

SOLANACEAE WG REPORT (2024–2025)

In preparation for the 18th Steering Committee Meeting, Tbilisi, Georgia, 2-4 June 2026

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1. CONTRIBUTION TO ECPGR OBJECTIVES

1.1. Achievements and success stories

- To efficiently conserve and provide access to unique germplasm in Europe through AEGIS and the European Collection

Established a core collection of European landraces consisting of 400 individuals and representing the diversity of 13 countries of western Europe, the Mediterranean basin and the Balkan region. This collection, characterized at the genomic level (EuroPepLand project), is currently being multiplied by the contributing partners, and the most appropriate mechanisms to provide access to the community will be evaluated.

- To provide passport and phenotypic information of actively conserved European PGRFA diversity *ex situ* and *in situ* through the EURISCO catalogue

The WG community has genetic materials already uploaded to EURISCO, although additional efforts are required. Regarding the above-mentioned landrace collection, passport data and main phenotypic descriptors are available and need to be included in EURISCO.

- To improve *in situ* conservation and use of crop wild relatives

At least for Solanaceae, the *in situ* conservation does not apply as Europe is not a centre of origin for the main crops such as tomato, pepper, eggplant and potato. Wild relatives are mostly used in breeding programmes to transfer traits of interest (e.g. resistances). Some wild relatives have also been genotyped in the EVA Pepper project using the same technology of EuroPepLand. This allows us to merge the dataset and provide knowledge on the diversity.

- To promote on-farm conservation and management of European PGRFA diversity
- To promote use of PGRFA

For these two points, discussions with WG members have been done, mostly addressing activities to promote PGRFA within each country and protocols to use for *ex situ* conservation.

1.2. Gaps or constraints identified

The main constraints will be to identify partners capable of long-term conservation of the collections built within ongoing and future projects. While the data (genomic and phenomic) can be uploaded to databases, at least for the collections characterized at high depth, seeds should be stored in unique sites that guarantee community access. This is a point of discussion to address.

2. GRANT SCHEME ACTIVITIES, WG MEETINGS AND EVA ACTIVITIES

- **Grant Scheme proposals (submitted: 1; approved: 1)**
 - [EUROPEPLAND](#) (Implementing a trans-EUROpean PEPper LANDrace collection for resilient agriculture)

- **Total number of partners involved in Grant Scheme: 19 from 13 countries**
 - ECPGR-funded: 16 from 12 countries
 - Self-funded: 3 from 2 countries

- **Meetings held**
 - EUROPEPLAND Virtual meeting, 14 May 2025
 - EUROPEPLAND kick-off meeting, jointly with the EVA Pepper meeting, 30-31 October 2024, El Ejido, Spain.

- **Total number of partners involved in WG Meeting: n/a**

- **Reports and related data**
 - [Summary report](#) of the 2024 Annual meeting of the European Evaluation Network (EVA) for Pepper and EuroPepLand kick-off meeting, 30-31 October 2024, El Ejido, Spain

- **Funds mobilized**
 - ECPGR granted funds: €29,947.5
 - Inputs in-kind declared in Grant activities: €51,500

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES (CROSS-WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES, LINKS WITH OTHER NETWORKS, PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES)

- **Cross-Working Group activities:** Link with EVA Pepper network

- **Others:** n.a.

4. WORKING GROUP DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- None

5. EXPECTED ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Continue to implement and exploit PGRFA collections