *Avena*

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

Specific objective	Achievements
Meetings	
Gen Res meeting in Paris, France, March 2000	Non-EU participants from Poland and Russia joined the meeting
WG session during the Cereals network meeting in July 2003, Jerevan, Armenia	Progress reviewed, plans made for Phase VII
Documentation	
Further rationalize and update the ECP/GR <i>Avena</i> Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of the database into a relational architecture, including evaluation data and literature references - FAO/IPGRI Multi-crop descriptors adopted - Taxonomic system agreed and implemented - Additional passport data included. Information from VIR is being incorporated
Create crop-specific links with other programmes/networks/databases	Project of an International <i>Avena</i> Database (IADB). Inclusion of data from the Canadian and the American (and others, e.g. Australia) genebanks collections into the EADB is in progress
Characterization/Evaluation	
Characterization and evaluation of <i>Avena</i> landrace collections	Characterization and evaluation data on 1500-2000 accessions grown in 5 different environments also screened using molecular markers. Mainly within the framework of the EU-funded GEN RES project
Ex situ conservation - Rationalization of collections	
Analyze the Database to identify duplicates	Unique accessions (7273) and duplicate groups (4223) preliminarily identified. 53 % of well documented accessions are considered duplicates
Development of core collections for landraces and varieties	This work is being undertaken by I. Loskutov at VIR, St. Petersburg
Ex situ conservation - Safety-duplication	
Implement regeneration and safety-duplication procedures for wild material	Unique material identified, but lack of funding to proceed either in duplication or regeneration
In situ conservation	
Implement <i>in situ</i> conservation strategies	Spanish authorities aware of situation regarding <i>A. murphyi</i> . Italian representative identified and made aware of <i>A. insularis</i>
Collecting	
Fill gaps in collection of wild <i>Avena</i>	Further collections of <i>A. murphyi</i> and <i>A. maroccana</i> , <i>A. insularis</i> and <i>A. macrostachya</i> are desirable
Collaboration	

Specific objective	Achievements
Submission of a project on Evaluation and enhancement of <i>Avena</i> collections to EC Regulation 1467/94 for funding	Project submitted and approved with 5 European partner institutions (2000 - 2004)
Encourage participation of Morocco in <i>Avena</i> WG meetings	Nezha Saidi joined the group at the cereals meeting in Armenia (July 2003)

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Plan of action for Phase VII (2004 - 2008)

Specific objective	Action	Timeframe	Request of support from ECP/GR for specific actions	
			Funding requested	Type of support requested
<u>Avena Working Group Meeting:</u> There is an opportunity for fuller representation of the Group at the 7th International Oat Conference in Finland 2004. Some funding from other sources should also be available (See note *)	As the timescale is relatively short, a rapid response to the request for funding is essential		YES	Funding: - Logistic support - Technical support from IPGRI after the meeting
<u>Documentation:</u> The <i>Avena</i> DB to become a model system for the other cereals DB within the Cereal Network Continue development of International <i>Avena</i> database	Search funds for the project Inclusion of Australian and other data		YES	Only funds
<u>Ex situ conservation -Regeneration:</u> Undertaking regeneration is increasingly necessary	Search funds for regeneration		YES	Only funds
<u>Ex situ conservation - Safety-duplication:</u> Improve the level of safety-duplication, especially of wild material	Search funds for multiplication and encourage bilateral agreements		YES	Only funds
<u>In situ conservation:</u> Improve conservation of rare species	Spanish member will attempt to include <i>A. murphyi</i> into areas of <i>in situ</i> conservation. Italian member to draw the attention of the authorities for <i>A. insularis</i> on the same issue			Logistic support
<u>Pre-breeding:</u> Identify strategies	Initiate task-sharing projects within the breeding community		YES	Logistic support Funding
<u>Collecting wild relatives:</u>	Further collect <i>A. magna</i> , <i>A. murphyi</i> , <i>A. insularis</i> and <i>A. macrostachya</i>		YES	Only funds

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* Due to nominations for attendance at the Cereals Network Meeting in Armenia having been made by Country Coordinators, a number of AWG members were unable to attend. Of those who did attend, some had to participate in either the Wheat or Barley Working Group Meetings and were therefore unable to attend or contribute to the AWG. There was also insufficient time for WG discussions. This is clearly an unsatisfactory situation since decisions regarding the future of the group were made by a fraction of the members. A meeting of the AWG in the near future is thus very desirable.