

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

### Working Group on *Brassica*

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

Specific objective	Achievements
<b>Meetings</b>	
Extraordinary <i>Brassica</i> Working Group meeting, held jointly with the third EU funded project GEN RES 109-112 in Vila Real, Portugal, 2002	A report of the joint meetings was published
Participation of some WG members to the fourth GEN RES 109-112 project meeting held in Brucoli, Italy in February 2003. WG session during the Vegetables Network meeting in Skierniewice, Poland, May 2003	Progress reviewed and plans made for Phase VII
<b>Documentation</b>	
Further development of the Bras-EBD	Datasets included from 32 institutions in 22 countries, with a total of 19113 accessions (increase of 6113 accessions compared to 1997). Database made searchable on-line and downloadable via the Internet
<b>Characterization/Evaluation</b>	
Improve characterization data exchange	Mainly as a result of the Gen Res project, minimum descriptors agreed for characterization of <i>B. oleracea</i> , <i>B. rapa</i> and <i>B. napus</i> . In preparation for <i>B. carinata</i>
Development of core collections	Mainly as a result of the Gen Res project, core collections defined for <i>B. napus</i> , <i>B. oleracea</i> , <i>B. rapa</i> and <i>B. carinata</i>
Improve the level of characterization and evaluation data in each collection	A substantial increase of characterization and evaluation data and definition of core collections (owing mainly to the input of the GEN RES project, for <i>B. napus</i> , <i>B. oleracea</i> , <i>B. rapa</i> and <i>B. carinata</i> )
<b>Ex situ conservation - Regeneration</b>	
Identify and encourage appropriate regeneration procedures	Survey of the current regeneration procedures used in European genebanks. Partly completed, with procedures published in the meeting reports. Ongoing
Overview the state of regenerated collections	Table and questionnaire circulated to all WG members and filled in
<b>Ex situ conservation - Safety-duplication</b>	
Assess and maximize the level of safety-duplication for all accessions	Safety-duplication has started (safety duplicates of HRI, UK; Belgium accessions held at CGN, The Netherlands; Portugal and Poland). Complete inventory of duplicate collections still to be done. Also improved as a task for the Gen Res project, where conditions for safety-duplication storage were defined

Specific objective	Achievements
<b><i>In situ</i> Conservation</b>	
Encourage <i>in situ</i> conservation of wild relatives	Actions undertaken in various countries surveyed and proposal launched for common action between European breeders and the Group
<b>Collaboration</b>	
Submission of a project on <i>Brassica</i> to EC Regulation 1467/94 for funding	Project submitted and approved with 16 partners from 8 European countries (2000 - 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>Documentation</u> : Update the Bras-EDB and integrate information on existing characterization/evaluation	Enter missing data sets and include indicators for characterized/evaluated accessions	December 2005	YES	- Only funds (meeting)
<u>Characterization</u> : Undertake further characterization	GENRES descriptors to be used as reference for the characterization data	June 2006	YES	- Only funds (meeting)
<u>Evaluation</u> : Promote evaluation activities	Identify a list of evaluation characters (per species) and define a priority list, in answer to a questionnaire sent by E. Rosa	June 2004	NO	
<u>Ex situ conservation - Regeneration</u> : Continue as necessary	Introduce a rationalization process at mid-term through duplicate tracing	Ongoing	YES	- Only funds (meeting)
<u>Ex situ conservation - Safety-duplication</u> : Improve the level of safety-duplication	Establish and circulate a list of safety-duplication facility offers	December 2003	YES	- Technical support/IPGRI
<u>Tracing duplicates</u> : Implement a tracing-duplicates process	Trace duplicates through passport data and communicate with the other holders	June 2005	YES	- Logistic support
<u>Sharing of responsibilities</u> : Identify priorities and responsibilities in case of duplicates	Establish a common process to assign priorities and responsibilities	December 2004	NO	
<u>Wild relatives</u> : Assess availability and state of collections of wild <i>Brassica</i> (n=9 priority)	Prepare a questionnaire and establish a general overview	July 2003	YES	- Logistic support (overview)
<u>Collaboration</u> : Conservation and evaluation of wild <i>Brassica</i> in relation to public awareness and use	Apply for funding through the new EC Regulation on genetic resources	1 <sup>st</sup> call for proposals		- Meeting (funding)

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