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

Subject: **Proposal "BerryTraits"**

Dear Tuuli and Monika,

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 "Collaborative action for developing trait descriptors for berry genetic resources in Europe (BerryTraits)".

The activity proposes to consistently and logically continue activities initiated by the Working Group. The main product will be the development of agreed descriptor lists, together with the provision of harmonized characterization and evaluation data for five main berry species to EURISCO. The objectives, methodology, and deliverables were comprehensively described.

It is recommended to seek collaboration with the FAO-Treaty office to ensure the contribution of global experts and the widest possible validation and recognition of the descriptors. The proposed project start date of 1 May 2026 is also approved.

Please note that the partner from Italy will not be eligible to receive funds from ECPGR until such time as the country regularizes its participation in ECPGR Phase XI. Participation on a self-funded basis is permitted.

Please also 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