

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

Working Group on Wheat

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

Specific objective	Achievements
Meetings	
ECP/GR Wheat Working Group - 1st meeting, 8-10 November 2001. Prague, Czech Republic	A report of the meeting published
Documentation	
Develop the European Wheat Database (EWDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Database available on Internet in searchable form, containing 132,000 records (56% of European wheat accessions). New structure in harmony with the revised IPGRI/FAO Multi-Crop Passport Descriptors format (MCPDv2) - All collected data converted and implemented into database - Advanced search form (combination of all descriptors) developed - Data downloadable from the web page
Standardize characterization descriptors	List of 20 descriptors established. 6 descriptors agreed as priority (awnedness, grain colour, glume colour, glume hairiness, spike density, plant height) Czech characterization data for agreed descriptors implemented
Ex situ conservation	
Determine most appropriate standards for conservation	Methods established, following genebanks standards for cereal conservation (long term storage: -20°C; medium term storage: +5°C)
Ex situ conservation - Safety-duplication	
Increase the level of safety-duplication	Bilateral arrangements established between genebanks: The Netherlands/Germany; The Netherlands/UK; Switzerland/Germany; Czech Republic/Slovak Republic
Rationalization of collections	
Reduce duplications in collections	Duplicates and synonyms identified. Unique material identified
Sharing of responsibilities	
Conservation: establish a decentralized European wheat collection	List of unique accessions held by each genebank distributed to the group, by DB manager, after analysis of the database

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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>Meetings:</u> Hold the next meeting of the WG on Wheat in La Rochelle (to be confirmed), France, in 3 years time	Request for approval to the Steering Committee	2006	YES	- Logistic support - Technical support from IPGRI during the meeting - Technical support from IPGRI after the meeting
<u>Documentation:</u> Further develop the EWDB	Fill the gaps in passport data by downloading from EURISCO as soon as it is available. Integrate evaluation and characterization data in the database	From September 2003	YES	Technical support from IPGRI - development of high user-friendliness of EURISCO and promote NFP to frequent updates
<u>Documentation:</u> Make additional characterization and evaluation data of wheat accessions available	Establish links from the on-line EWDB to Web sites publishing data of wheat accessions, such as the NGB site	From spring 2004	YES	Support from IPGRI in public awareness and legal direction for broader data availability
<u>Characterization/Evaluation:</u> Focus on unique accessions to improve level of characterization	Promote collaborative projects with breeders, as already done in France	From 2004	NO	
<u>Ex situ Conservation:</u> Strengthen quality standards for conservation	Joint study of respective expertises	From 2004	NO	
<u>Safety-duplication:</u> Improve the level of safety -duplication	Enlarge safety duplications of unique materials among partners	From 2004	NO	
<u>Sharing of responsibilities:</u> Implement a rational and shared conservation system	Formalize responsibilities for conservation of the Most Original Samples	From 2005	NO	
<u>Public awareness:</u> Broaden information on PGR activities	Establishment of a cereal newsletter to be published on the ECP/GR Web pages	As soon as possible	YES	Technical support from IPGRI

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Date: 30 September 2003