

## **Standards for the conservation of Vitis accessions**

### **Introduction to AEGIS standards**

Jan Engels updated the meeting on the current situation of the generic technical genebank standards that form an integral part of the AEGIS Quality Management System (AQUAS). During the development of the generic technical standards for seed germplasm by a number of WGs, it was decided to join the FAO Genebank Standards updating process. A number of ECPGR members commented on the draft "Orthodox seed genebanks standards", and the Secretariat participated in the Expert Consultation. An advance draft was discussed by the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture during its meeting in July 2011. A revised draft document was issued, including a section on the evaluation standards requested by the Commission. In addition, the Commission had requested the FAO to develop standards for field genebanks and for *in vitro*/cryopreservation of non-orthodox seeds and vegetatively propagated crops. The first drafts were discussed at an Expert Consultation in January 2012; a final draft with all three components will be prepared for the next Intergovernmental Technical Working Group meeting in November 2012 for discussion and endorsement. The final revised draft document "Genebank Standards" will be submitted at the next meeting of the Commission in April 2013. The current drafts can be found on the FAO and AEGIS Web sites.

### **Introduction to generic operational standards for non-orthodox seeds and clonally-propagated plants (FAO document)**

J. Ortiz had prepared a summary of the document and went through the draft technical standards for each of the ten activities. The following points were considered and discussed (*comments from the WG are indicated in italics*):

#### 1. Choice of location

*Agro-ecological conditions should be similar to the environment of origin, but it is suggested to relax the requirement to "as similar as possible".*

*Existing genebanks do not always have adequate facilities for propagation and quarantine.*

#### 2. Acquisition of germplasm

*Quarantine process should only be required when needed (i.e., it is not needed within the EU).*

#### 3. Establishment of field collections

*Sufficient number of plants. WG collections in the Group maintain between 3 (minimum) and 6 plants, spaced at 1 m.*

#### 4. Field management

*Recommendations regarding rootstocks need to be given.*

#### 5. Regeneration and propagation

#### 6. Characterization

#### 7. Evaluation

#### 8. Documentation

#### 9. Distribution

#### 10. Security and safety-duplication.

### **Recommendations**

The Group agreed that the FAO generic standards were generally acceptable for the *Vitis* WG, with the addition of the following *Vitis*-specific standards:

- Activity 3: The minimum number of plants per accession should be 4, and in case of new introductions, at least 5.
- Activity 3: The same rootstock should be used in each collection and it should be the most suitable for the given soil conditions, as well as of the highest sanitary standard (i.e., certified virus-free).

- Activity 6: A minimum of the 48 descriptors recommended by the WG should be used for characterization.
- Activity 6: A minimum of the 9 SSRs recommended by the WG should be used for molecular characterization.