

Results of questionnaire – Section B

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*Working Groups Chairs' meeting
6 April 2022, online*





Content

Summary of the replies to Section B
of the questionnaire





Questionnaire Section B

Estimated effectiveness of Working Groups towards the new Plant Genetic Resources Strategy implementation

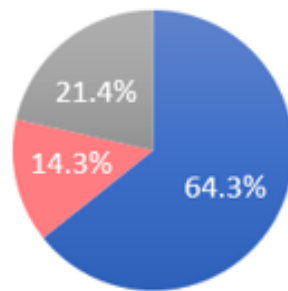


1. To what extent the WGs would be the appropriate bodies to support the approaches described under the “Objectives by 2030” in the new PGR Strategy (with the current or adapted mode of operation)?



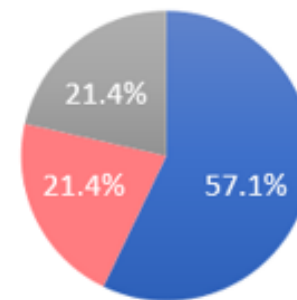
1a) Expanding *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives (CWR) and wild food plants (WFP)

i. Surveying and inventorying CWR and other wild PGRFA



■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't know

ii. Strengthening *in situ* conservation and management of CWR and WFP

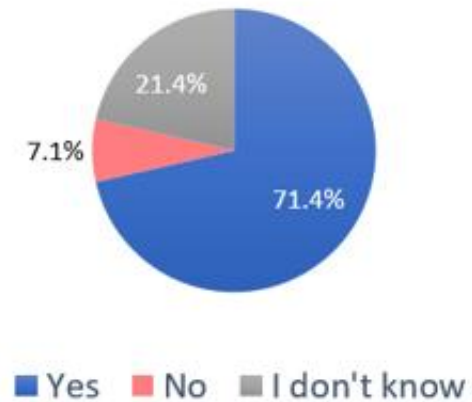


■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't know

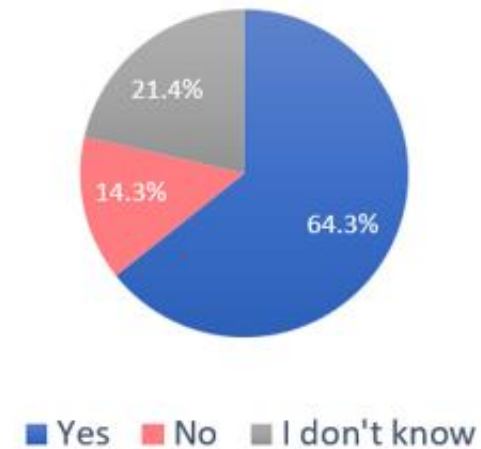


1b) Promoting on-farm plant genetic resources conservation and management

i. Surveying and inventorying on-farm plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

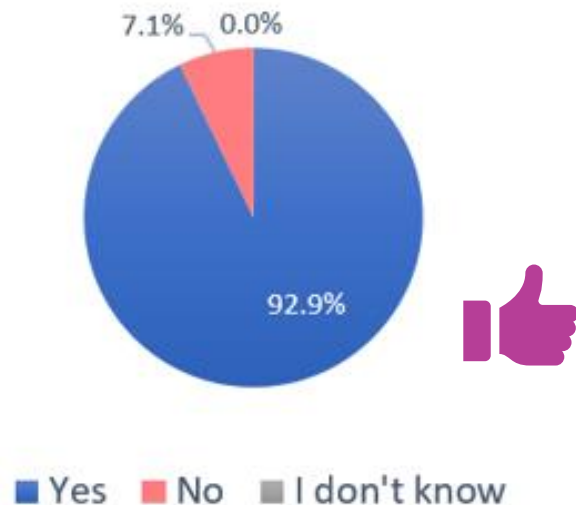


ii. Supporting on-farm plant genetic resources conservation and management

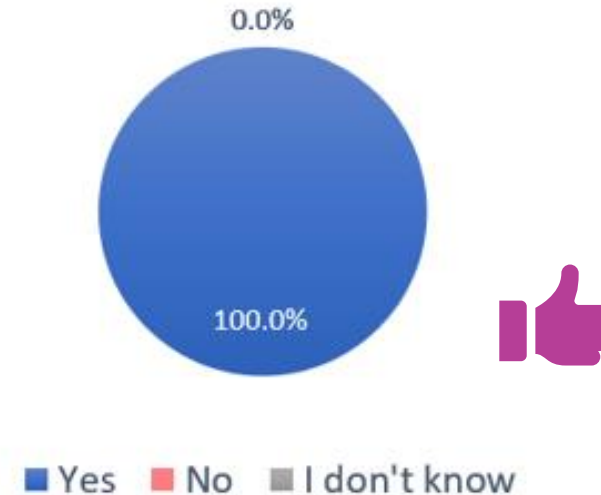


1c) Consolidating and sustaining *ex situ* conservation

i. Strengthening *ex situ* coordinated conservation capacities in Europe

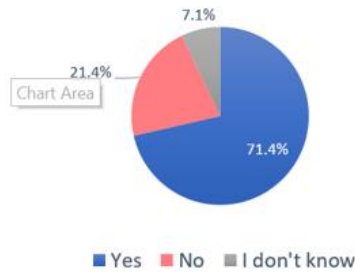


ii. Expanding the coverage of genetic diversity in European genebanks

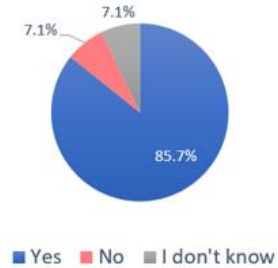


1d) Promoting sustainable use of PGR

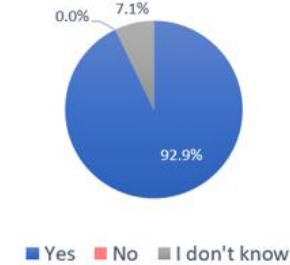
i. Facilitate availability to all stakeholders of genetic diversity from European ex situ and in situ conservation sites



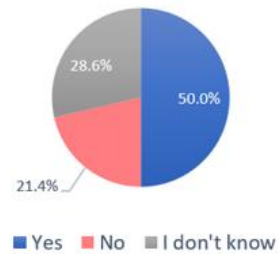
ii. Facilitate access to information about plant genetic resources targeted to specific user-groups



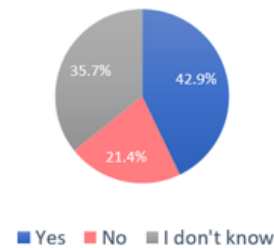
iii. Expanding phenotyping and genotyping characterization and evaluation of European PGR



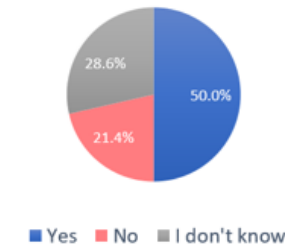
iv. Supporting use of CWR genetic resources in pre-breeding and in research for discovering useful traits



v. Supporting use of PGR in participatory and decentralized breeding efforts for the development of innovative locally adapted populations



vi. Promoting diversification of crop production for sustainable and resilient agri-food systems through a revised regulatory framework

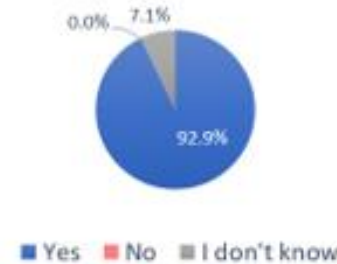


1e) Strengthening a comprehensive information system for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture

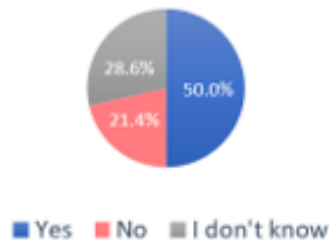
i. Strengthen and support EURISCO and its National Focal Points network to ensure the provision of passport data for all accessions of National Collections



ii. Increase availability of reliable phenotypic data via EURISCO and the community of National Focal Points

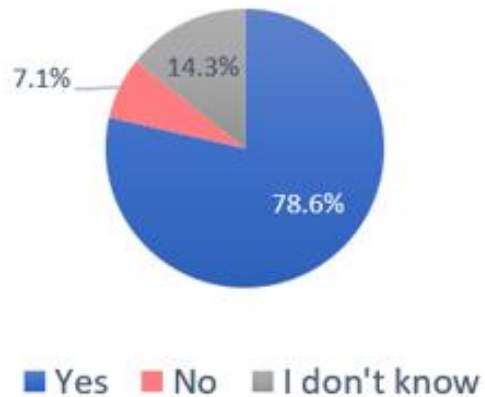


iii. Assure interoperability of EURISCO with other information systems by adopting FAIR principles

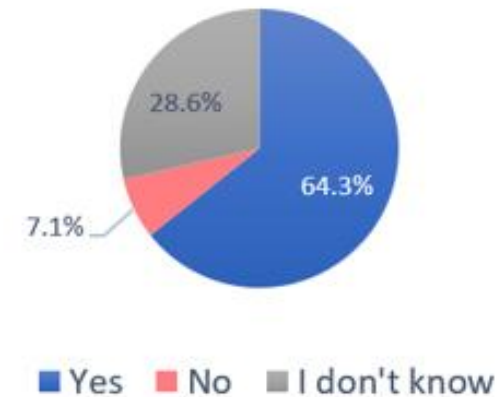


1f) Developing a system to monitor European conservation and sustainable use of PGR

i. Defining and implementing relevant sets of indicators for monitoring genetic diversity conservation and sustainable use



ii. Establishing a system to ensure the effective transfer and the analysis of relevant information from local to European levels



2a) What changes/improvements would you suggest to the WGs Structure?

i. Number and scope of WGs

- The number of WGs is adequate or it should be reduced by merging some WGs. The scope is proposed to be broadened or at least better linkages should be created across WGs to facilitate cross-cutting activities.

ii. Rules of WG membership

- Need to have proactive members in the WG and incentivize their work.



2a) What changes/improvements would you suggest to the WGs Structure? – cont.

iii. ToRs and selection of the WG Chair

- Nomination of the WG Chair should be made with more participation of the WG members and limits to the duration of the Chair's term could be introduced.

iv. Other

- Re-introduction of Vice-Chair
- Need for WG members to confirm their interest and commitment
- Make the Chairs part of the Steering Committee or get them involved in it.



2b) Suggested changes/improvements to the mode of operation/tools

i. Calls for proposals for targeted/non-targeted topics

- Preference for targeted calls, open calls without deadline, increased budgets and encouragement for joint action across networks, as well as the use of funds to aggregate partners to existing projects and attention to balanced participation.

ii. WG meetings - in presence (frequency, scope, etc.)

- Importance of physical meetings that should take place at least once or twice per Phase. They are necessary to know each other, to strengthen the WG, coordinate implementation of objectives and exchange ideas. They could be limited to contact persons.



2b) Suggested changes/improvements to the mode of operation/tools – cont.

iii. WG meetings - online (frequency, scope, etc.)

- Online meetings could be more frequent, up to once per year or whenever necessary and could either be used by small task forces to work on specific tasks or enable larger participation than in physical meetings and ensure continuity of the WG commitment between physical meetings.

iv. Other ideas

- Organize webinars/workshops for sharing experiences and expertise on important topics, such as on-farm conservation, participatory plant breeding, direct use, organic field collection management, pre-breeding & breeding, quality management, safe conservation strategies, etc.



2c) Suggested changes/improvements in the interactions with other operational components/bodies inside and outside ECPGR

i. Other WGs

- Periodical meetings of the Chairs and more specifically to discuss collaboration between Crop and Thematic WGs.

ii. EVA networks

- EVA should be extended in time and scope to more crops.

iii. ECPGR Secretariat

- No changes are suggested. Useful help of the Secretariat for online meetings is stressed.

2c) Suggested changes/improvements in the interactions with other operational components/bodies inside and outside ECPGR – cont.

iv. ExCo/Steering Committee

- More regular discussion with WG Chairs.

v. Relationship with EUCARPIA/ISHS

- Continued or strengthened relationship, especially with EUCARPIA, also to organize joint sessions.

vi. Other bodies/institutions inside or outside ECPGR

- Need to improve the relationship with vegetable networks, biodiversity and genetic diversity partners, as well as ministries and funding bodies and to raise awareness of PGR with policymakers and the wider public.

Summary of main improvements proposed to structure and modus operandi

- Ensure that WGs are composed of motivated members, with a clear mandate
- Regularly meet in person and online and address both crop-specific and thematic (*in situ/on-farm*) actions
- Reduce bureaucracy
- Involve the expertise of the WG Chairs in the Steering Committee and facilitate more interactions among Chairs
- Improve collaboration between ECPGR and national authorities and strengthen collaboration at all levels
- Work at country level to define the national collection, then promote collaboration on a sub-regional base
- Increase all cooperation channels to inventory genetic resources, make them visible and available, also trying to develop major networks for a research infrastructure to bring under the ECPGR umbrella all relevant EU projects, to exchange know-how, maximize impact and speed up the transfer of knowledge to beneficiaries.



**Thank you for
your attention**

