

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

Task Force on On-Farm Conservation

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

Specific objective	Achievements
Meetings	
ECP/GR <i>In situ</i> - On-Farm Task Force Meeting, Isola Polvese, Perugia, Italy 18-20 May 2000	Definition of tasks for future activities. A preliminary inventory of on-farm conservation and management experience in Europe completed. A report of the meeting was published
Member tasks	
Produce a directory of on-farm conservation organizations and individuals	A first directory was produced, but not published on the ECP/GR web page, as decided, due to problems concerning the individual privacy and the possibility of verifying actors and their reliability
To collect information regarding seed legislation, with special attention to variety registration fees and to the state of development of laws permitting the use and trade of landraces in Europe. Mobilize the efforts of a number of experts in order to compile a memorandum, listing the problems caused by current European legislation for the free exchange and use of non-registered seeds	Partially done. (It seems that local legislations either do not consider the landrace seed exchange as a problem or tend to solve it in different and not congruent manner). Presently the EC Commission is working on guidelines for marketing of seeds from genetic resources. The EC - seed legislation in all member states (also in the new member states) will be adopted on the EC directives. The member states (and task force members) wait for these guidelines
Descriptors for the documentation of on-farm conservation and management	Some examples from Rumania and Italy available
Methodologies for the conservation of traditional varieties involving farmers and local communities	Some examples available from Austria, Finland, Italy either self supported by farmers or funded by local/national authorities. PSR and Arche Noah developed a book that shows different methods for seed production in private gardens or little surfaces
Develop a model to establish local or regional historical inventories, based on information collected	An example available from Liguria, Italy (M. Angelini). Pro Specie Rara developed a Database for the coordination of conservation activities (on farm) and controlling (seed library). The Monitoring Institute developed a historical inventory Database

Specific objective	Achievements
Funding application	
<p>A Project Proposal for 'On farm safeguard of plant genetic resources for the development of new farming systems' was developed at Perugia University by Valeria Negri (before the Polvese meeting, with ECPGR assistance, several Task force members as partners) and submitted to the EU Fifth Framework Programme in November 2000 but was not successful</p>	
<p>A Project proposal "Understanding and Managing Change in European Genetic Resource Conservation and Use" (GRACE) was developed at the University of Birmingham by Maxted and Ford-Lloyd with ECP/GR and several Task Force members as a partners. Larger project for Sixth Framework Programme, Genetic Resources And Changing Ecosystems GRACE but was rejected in 2002</p>	<p>Expression of Interest submitted to the EU Sixth Framework Programme (sub-priority category 1.6.3 - Global Change and Ecosystems) in June 2002 and was successful. Waiting for appropriate call to submit full project for funding</p>

Task Force on On-Farm Conservation

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
<p><u>Meetings:</u> Hold the next meeting of the WG on Genetic Reserve and On-Farm conservation in Minorca Spain, in April 2004 to run back-to back with PGR Forum meeting) in order to promote cooperation within the group; Promote the preparation of projects on on-farm conservation; Promote achievements of tasks. Update issues. Define problems related to the definition of 'on-farm conservation'</p>	Request for approval to the Steering Committee	2004	YES	- Financial support for non-PGR Forum participants. - Logistic and technical support
<p><u>Projects Development:</u> Develop projects on changes of genetic structure of landraces with time and/or different/same environment on diffusion of landraces in Europe; socio-economic factors leading to or permitting on-farm conservation; Seed production, marketing and distribution; Strategy planning at national and international level. Ethnobotany of medicinal plants. Others</p>	Submit grant application to 1467/92 replacement	2004?	NO	Logistic support
<p><u>Documentation:</u> Define list of people/Institutions able to put people in contact with on farm conservation experiences</p>	Publication of a dedicated page on ECP/GR web site, if approved by SC	2004- on	YES	Logistical and Technical support from ECPGR (i.e. members should contribute ECPGR should build up and maintain the page)
<p><u>Public awareness:</u> Broaden information on importance/possibilities/activities related to on farm conservation</p>	Establishment of a newsletter to be published on the ECP/GR Web pages, if approved by SC	2005	YES	Logistical and Technical support from ECPGR (i.e. members should contribute info, ECPGR should build up and maintain the page)

Prepared by: Working Group Chair: Valeria Negri

Date: 22 September 2003