

BerryTraits

Collaborative action
for developing trait descriptors
for berry genetic resources in Europe

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Activity coordinator

Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)



Agenda

- **Introduction to the project, activity coordinator *Tuuli Haikonen***
(10 minutes)
- **Crop team chairs *Stefanie Reim, Erik Schulte, Hedi Kaldmäe, Claudio Niggli and Monica Sturzeanu*** (30 minutes)
- **PGRFA crop descriptor specialist *Adriana Raquel Alercia*: International descriptors and their development process** (30 minutes)
- **Coordinator of the EURISCO network, *Stephan Weise*: How to compile phenotypic data for EURISCO** (30 minutes)
- **With ECPGR Secretary *Lorenzo Maggioni*: Project formalities and modalities** (10 minutes)
- **Questions and discussion**

Developing berry standards with and for the community.



<https://www.ecpgr.org/working-groups/berries/berrytraits>

Crop teams – updated status 3.4.2026

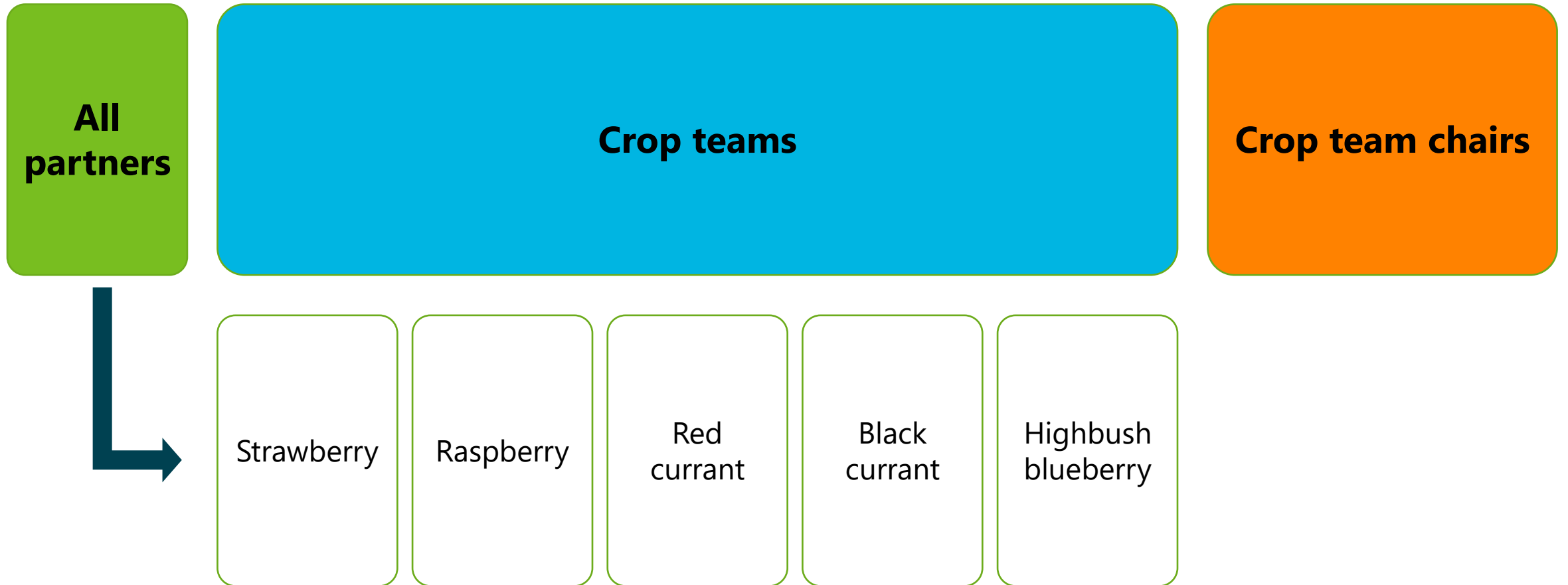
- **Strawberry:** S. Reim (DE)
 - M. Höfer (DE), R. Rugienius (LT), J. Sánchez Sevilla/M. Soria Navarro (ES), E. Shulte (DE), J. Perrotte (FR), F. Capocasa/L. Mazzoni (IT), L. Ansebo (SE), L. Gilpin (NO)
- ***Rubus* spp., raspberry and blackberry:** E. Schulte (DE)
 - J. Sedlák (CZ), D. Røen (NO), V. Laugale/I. Kalnina (LV), T. Ternjak (SI), B. Mezzetti/L. Mazzoni (IT), P. B. Oliveira (PT)
- **Black currant:** H. Kaldmäe (ES)
 - E. Schulte (DE), M. Koniarski/Ł. Seliga (PL), R. Rugienius/A. Sasnauskas (LT), K. Rumpunen (SW)
- **Red currant:** C. Niggli (CH)
 - E. Schulte (DE), J. Sedlák (CZ), F. Uhlig (CH), B. Toldam-Andersen (DK)
- **Highbush blueberry and other *Vaccinium* blueberry species:** M. Sturzeanu (RO)
 - B. Krška (CZ), M. Koniarski/Ł. Seliga (PL), P.B. Oliveira (PT), N. Cvelbar Weber (SI), T. Haikonen (FI)



Four deliverables

- D1: Updated summary of pre-existing and newly acquired C&E data.
- D2: Filled-in templates are provided to support uploads of C&E data to EURISCO
- D3: Descriptor sets for five berry crops are submitted to ECPGR office for publication on ECPGR website
- D4: Public presentation of descriptor sets to participatory users.

Project organization



Timeline: 2026

Kick-off

Crop teams each develop initial descriptors:

Choose traits, units and rating scores.
Summarise existing characterization data (**D1**)
and compare to previous protocols. Choose
traits for piloting. 3 (or more) meetings.

Harmonization by crop team chairs

2 meetings

Strawberry

Raspberry

Red currant

Black
currant

Highbush
blueberry

**Descriptor
protocols**

**EURISCO
data
templates**

**Crop
ontology**

**Report
progress
to ECPGR?**

Timeline: 2027

**Introduction to
piloting**

**Pilot testing by
any partners:
season 2027**

**Feedback on
protocols and
templates**

**Crop teams: work on secondary
traits and reconsider trait
priorities, incorporate piloting
feedback**

2 (or more) meetings

**Descriptor
protocols**

**Data
templates**

**Data on 10-15
accessions per
partner, using at
least 3 plants per
a clonal
accession**

Strawberry

Raspberry

Red
currant

Black
currant

Highbush
blueberry

Timeline: 2028

Crop team chairs
2 meetings

Publication of descriptors

Final
alignment of
all protocols
and data
templates

Confirming
and assigning
Crop ontology

ECPGR website

Public seminar

Other
publications?

Project formalities and modalities

- In order to further proceed with the activities and the relevant payments to the Partners, we hereby inform you that we propose a simplified form of payment through **Purchase Orders (PO)** with a variable duration according to your need whereby you will receive the payment once tasks are completed, upon submission to us of an invoice (see attached example of a possible invoice)  confirming your expenditures and a short technical report summarizing what has been accomplished.
- Please note that there will be no need to provide a financial statement: it is not required to provide a breakdown of expenses. The invoice is the only requirement from a financial point of view.
- If needed, we can release an advance payment (50%) and the balance once tasks are completed as per instructions above.
- If you agree to proceed with the simplified procedure (Purchase Order), we kindly ask you to **indicate the timeframe of your activity**
- Please note that the timeframe is needed to understand the development of the activities and to organize the release the payments.
- An alternative procedure is to raise a more formal **Letter of Agreement (LoA)**, a slightly more complex legal contract which, same as POs, can also cover multiple years if needed. Even for LoAs, financial statements are not needed, however, to close the contract, a final invoice will be needed.

Invoice

Addressee:
IPGRI-Bioversity International
Via di San Domenico, 1
00153 Rome
Italy
Attn: ECPGR

Subject: ECPGR Activity "XX)"

Name of Institute: _____

Address: _____

Description of the activities carried out:

Total expenses: Euro XXX

Full banking instructions:

Currency of Bank Account	
Bank Account Number	
Name of Account Holder	
Bank Name	
Bank Address	
IBAN Code	
SWIFT Code	

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Project duration 01.05.2026 – 30.04.2028

Developing berry standards with and for the community.



<https://www.ecpgr.org/working-groups/berries/berrytraits>

Discussion topics

- **Time frame of the project in relation to completing activities:**
 - The time frame proposed in the application, 01.05.2026 – 30.04.2028
- **How to ensure our harmonized descriptors will become adopted?**
 - Multipurpose use of descriptors?
 - Focus on morphological variety-typical and environmentally stable traits, sc. characterization traits
- **Any other topics?**