

Competitive AEGIS Grant Scheme - Evaluation report of 2nd Call

Introduction

The ECPGR Steering Committee had approved the competitive grant scheme for AEGIS during its 11th meeting in 2008. The 1st Call was announced in June 2009, 17 proposals were submitted of which three proposals were actually granted. As only a part of the available budget was spent the Advisory Committee had proposed to the Steering Committee to have a 2nd Call and this was approved.

The 2nd Call was announced on 13 October 2010 with a deadline for submission of proposals on 31 December 2010. A total of 11 proposals have been received of which one was not eligible. The Call used the same application requirements and only very slightly revised selection criteria were agreed upon. For details please see the 2nd Call in Annex 1.

Details of the Grant, including the assumptions and principles, the objectives, duration, total amount of Euros, etc., the requirements for the individual proposals, the selection and review procedure, as well as the implementation steps are included in Attachment 1.

Proposals received and evaluation process

A total of 11 proposals were received. For details of the proposals see Table 1 below. One proposal was found not to be eligible, as no answers were being provided on some pertinent questions. Later in the process this proposal was withdrawn from competition. This meant that only 10 proposals were evaluated by the Advisory Committee.

The Secretariat had suggested that all members of the Advisory Committee would evaluate all proposals and that it was left to the individual members to decide if and for which proposals they would have a potential conflict of interest. In those cases it was left to the individual members to decide whether or not to provide a score. This situation occurred for only one proposal with two members indicating a possible conflict of interest and one decided to not score that proposal. Furthermore, the Secretariat had carefully assessed all the proposals whether or not they would fulfil the requirement of directly contributing to the objectives of AEGIS.

A first assessment of the proposals was carried out by the Secretariat staff and then forwarded to the Advisory Committee members for their evaluation and scoring.

The evaluation result

Based on the assessment and carefully applying the selection criteria the Advisory Committee concluded that of the 10 eligible proposals only five proposals did comply with all the requirements, were of good quality and are expected to make a substantial contribution to the establishment and development of AEGIS. These proposals are:

1. Establishment of the European Forages Collection; MTT AgriFood Research, Finland.
2. "PGR Duplicate Finder" a software package to assist in the identification of putative duplicates in germplasm databases; Centre for Genetic Resources, The Netherlands, (CGN).
3. Improving the prerequisites for a European rye collection; Nordic Genetic Resources Centre (NordGen).

4. Identification of 200 (or 240) old potato clones having unreliable variety name by means of fingerprinting using 12 (or 9) microsatellite (SSR) markers to assist in setting up the AEGIS collection for potato; Centre for Genetic Resources, The Netherlands, (CGN).
5. *Brassica* selection criteria for the identification of the MAAs: relate to the *Brassica oleracea* of Iberian collection; Banco Português de Germoplasma Vegetal, INRB, I.P, Portugal.

The total budget of the five successful proposals is €57,830. As the remaining funds after the implementation of the projects of the 1st Call are €68,510.34 a little over €10,000 are left.

As can be observed in the last column of the attached evaluation Table it is being proposed that two of the projects (i.e. on rye – proposal number 3 - and potato – proposal number 4) are requested to consider the inclusion of an additional step in their project, i.e. the actual selection of European Accessions for the respective crops. The respective project proposal submitters will be requested to consider this additional step, to provide a budget figure for it and the Secretariat will reflect this in the respective letter of agreements that will be concluded as part of the project implementation step. For another proposal (i.e. number 1) a suggestion has been made to link its activities with proposal number 2 in order to take advantage of the software that will be developed to facilitate the selection of European Accessions. Finally, for proposal number 5 it is suggested to provide more clearly written specific objectives.

Title of Proposal	Institute	Project Coordinator	Country	Budget	Funding requested	Endorsement	date of receipt	average score
Establishment of the European Forage Collection	MTT AgriFood Research Finland	Merja Vetelainen	Finland	€ 18,000.00	€ 15,000.00	Chair of Forages WG	21-Dec-10	4.3
"PGR Duplicate Finder" a software package to assist in the identification of putative duplicates in germplasm databases	Centre for Genetic Resources, The Netherlands (CGN)	Theo van Hintum	Netherlands	€ 19,710.00	€ 10,330.00	Miscellaneous	13-Dec-10	4.24
Improving the prerequisites for a European rye collection	Nordic Genetic Resource Center (NordGen)	Axel Diederichsen	Sweden	€ 10,050.00	€ 10,050.00	Cereals Network Coordinator	20-Dec-10	4.06
Identification of 200 (or 240) old potato clones having unreliable variety name by means of fingerprinting using 12 (or 9) microsatellite (SSR) markers to assist in setting up the AEGIS collection for potato cultivars	Centre for Genetic Resources, The Netherlands (CGN)	Roel Hoekstra	Netherlands	€ 13,000.00	€ 10,000.00	Chair of Potato WG	31-Dec-10	3.68
<i>Brassica</i> selection criteria for the identification of the MAAs: relate to the <i>Brassica oleracea</i> of Iberian collection	Banco Portugues de Germoplasma Vegetal, INRB - other project partners: CSIC/Spain - Universidade do Porto/Portugal - CGN/Netherlands - Warwick HRI/UK	Violeta Rolim Nunes Lopes	Portugal (and partners)	€ 12,450.00	€ 12,450.00	Chair of <i>Brassica</i> WG	29-Dec-10	3.08

Title of Proposal	Institute	Project Coordinator	Country	Budget	Funding requested	Endorsement	date of receipt	average score
Molecular markers, morphological and agronomic characters evaluation of Russian local flax varieties for the effective management of the ex-situ germplasm collection	N.I. Vavilov All Russia Scientific Research Institute of Plant Industry	Nina Brutch	Russian Federation	€ 10,000.00	€ 10,000.00	Chair of Flax WG	20-Dec-10	2.48
Creation of trait collection of chickpea for economic valuable traits	Institute of Plant Production nd.a.V.Y. Yuriev	Lubov Kobyzeva	Ukraine	€ 20,000.00	€ 10,000.00	Oil and Protein Crops Network Coordinator	28-Dec-10	2.16
Creation of trait collection of winter bread wheat for hardiness to biotic and abiotic factors and economic valuable traits	Institute of Plant Production nd.a.V.Y. Yuriev	Victor Ryabchoun	Ukraine	€ 20,000.00	€ 10,000.00	Chair of Wheat WG	29-Dec-10	2.04
Establishment of National Database system of Ex-situ collection in Georgia	Georgian State Agrarian University	Avtandil Korakhashvili	Georgia	€ 9,000.00	€ 9,000.00	Cereals Network Coordinator	29-Dec-10	1.98
Elaboration of methods of keeping, reproduction and renewal of standards of hemp collection	Institute of Bast Crops - NAAS	Iryna Layko	Ukraine	?	€ 15,000.00	Sugar Starch Fibre Crops Network Coordinator	20-Dec-10	1.54
Initial seed growing and cultivating by newest technologies of local vegetable crops: tomato, cabbage and white headed onion, by registered and selected method from Gen-bank of Georgia	Farmin Institute	Nato Kakabadze	Georgia	€ 41,000.00	?	Missing	26-Nov-10	1.34