



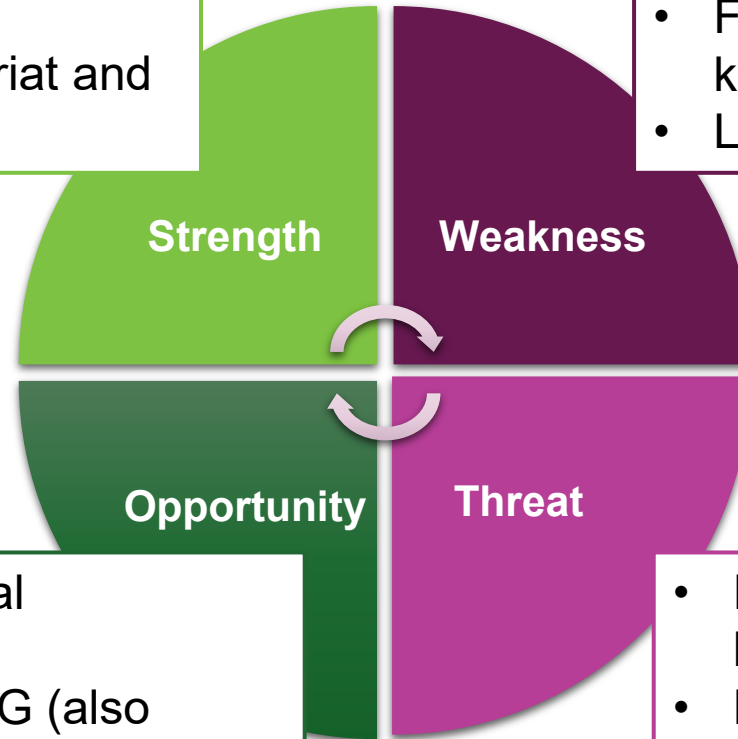
SUBGROUP SOUTH

*ECPGR 18th Steering Committee Meeting
Tbilisi, 3 June 2026*



- International network and WGs with technical expertise
- Effective PGR infrastructure (EURISCO, AEGIS, EVA, GenResJ)
- Online resources for practitioners (standards, protocols etc.)
- Strong connection btw. Secretariat and NCs.

- Limited political recognition of ECPGR contributions and linkages at national level
- Unequal capacity of national programmes and engagement in ECPGR
- Financial limitation (dependence on in kind contributions and bilateral funds)
- Low visibility and outreach of ECPGR



- Genebanks recognized as critical infrastructure
- EU projects developed within WG (also Colibri)
- Outreach (50-year anniversary of ECPGR in 2030, FAO side events, Svalbard)
- ECPGR to enable PGR use and support national programmes

- Political priorities at national and EU level
- Limited funds for PGR and lack of stable financing
- Geopolitical developments
- Limitation for PGR regeneration

Questions for discussion session

- How can the ECPGR framework be improved to help countries save and use PGR more effectively?
 - The framing of what ECPGR should be focused on national development agendas.
- What useful ideas from Pro-GRACE and other European projects should ECPGR include in its next Phase XII?
- What actions at national or regional level are needed to make PGR recognized as essential for food security?
 - Build case studies at the national level to demonstrate how PGRFA can lead to the production of local products – link PGRFA to food consumption.
 - Organize “demonstration days” across ECPGR countries on the same day – Could be done, for example, for the 50th Anniversary. The Secretariat could subsidize these events.
- What kind of investment is needed for ECPGR to make a real leap forward in helping countries implement the PGR Strategy?
 - Availability of resources from the Secretariat to send kind reminders to NC on the commitments made at the SC meetings and to request NC to report regularly to the Secretariat on the activities undertaken (could be though a light survey thereafter analyzed by a task force)

Questions for discussion session

- What outreach activities could the ECPGR Secretariat and the SC do to become more visible, build partnerships, and attract funding?
 - Organizing side events at FAO during relevant meetings (e.g. ITPGRFA, FAO Commission) and participating as observers in these international meetings. This can be done in collaboration with the Treaty, the Crop Trust, etc.
 - Showcase the connection between the ECPGR activities with the practical use of PGRFA (e.g. through case studies).
 - Try to connect, at the Secretariat level, with other related networks (for example [GenMeda](#) that works with CWR) to identify synergies.
 - Inviting someone from the EC to assist to the SC meetings (could be useful also to get feedback/information from their end)
 - More consistent awareness national campaigns on the PGR programs, capitalizing on the popularity of Svalbard.
 - SC members should make sure that they raise awareness about the existence of ECPGR and its activities at relevant events and meetings they attend at the national level. Media in this regard is very important.
- Using our existing MoUs (with Crop Trust, Euroseeds, ITPGRFA), what joint activities make sense based on shared interests and different strengths?
 - Making sure that someone from the Secretariats of these institutions assists to the SC meetings.
 - Jointly advocate to the EC for a contribution to the Endowment Fund, enabling the Trust to support the AEGIS collections.
- What background work is needed before we can include these ideas in ECPGR's work plan for Phase XII?

Questions for discussion session

Additional critical question should be added:

- What can of question should be made to increase the political visibility of ECPGR (and therefore, funding)
 - Outreach would help.



TASK 1: Phase XII preferred mode of operation

INSTRUCTIONS: Please write here any adjustments to the ECPGR framework the subgroup suggests and why

- NC should be incentivized to be more proactive within each country to comply with its coordinating role.
- Mode of operation/structure of WG should be analyzed, discussed and reconsidered: why do we have several groups for cereals? For example.
- The interest of Members of WG should be checked regularly.
- Analyze reasons behind the decreased interest on the Grant scheme to try to find solutions to solve it. Perhaps the low budget does not help, for example.
- Increase the presence of the Secretariat (or relevant WG members) in international for a (e.g. ITPGRFA, CGRFA).

TASK 2: Brainstorm on ECPGR priority activities for Phase XII

Ex situ conservation:

- Implementation of the AEGIS Quality Systems
- Jointly advocate to the EC for a contribution to the Endowment Fund, enabling the Trust to support the AEGIS collections.

In situ conservation:

- Development of national inventories of CWR and landraces

Sustainable use:

- Establish a Task Force involving different relevant stakeholder to define indicators and associated baseline data to be collected for monitoring activities under the PGR Strategy

Information systems:

- Further strengthen the implementation of EURISCO (e.g. include more data, making it more user friendly, and more intuitive, continue to work on the C&E interface, and the same for in situ and CWR...)