



ECPGR Activity Grant Scheme Proposal Form

First Call – Phase X (2019-2023)

Activity Proposal

Activity	
Full title	Identification, preparation of applications and approval of sites to join the European <i>in situ</i> PGRFA conservation network
Acronym (or short title)	Inclusion of CWR sites in European <i>in situ</i> network
Duration of Activity (in months)	18
Start date – End date <i>Please indicate start date not earlier than 3 months after deadline of call</i>	1-Sept-2019 – 1-Mar-2021

Applying Working Group(s)

	Working Group	Indicate name and surname of Working Group Chair
1.	Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves Working Group	Nigel Maxted
2.		
3.		

Activity Coordinator

Activity Coordinator	
Name and Surname	Juozas Labokas
Nationality	Lithuanian
Current position	Senior Researcher
Institute	Nature Research Centre
Country	Lithuania
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Activity Partners (ECPGR-funded)

Please note that each partner needs to be a member of a ECPGR Working Group to be eligible for funding. For self-funded partners please use the separate box below.

Partner ID No.	Name and Surname	Institute	Country
1	Juozas Labokas	Nature Research Centre	Lithuania
2	Dionysia Fasoula	Agricultural Research Institute	Cyprus
3	Alban Ibraliu	Agricultural University of Tirana	Albania
4	Katya Uzundzhaliyeva	Institute of Plant Genetic Resources - Sadovo	Bulgaria
5	Nataša Ferant substituting Andreja Čerenak	Slovenian Institute of Hop Research and Brewing	Slovenia
6	René Hauptvogel	NPPC - Research Institute of Plant Production, Piešťany	Slovakia
7	Agnese Gailite	Genetic Resource Centre, LSFRI Silava	Latvia
8	Silvia Străjeru	Banca de Resurse Genetice Vegetale – Suceava Genebank	Romania
9	Tatjana Klepo	Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation	Croatia
10	Sreten Terzić	Institute of field and vegetable crops	Serbia

Self-funded partners

Partner No.	Name and Surname	Institute	Country
1			

Description of Activity (suggested max. 1000 words)

Please address the following aspects:

– **Background:** Explain the context behind the choice of this Activity, e.g. why this has been prioritized or selected. If this is the continuation of a preceding Activity, please indicate how and why the new Activity will build on previous results/experiences.

To date many European countries have already made significant inputs in crop wild relative (CWR) conservation planning with some of them having developed operational national CWR conservation strategies and others being at the final stages thereof. The development of the European PGRFA *In Situ* conservation Network is now being implemented through the H2020 Project Farmer's Pride but the project does not have sufficient funds to work in all European countries and so funding is required to ensure those countries currently uninvolved are able to identify, preparation applications to join and approve sites in their countries to join the European *in situ* PGRFA conservation network.

Currently, the integration of the national and regional CWR conservation strategies to create an integrated and functional CWR conservation strategy for Europe is of the highest priority for many European stakeholders. The most important move in the field after the implementation of ECPGR Activity "CWR Conservation Strategies" in 2016 was the approval of the EU H2020 project "Farmer's Pride". The project started on the 1st November 2017 and will run for three years. The overarching objective of the project is to establish a network of stakeholders and conservation sites that effectively coordinates conservation actions to safeguard the wealth of Europe's *in situ* plant genetic resources (PGR) and integrates the user community to maximize their sustainable use. One of the project activities aims to design and implement a network of European sites and stakeholders that conserves

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the breadth of PGR diversity found *in situ*. It has been entitled the European Network for *In Situ* Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources. This is the landmark within the context of all *in situ* conservation activities implemented so far. Therefore, it requires a concerted input from a wider stakeholder range to arrive to well-based and widely approved decisions. The ECPGR thematic and crop specific working groups may provide expert resources for such endeavour. Thus, all members of the Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves agreed to take part in a workshop with Farmer's Pride project partners with the objective to identify, preparation applications to join and approve sites in their countries to join the European *in situ* PGRFA conservation network. A wide range of participating experts is of utmost importance because there is no other regional mechanism to enable knowledge sharing and to open opportunities to establish multi-actor partnerships.

– **Justification:** Explain why this Activity is justified in terms of making progress towards achieving the ECPGR objectives.

This Activity supports the achieving of ECPGR Objective 3 *To improve in situ conservation and use of crop wild relatives* by contributing to the output 3.3 *Integrated European strategy for CWR conservation produced* and the output 3.4 *National and European MAWP networks established*.

It could be justified by the ECPGR Concept for *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives in Europe, which provides as follows: "Recommendation 1: European countries should nominate national Most Appropriate Wild Populations – Following national research, the ECPGR National Coordinators for each European country should nominate national MAWPs to the ECPGR *In Situ* and On-farm Conservation Network for inclusion in the European Integrated *In situ* CWR Network."

– **Rationale for the choice of partners:** Explain why the selected partners are the most suitable to carry out the proposed Activity and briefly describe their respective roles in the Activity.

The selected partners are those who have expertise in the field, are not already associated with the project Farmer's Pride and are eligible for ECPGR funding. Each partner will contribute to the Activity in terms of sharing their general and specific knowledge reflecting their socio-economic, legal, geographical or crop specific contexts, but will ultimately nominate national CWR *in situ* rich sites to join the European Network.

– **Methodology or Approach:** Explain how the partners will operate. Clearly explain who is expected to do what. Also explain the rationale of meeting (or not) as part of the Activity. Include a Grant Chart, to illustrate the work breakdown structure of the project.

Stage 1 Pre-Meeting: Farmer's Pride project coordinating team sends copies of a draft document with requirements for inclusion of select sites within the European PGR *in situ* conservation network to all Activity partners with the request to review it and nominate at least one site for inclusion into the network. Each Activity partner then makes their input into the draft document, as they see necessary, identifies a site for nomination and sends required data with the reviewed draft document back to Farmer's Pride project coordinating team.

Stage 2 Meeting 1: This is the first of the two core parts of the Activity, a joint workshop with the Farmer's Pride Project. Both, Activity and Farmer's Pride project partners, elaborating the reviewed draft document, approve its final version. Draft list of agreed regional (European) and national MAWPs for inclusion in the *in situ* network is prepared and approved. Recommendations for the National government agencies and authorities responsible for PGR conservation and utilization are prepared and approved.

Stage 3 Between-Meeting: Activity partners nominate sites for inclusion in the European *in situ* network. Partners keep communicating with Farmer's Pride Project coordinating team to solve any issues or questions arising about site nomination.

Stage 4 Meeting 2: This is the second of the two core parts of the Activity, a joint meeting with the Farmer's Pride Project. Activity partners attend the launch meeting of the Network providing input to the European Policy on *in situ* CWR conservation, and benefit from attending the Farmer's Pride Dissemination conference.

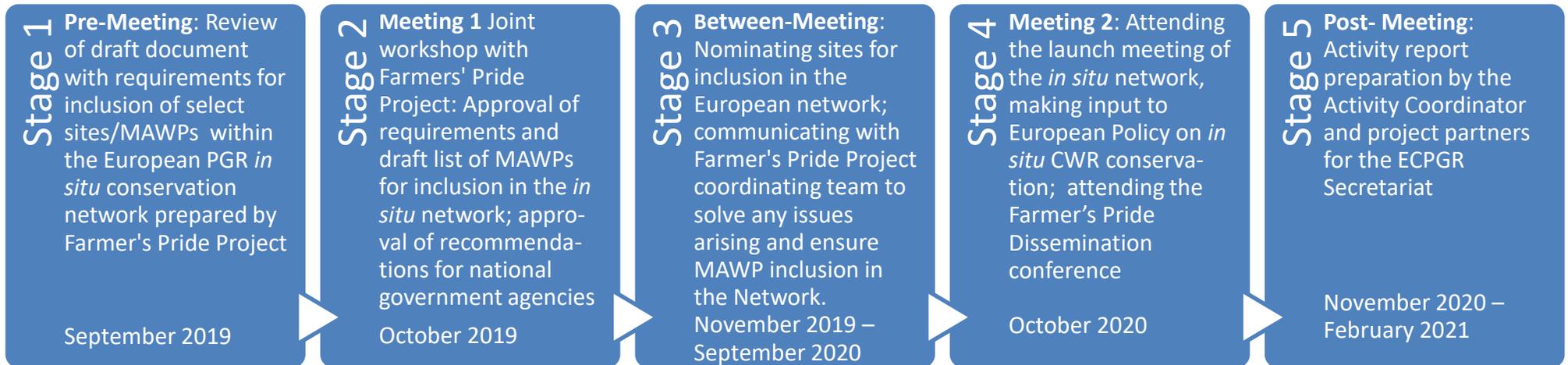
Stage 5 Post-Meeting: Activity report is prepared by the Activity Coordinator and project partners for the ECPGR Secretariat.

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WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE OF THE PROJECT
INCLUSION OF CWR SITES IN EUROPEAN IN SITU NETWORK

September 2019 – February 2021



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– **Description of genetic material:** If your Activity is focusing on genetic material, please describe in detail, as far as possible, who is providing this genetic material, its status and the number of accessions under investigation (for example: *This Activity aims at molecularly analyzing/safety-duplicating/evaluating/collecting XY accessions (listed) of “Genus species”, provided by genebank Z/ farmers in country W /to be collected in country P..., etc.*).

Not applicable.

– **Expected impact.** Clearly specify the expected impact from this Activity for the respective ECPGR objective(s), compared to the current state of progress of those same objectives. Explain how the impact will be obtained.

The major impact expected from this Activity is directly related to the ECPGR Objective 3 *To improve in situ conservation and use of crop wild relatives*. The elaborated and approved criteria as well as prepared draft list of agreed regional (European) and national MAWPs for inclusion in the *in situ* network will be a critical step toward the actual implementation of the European Network for *In Situ* Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources.

– **Links with other non-ECPGR projects or individuals:** If applicable, clearly explain the objectives of the linked projects and the reasons for complementarity with the ECPGR Activity.

The Farmer's Pride project (<http://www.farmerspride.eu>), funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union (2017-2020), is establishing the European Network for *In Situ* Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources. It intends to bring together stakeholders and sites across the region and coordinate actions to conserve diversity for crop enhancement and adaptation in the future. The ECPGR Activity is going to complement the project activities by involving as many experts as possible in order to make sound and widely approved decisions for the establishment of the European Network for *In Situ* Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources.

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Expected products and related ECPGR Objectives

List concrete products and results that are obtained by the Activity and the corresponding number(s) of the ECPGR Outcome(s) and/or Output(s) and/or Activities to which each product/result will contribute.

	Expected products/results	Corresponding ECPGR output, activity
1	Draft document with requirements for inclusion of select sites within the European PGR <i>in situ</i> conservation network	Output 3.3 Integrated European strategy for CWR conservation produced. Activity 3.3.1 Drafting of integrated European strategy for CWR conservation strategy, integrating national and regional level activities.
2	Draft list of agreed regional (European) and national MAWPs included in the <i>in situ</i> network.	Output 3.3 Integrated European strategy for CWR conservation produced. Activity 3.3.2 Agreement on regional (European) and national MAWPs (Most Appropriate crop Wild relative Populations) to form European <i>in situ</i> network.
3	Recommendations for the National government agencies and authorities responsible for PGR conservation and utilization.	Output 3.4 National and European MAWP networks established. Activity 3.4.1 Official designation of national and regional (European) MAWPs at national level.

Workplan for the proposed period of the Activity

Brief description of meetings and/or main actions of the Activity.

	Type of Action (indicate if “meeting” or “other action”)
1	Other action – Pre-Meeting: Farmer's Pride project coordinating team sends copies of a draft requirement for inclusion of select sites within the European PGR <i>in situ</i> conservation network to all Activity partners with the request to review it and nominate at least one site for inclusion into the network. Each Activity partner then makes their input into the draft document, as they see necessary, identifies a site for nomination and sends required data with the reviewed draft document back to Farmer's Pride project coordinating team.
2	Meeting 1: This is the first of the two core parts of the Activity. Both, Activity and Farmer's Pride project partners, elaborating the reviewed draft document approve its final version. Draft list of agreed regional (European) and national MAWPs for inclusion in the <i>in situ</i> network is prepared and approved. Recommendations for the National government agencies and authorities responsible for PGR conservation and utilization are prepared and approved.
3	Other action – Between-Meeting: Activity partners nominate sites for inclusion in the European <i>in situ</i> network. Partners keep communicating with Farmer's Pride Project coordinating team to solve any issues or questions arising with regard to site nomination.
4	Meeting 2: This is the second of the two core parts of the Activity. Activity partners attend the launch meeting of the Network providing input to the European Policy on <i>in situ</i> CWR conservation and benefit from attending the Farmer's Pride Dissemination conference.
5	Other action – Post-Meeting: Activity report is prepared by the Activity Coordinator and project partners for the ECPGR Secretariat.

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Additional remarks

Indicate any additional remark(s) that is/are important for the evaluation/implementation of the proposed Activity

Remarks:

The Activity is planned to be implemented together with the respective projects of the two other ECPGR Working Groups, namely, On-farm Conservation and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, but this application is completely self-standing and not reliant on the success of those applications. Joining of these WGs is relevant as, in principle, the same methodological approaches are applicable for both on-farm and wild medicinal plant conservation like those developed for in situ conservation of crop wild relatives. Thus, the concerted efforts of experts from several related Working Groups together with the H2020 Farmer's Pride Project would significantly consolidate the achieving of ECPGR Objective 3 *To improve in situ conservation and use of crop wild relatives* by contributing to the output 3.3 *Integrated European strategy for CWR conservation produced* and the output 3.4 *National and European MAWP networks established*.

**Please send the completed form together with the budget table to the
Chair of the submitting Working Group for submission of the Activity proposal.**