



# STRENGTHENING ECPGR BY BUILDING ON PRO-GRACE OUTPUTS

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ECPGR Secretariat

18<sup>th</sup> ECPGR Steering Committee  
02 June 2026, Tbilisi, Georgia



# SWOT and discussion sessions

## Tuesday

14:30–15:30

- Introduction and background
- Small group SWOT analysis (7 persons per table)

## Wednesday

08:30–10:30

- Subgroup discussion on ECPGR priorities and operation for Phase XII
- Consider SWOT and questions in background document

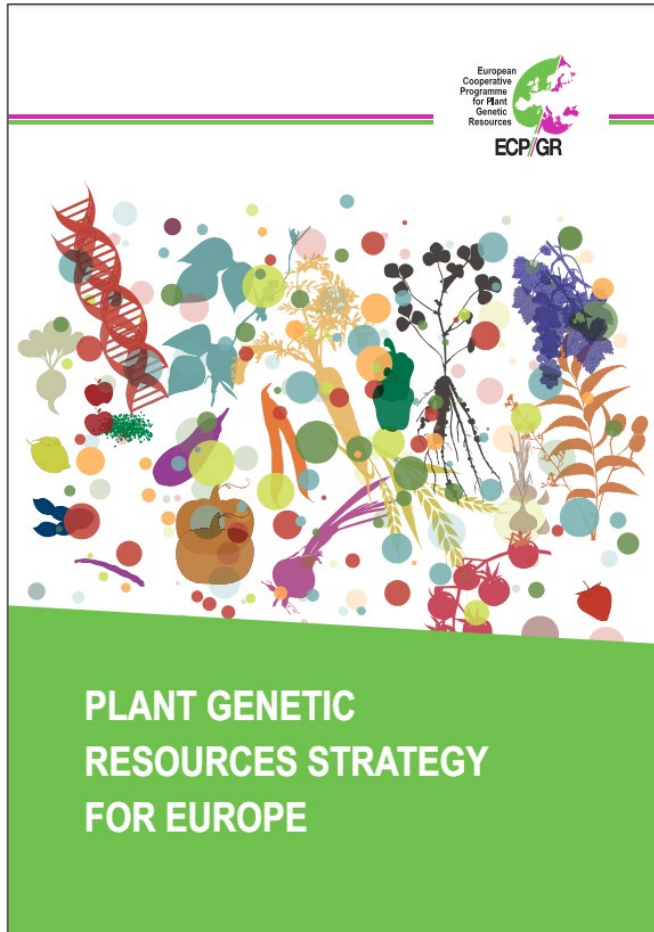
11:20–13:00

- Reports from Rapporteurs on group discussions
- General discussion on ECPGR Phase XII



# Plant Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe

Launched in Bruxelles, 30 November 2021



Developed via extensive consultations with experts and stakeholders

Implementation is subject to long-term investment and firm political will

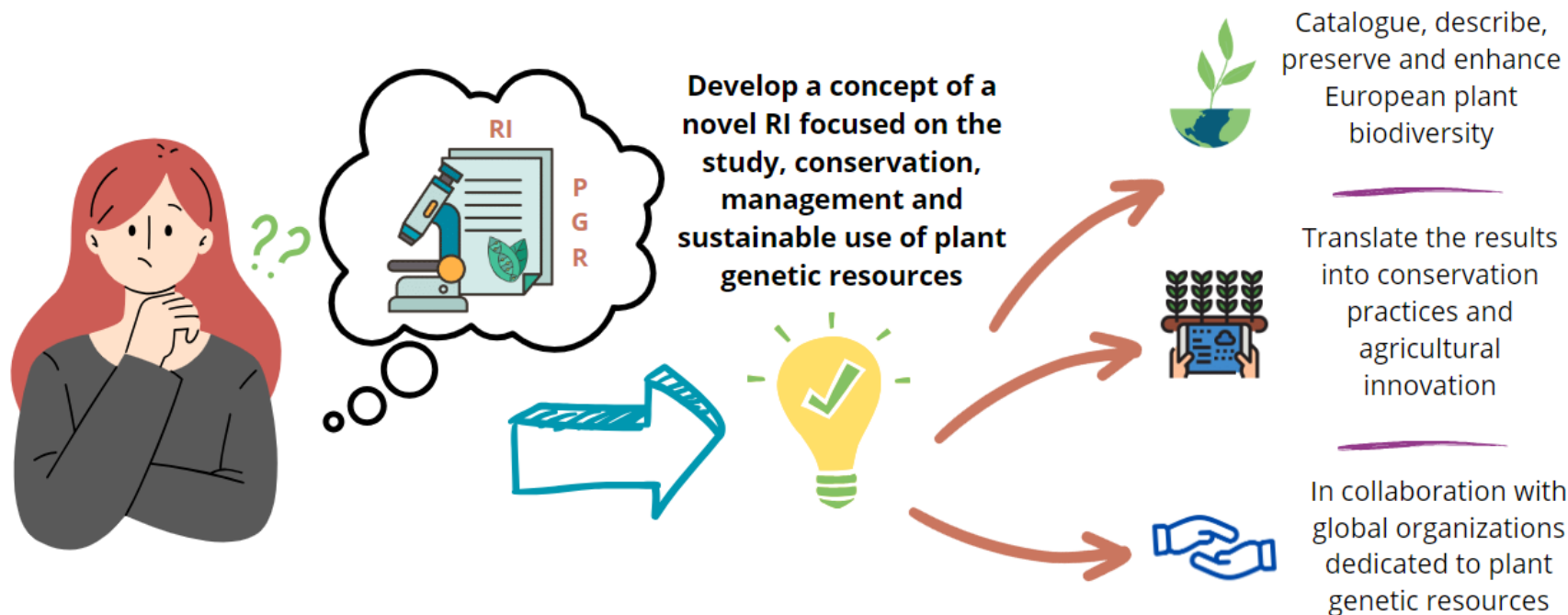
The PGR Strategy (Section 4.2) recommends:

*“establishment of a comprehensive European infrastructure for ex situ and in situ PGR conservation and sustainable use, a European PGR documentation and information infrastructure and a European human capacity-building scheme”*

Pathway to implementation via Horizon project



# Promoting a Genetic Resource Community for Europe (01/2023 – 10/2025)



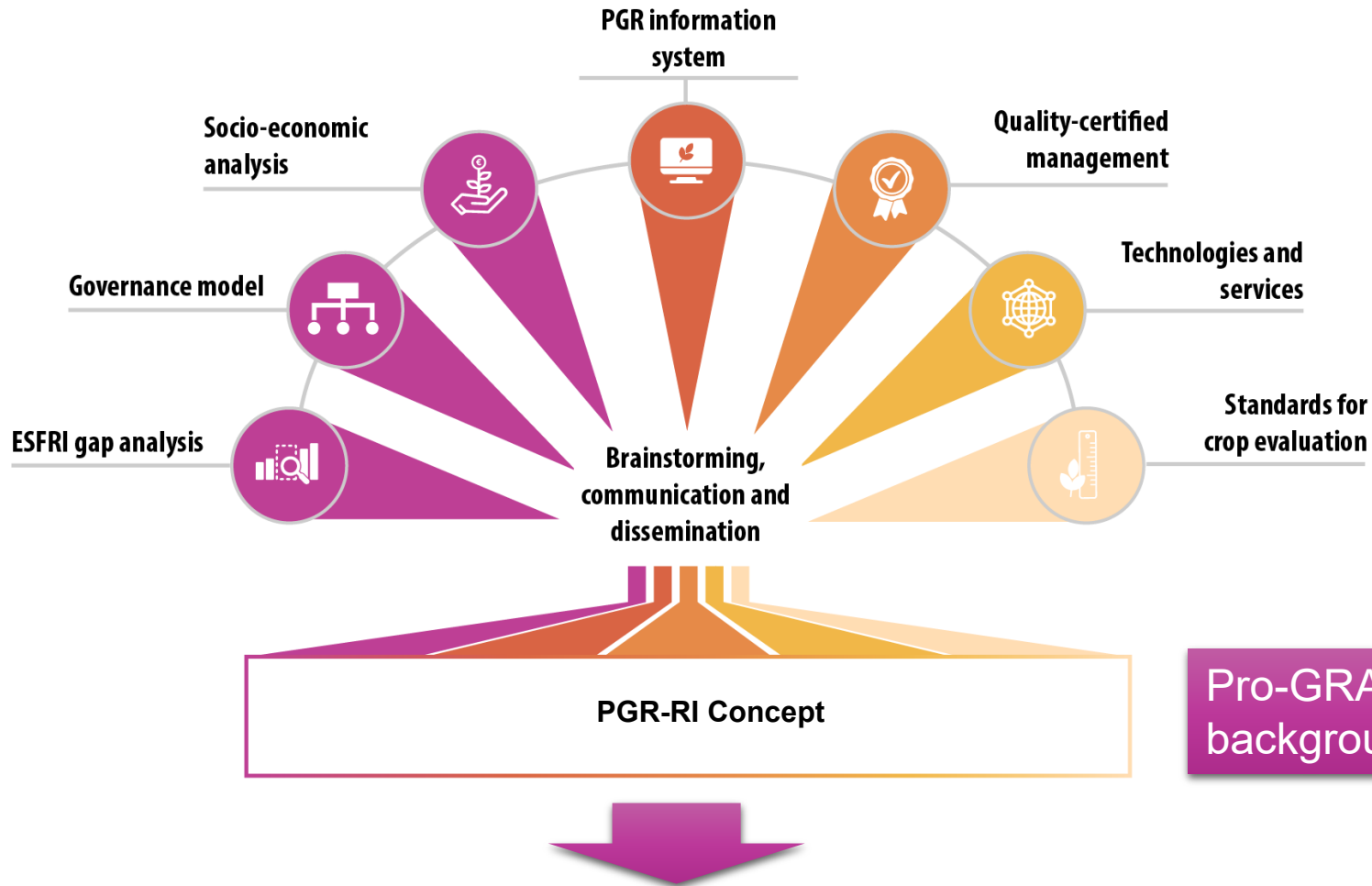
PRO-GRACE: A concept for an efficient long-term infra-structure for conservation, documentation and sustainable use of PGR

<http://www.grace-ri.eu/pro-grace.html>

# 31 Pro-GRACE partners from Europe and across the globe, combining expertise in conservation, research, breeding, cultivation and policy of Plant Genetic Resources



# Developing a concept for a PGR-RI



A strategic work package developed the service portfolio, structure, governance and business case

Technical work packages developed standards, protocols, case studies and blueprints for potential RI Services

Pro-GRACE Outputs see background document Annex 1

Application to the ESFRI Roadmap 2026 (deadline April 2025) was not submitted



European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures



**Building on  
Pro-GRACE  
outputs to  
strengthen  
ECPGR**



# Pro-GRACE Key Exploitable Results

## KER1: Standards for data management

- Improved data standardization will facilitate FAIR data sharing and interoperability, expanding the utility of EURISCO for breeding, research and policy decisions
- Expanding *in situ* coverage and addressing EURISCO data quality and gaps will create more comprehensive and reliable inventories

## KER2: Standards for quality management for PGR conservation (*in situ* and *ex situ*)

- Improved operational standards and genebank certification will enable more effective and resource-efficient *ex situ* conservation
- Adopting quality standards for *in situ* conservation will facilitate access to CWR and WFP diversity necessary for future food security

## KER3: Protocols & methods for scientific services

- Integrated workflows for innovative methods in evaluation and data analysis that can be adapted to different species and applied in PGR management and research
- Standardized datasets and workflows will support cross-institutional analysis and data sharing, enhancing collaboration

## KER4: Concept of RI, including its service portfolio, governance, structure and financial plan

- Blueprint for a centralized infrastructure connecting European PGR conservation and research with a dedicated service portfolio (ECPGR)
- Implementing the concept will transform European PGR research, boost agricultural innovation, safeguard genetic diversity and support compliance with global biodiversity policies

Use ECPGR network to exploit Pro-GRACE results and strengthen PGR conservation and use



# ECPGR has been a central and reliable coordinating hub for PGR conservation, use and research for > 40 years



**30+**

Member countries and National Coordinators



**43**

Eurisco National Focal Points, providing info on **2M+** accessions



**24**

Working Groups and **830+** members collaborating on PGR conservation and research



**35**

AEGIS member countries, with **70+** institutes conserving unique accessions with agreed quality standards

Since 1980



**130+**

EVA partner organizations evaluating crop diversity of European collections



**400+**

*Ex situ* holding institutes conserving **43** national collections



**50+**

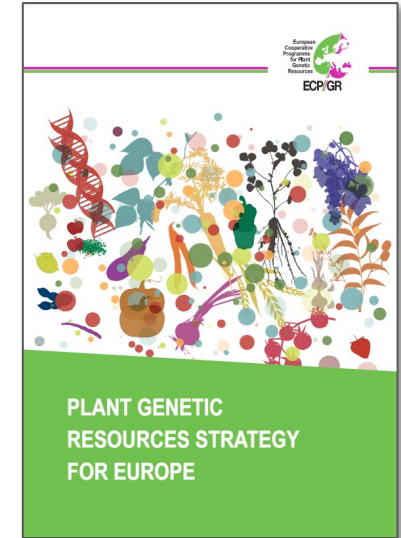
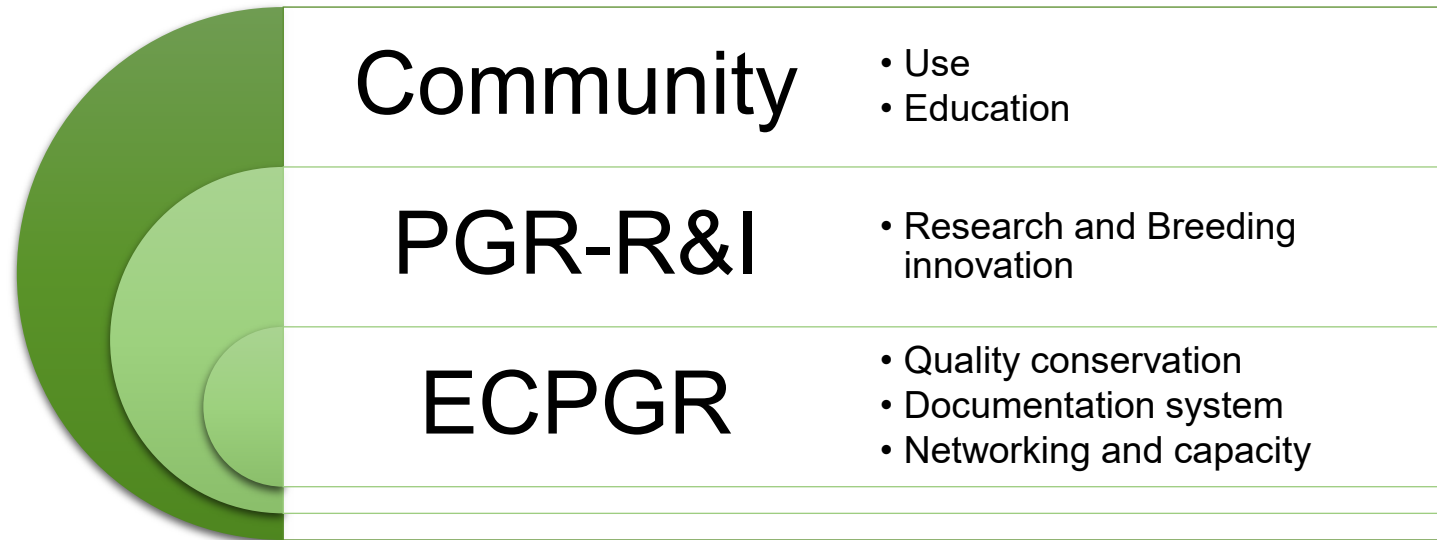
Grant Scheme Activities since 2014, **200+** publications by Working Groups



MoUs with FAO (ITPGRFA), Crop Trust, Euroseeds

Annual Budget: ~800k €

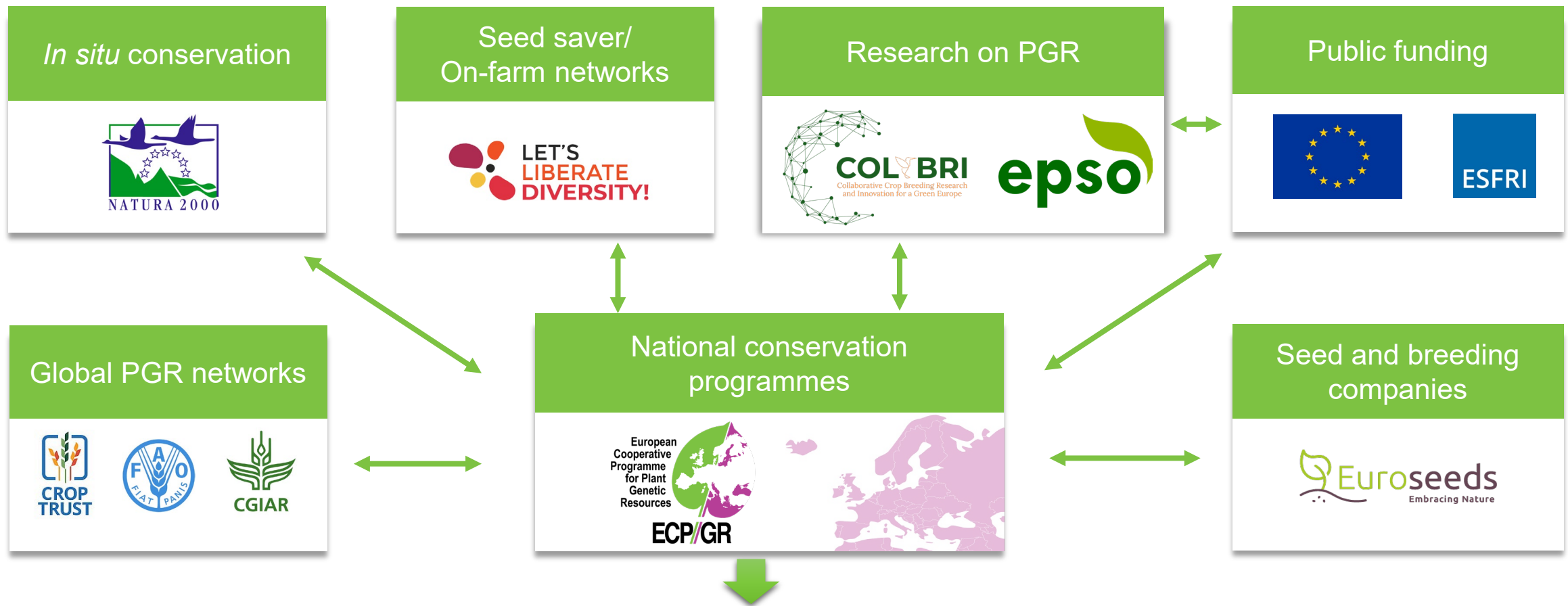
# ECPGR at the core of PGR-R&I



The network and services of ECPGR connect critical infrastructures across Europe and provide stakeholders with the know-how and tools to effectively and efficiently conserve and use PGR.

Is there an added value of creating an ESFRI over the existing ECPGR network?

# ECPGR: Connecting European PGR initiatives



- Improving the conservation and documentation of PGR conserved *ex situ*, *in situ* and on-farm
- Improving access to PGR for breeding and research
- Improving biodiversity across Europe, in nature, in fields, on people's plates



# Lessons learned

- The Research and Breeding use community is **demanding** better coordinated access to well-documented PGR
- **PGR** represent a **critical infrastructure** that underpin European agriculture and food security – this should be **more explicit** in national and EU strategic assessments and plans
- The **value** of our European PGR is substantial and can be **enhanced** through implementation of the RI services
- **ECPGR** is a European PGR **infrastructure** at the core of plant breeding R&I
- It will be easier to build on and enhance the existing ECPGR framework than to start a PGR-RI from scratch
- **Targeted outreach** necessary at all levels to secure political and financial support for PGR
- **Co-creation** should involve bottom-up (user input) and top-down (policy support) approaches

# SWOT analysis



# SWOT analysis of ECPGR and the European PGR system



- Leverage our strengths to pursue new opportunities
- Actively manage/mitigate potential risks
- Define pre-emptive actions to protect ECPGR against threats
- Identify new opportunities for strategic investment and partnerships

# Small group SWOT analysis

**Prepopulated SWOT** (ExCo + Secretariat)

Your job is to stress-test and prioritize!

**Group discussions** - capture your input:

- What's missing or wrong?
- What are the **top 3 most important items** per quadrant?
- Highlight any item that feels misplaced

20  
min

**Harvest phase**

Each group adds/challenges one point

Don't repeat points already mentioned!

15  
min

**Prioritization**

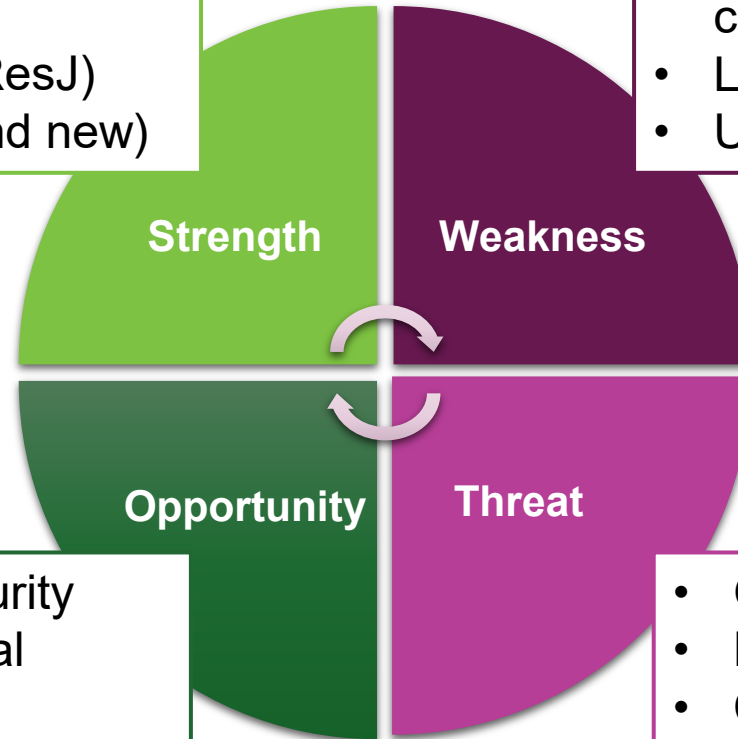
Vote for your top priorities across the SWOT (also during coffee)

10  
min



- Rich plant genetic diversity and data
- Established ECPGR framework/governance
- 40+ years of multi-country collaboration
- Network of technical expertise
- Effective PGR infrastructure (EURISCO, AEGIS, EVA, GenResJ)
- Strong partnerships (existing and new)

- Financial limitation to scale up ECPGR services
- Low visibility and outreach of ECPGR
- Limited political recognition of ECPGR contributions and linkages
- Legal status of ECPGR
- Unequal capacity of national programmes



- Global crises affecting food security
- Genebanks recognized as critical infrastructure
- GBF reporting on genetic diversity
- Horizon CSA project Colibri
- Exploitation of project results
- New tools and innovations
- 50-year anniversary of ECPGR in 2030

- Genetic erosion and loss of biodiversity
- Political priorities at national level
- Competition for limited funds

Prepopulated with input from ExCo and Secretariat

Empty rectangular box for notes related to Strength.

Empty rectangular box for notes related to Weakness.



Empty rectangular box for notes related to Opportunity.

Empty rectangular box for notes related to Threat.

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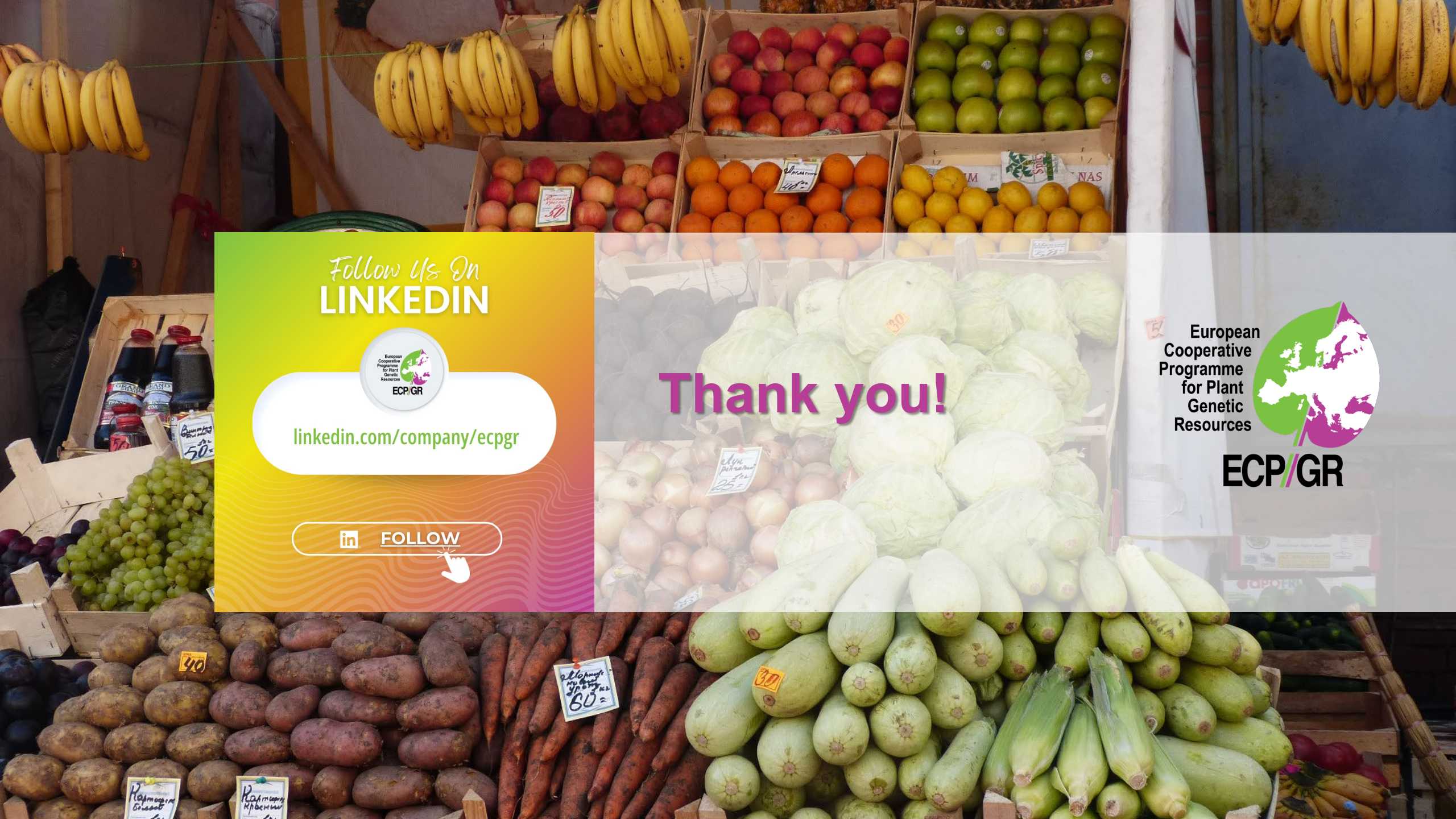
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**Thank you!**

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