

Workplan

- W. Kainz will launch the process with both *Phaseolus* and *Vigna*, starting with cultivars since they have names and are therefore easier to distinguish as unique. After a preliminary analysis, he will contact all the identified maintainers with a proposal to include the given accession in the European Collection (**by the end of summer 2013**);
- W. Świącicki will do the same for *Lupinus* (**by end June 2014**);
- M. Ambrose will do the same for *Pisum* (**by end 2013**);
- G. Duc will do the same for *Vicia faba*, with a reservation regarding the time schedule (to be reviewed before the end of 2013).
- E. Tuğay Karagül will check whether it is possible to analyse the *Lens* database (**by end 2013**).
- The Secretariat agreed to help formulate a letter for contacting the partners, when requested.

AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS)

Brief overview of AQUAS

L. Maggioni explained the principles of the AEGIS Quality System (AQUAS). They include the need for consensus, agreement on minimum standards, acknowledged need for capacity building, minimum bureaucracy and establishment of a monitoring system. Elements of AQUAS include: a template to be compiled by each associate member as its current operational genebank manual, generic and crop-specific operational standards to be agreed by the WG, an AEGIS safety-duplication policy, an AEGIS distribution policy (in preparation³) and a reporting and monitoring mechanism (in preparation).

Overview of the draft FAO Genebank Standards

S. Kratovalieva presented an overview of the [Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#), endorsed by the XIVth Regular Session of the FAO Commission in April 2013. The standards relate to conservation of orthodox and non-orthodox seeds and vegetatively propagated plants.

She summarized the agreed standards for the ten sections in which the document is divided: 1. Acquisition, 2. Seed drying and storage, 3. Viability monitoring, 4. Regeneration, 5. Characterization, 6. Evaluation, 7. Documentation, 8. Distribution, 9. Safety duplication and 10. Security/personnel.

She suggested that the standards could be further elaborated by the WG, specifically for the wild species, covering the following areas:

1. Acquisition (size of seed samples)
2. Viability monitoring (difficulties due to the nature of seeds)
3. Regeneration or multiplication (condition, sample size, special handling)
4. Characterization and evaluation (descriptors)
5. Distribution (size of seed samples).

Discussion

Members were informed that local genebank manuals, based on the provided template, were under development at the John Innes Centre (JIC, UK), at the Estonian Crop Research Institute and at the Nordic Genetic Resources Centre (NordGen, Sweden).

³ Update at time of publication (December 2013): the document, now entitled *Guidelines for Distribution of Material from the European Collection*, is pending final approval by the Steering Committee.

It was clarified that the genetic integrity requirement refers to each single accession and not to the collection as a whole.

Phytosanitary aspects were highlighted as being particularly critical for grain legumes because of the incidence of viral and bacterial infections and the high cost of disease eradication. The associated costs of acquiring such certificates were noted. Given the new economic climate, these costs would inevitably have to be passed gradually on to recipients;

Considering the different germplasm import and export rules, the Group was asked to reflect on a strategy to help deal with these issues. The *Vitis* WG, for example, is developing a simplified protocol for the movement of propagation material across countries within and outside the EU, which will be submitted to the European Central Phytosanitary Service.

M. Ambrose stressed the importance of developing standards for the viability and sample size of mutation stocks that require special attention (e.g. pea) as an addendum to the general standards of other materials.

Regarding the number of seeds to be supplied when distributing autogamous grain legumes, M. Perez de la Vega thought that 30 seeds should suffice, although for outbreeding species it would be more questionable.

G. Poulsen thought that the FAO standards for the number of individuals to be used for regeneration were too general since they depended on the sample status and that the WG should set a guideline.

S. Kratovalieva suggested that minimum distances between plants during regeneration should be suggested more precisely for both self- and cross-pollinated species.

The occurrence of variable rates of outcrossing in predominantly autogamous legumes was also considered. M. Ambrose reminded the Group that the Task Force that looked at regeneration procedures had captured experiences and recommendations in the paper by Suso et al. (2011) mentioned earlier (page 2).

The Task Force also hoped to collect information from various genebanks on the rate of outcrossing and on pollinators, flora morphology and wild species.

Recommendations

- The Group agreed that crop-specific standards would need to be developed and “groups of interest” should be established to lead this task (see below, thematic interest group 3, “AEGIS Quality System”).
- The Group recommended that the Associate Member genebanks complete their genebank manuals based on the AEGIS template as soon as possible.

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- Mike Ambrose will circulate members’ experiences about regeneration standards compiled in the paper by Suso et al. (2011), and will propose a standard for endorsement by the WG (**by end November 2013**).