

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

### Working Group on *Beta*

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

Specific objective	Achievements
<b>Meetings</b>	
First joint meeting of a Working Group on <i>Beta</i> and World <i>Beta</i> Network, 9-10 September 1999, Higham Bury St. Edmunds, United Kingdom	Workplan established and report published
<i>Ad hoc</i> meeting to discuss <i>Beta</i> core collections, 30 September 2000, Capelle en Pevele, France	Recommendations made and report prepared (on-line available)
Second joint meeting of a Working Group on <i>Beta</i> and World <i>Beta</i> Network, 23-26 October 2002, Bologna, Italy	Workplan established and report in preparation
<b>Documentation</b>	
Redesign the International Data Base for <i>Beta</i> (IDBB)	-Work is completed to a large extent and the debugging work is in progress -Database applications are newly available for the IDBB to host characterization and evaluation data. An on-line-version is functioning ( <a href="http://www.genres.de/idb/beta/">http://www.genres.de/idb/beta/</a> ) -Characterization and evaluation data of the GENRES CT 95-42 project have been included in the new database as well as characterization data recorded by VIR in the framework of the ECP/GR-funded <i>Beta</i> project. Data from the University of Krakow and the Gene Bank in Prague will progressively be added
<b>Ex situ conservation - Rationalization of collections</b>	
Identification of duplicates	Work carried out within GENRES CT 95-42 project with morphological and molecular investigation. In general it can be concluded that there are fewer duplicates than expected
Look into the preliminary Synthetic <i>Beta</i> Core collection and further develop it	Set of recommendations drafted, in particular suggesting details to develop an International <i>Beta</i> Core collection
<b>Sharing of responsibilities</b>	
Define a mechanism to improve sharing of responsibilities on a regional level	The concept of a hierarchical and differential genebank seed stock management developed by the BAZ Gene Bank was used to elaborate a database structure required to manage sharing of responsibilities within a European Working Group
Elaborate a genebank quality standard	A <i>Beta</i> seed production manual, which describes the cultivation methods applied by the BAZ Gene Bank, was distributed. Curators of partner genebanks were requested to produce similar documents. Four of them have provided the requested information
<b>In situ Conservation</b>	
Search for opportunities for <i>in situ</i> conservation of wild species	Except for Turkey, none of the European countries have developed specific <i>in situ</i> management plans and actions for <i>Beta</i>

## Working Group on *Beta*

### Plan of action for Phase VII (2004 - 2008)

**Recommendation made by the Industrial Crops and Potato Network Coordinating Group on 22 October 2002 to the ECP/GR Steering Committee:** *"Maintain in existence the WG on Beta to facilitate the formalization of responsibilities on a decentralized basis, as well as to address specific issues such as the complementary conservation strategy for Beta genetic resources in Europe, with special attention to the conservation of the wild populations."*

**Recommendation made by the Working Group on Beta on 26 October 2002:** *"The Group recommends that during Phase VII of ECP/GR, funds be assured to hold one meeting of the WG, as well as additional funds to be managed with considerable flexibility as a "Beta fund" for small technical meetings and ad hoc actions."*

Specific objective	Action	Timeframe	Request of support from ECP/GR for specific actions	
			Funding requested	Type of support requested
<u>Meeting:</u> Third joint meeting of a Working Group on <i>Beta</i> and World <i>Beta</i> Network	Hold the meeting either in Cordoba, Spain or Quedlinburg, Germany	2005	YES	- Funds for meetings - Logistic support - Technical support from IPGRI during the meeting - Technical support from IPGRI after the meeting
<u>Conservation:</u> Develop a specific quality concept for <i>Beta</i> genetic resources conservation	A quality concept document should be circulated, commented and agreed by the Group	2004		
<u>Documentation:</u> Analyse characterisation and evaluation data with GIS software	BAZ Gene Bank will purchase software in 2003	2004		Search for funding of a project and/or search for a young scientist interested in a bilateral co-operative project
Merging the US and European evaluation data	Explore possibilities for funding this initiative			
Update the IDBB original passport data in order to fulfil the standards of the recently released EURISCO/MCPDv2 passport list	Working Group members and WBN participants will ensure that curators provide the IDBB manager with their passport accession data in the EURISCO/MCPDv2 format			
Updating the existing Descriptor list for <i>Beta</i> , which is incomplete, e.g. regarding viruses	Discuss with IPGRI possibilities for the elaboration of an updated version			
				Support from IPGRI's publishing group

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<u>In situ Conservation:</u> Promote <i>in situ</i> conservation of <i>Beta</i>	The BAZ Gene Bank has assisted the USAD/ARS in writing a plant exploration proposal for <i>Beta nana</i> , which will very likely receive funds. It is intended to monitor <i>B. nana</i> growing sites, which were visited for the last time 20 years ago	2004		
<u>Characterization and evaluation:</u> Increase availability of data from the IDBB	Working Group members and WBN participants will encourage the scientific community and beet researchers to provide the IDBB manager with additional characterization and evaluation data	2005		
<u>Sharing of responsibilities:</u> Define responsibility status for all accessions	<i>Beta</i> germplasm curators are invited to assign responsibility, restriction and storage status to all their accessions and register their decisions in the IDBB	2004		
<u>Regeneration:</u> Definition of acceptable natural levels of genetic variation and drift during seed multiplication  Document seed production procedures of each genebank	Issue to be dealt with by a task force of the Working Group on <i>Beta</i>  WG members encourage compilation of procedures by the <i>Beta</i> curators in accordance with specific local conditions. Individual reports to be published on the web	2004		Technical support for publishing the reports on the web

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