13 March 2026

Mr Albrecht Serfling

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Ref: **ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme (Phase XI) - Third Call for proposals**

Subject: **Proposal "ValoResWB"**

Dear Albrecht and Nils,

I am pleased to inform you that the ECPGR Executive Committee (ExCo), during its meeting on 5 March 2026, approved funding for the proposal titled "Multi-environment validation, mapping and marker development for resistance to fungal diseases in barley and wheat (ValoResWB)".

The ExCo found this to be a well-defined proposal, aiming to evaluate wheat and barley breeding lines for disease resistance. There is strong alignment between the project objectives and ECPGR priorities, including positive collaboration with the EVA network. The project's aim and the methodology for achieving results through field and molecular evaluation are clearly explained, indicating that the work is built on a solid foundation of previous research.

You plan to make the data available in EURISCO. The ExCo considers this aspect a requirement to be implemented by this Activity. The proposal does not specify whether information is available on the races of the diseases under investigation; however, it was understood that the evaluation will rely primarily on natural infections.

The requested funding amount was considered appropriate, taking into account the involvement of two Working Groups. The proposed project start date of 1 September 2026 is also approved.

Please note that the ECPGR Steering Committee will be consulted for endorsement of the final list of participants. In due course, the Secretariat will contact you and the other funded partners regarding the preparation of Letters of Agreement.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and all the partners involved in this proposal, and I look forward to its successful implementation.

Best wishes,

Jens Weibull

Chair of the ECPGR Executive Committee