

1st Meeting of the ECPGR Cryopreservation Working Group

Concept for development of a rational and efficient way to collaboratively conserve under cryopreservation the relevant European plant genetic resources

3-4 May 2023

Crop Research Institute, Prague, Czech Republic

Goals:

- Bringing together experts for cryoconservation of plant genetic resources around Europe
- Sharing information about cryopreservation in European countries
- Discussion on strategy for cryoconservation of PGR in Europe
- Discussion on strategy to broaden the routine use of cryopreservation methods

Preliminary Agenda

Tuesday 2 May

Participants' arrival in Prague

Wednesday 3 March

Presentations of participants (*Chairs: B. Panis and M. Faltus*)

09:00 – 09:15	Opening (<i>CRI Director</i>)
09:15 – 10:00	Introduction by the co-chairs Milos Faltus and Bart Panis on the working group and cryopreservation in general
10:00 – 10:20	Update on ECPGR (<i>L. Maggioni</i>)
10:20 – 10:40	Presentation by <i>D. Ellis</i> , topic TBD
10:40 – 11:00	Participants presentations (1)
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30 – 13:00	Participants presentations (6)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 16:00	Participants presentations (8)
16:00 – 16:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30	Departure to the Viticulture research station of CRI in Karlstejn
17:00 – 21:00	Presentation of the station operation, grapevine PGR conservation, product testing and dinner

Thursday 4 May

Discussion about the concept for a rational and efficient way to collaboratively conserve the relevant European plant genetic resources through cryopreservation
(Chairs: M. Faltus and B. Panis)

- 9:00 – 11:00** General discussion on country reports
- Strengths
 - Weaknesses
 - Gaps
- 11:00 – 11:30** *Coffee break*
- 11:30 – 13:00** Discussion*
- 13:00 – 14:00** *Lunch*
- 14:00 – 15:00** Group photo and visit to the genebank and cryobank
- 15:00 – 15:30** Discussion* (continued)
- 15:30 – 16:00** *Coffee break*
- 16:00 – 16:30** Steps needed for the elaboration of the concept, reporting to the ECPGR Steering Committee and future steps
- 18:00** *Social dinner*

*Discussion topics

- Other European institutes/countries to be involved
- Need for training? If so, on what topics?
- Priority crops?
- Other applications of cryopreservation:
 - Virus eradication
 - Conservation of materials with specific characteristics (totipotent cell lines, lines with specific metabolites, elite clonal breeding lines or genetic stocks)
- Cryopreservation of orthodox, intermediate and/or recalcitrant seeds?
- Need for a Cryopreservation back up (cfr Svalbard seed vault)
- Funding possibilities for collaboration?
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Friday 5 May

Departure from Prague