

ECPGR Forages Meeting: 27/04/2027 online

Attending :

Susanne Barth, Anna Palmé, Martin Greve, Sandru Dan, Nigel Maxted, Mareike Kavka, Christina Kaegi, Mirjana Petrovic, Mohammed El-Khalifeh, Aurelia Priet, Lydia Smith, Agnese Gailite, Wilhelm Grais, Marie Pegard, Acer (?), An Ghesquière, Elisabeth Ninou, Simona Raab, Tomas Vymyslicky, Nina Parlova

- 1) Power Pont presentation by Susanne with input of forages working group ahead of the meeting (ppt shared with this meeting notes)
- 2) Gene bank managers network was introduced as there was interest expressed ahead of the meeting in learning gene bank techniques and standards (contacts in ppt).
- 3) Renewed interest in forage mixtures and minor forage species contained in these mixtures (potential overlap with CWR discussed): This is a topic to be explored with 'On farm forages working group' and 'documentation working group'. Potential species mentioned were sainfoin, vetch, birdsfoot trefoil, plantain, chicory. Several of these species are mentioned in conjunction with soil improvement.
(NIAB has currently a desk-top study contract on minor species)
(links to be explored for sainfoin with Canada and USA?)
- 4) To be explored: how many of these minor species are conserved and where they come from in gene banks. Conduct gap analysis based on this information
- 5) Mirjana Petrovic mentioned a programme ongoing at her institute the last 15 years with Czech colleagues on minor species: collection and characterization. Could something like this be extended into an EVA network? Field characterization and passport data. 2-years project?
- 6) Potential in person working group meeting in 2027: meeting topic minor species and potential addition applications for funding outside the ECPGR framework.

Action points:

- 1) Circulate 1 page on the EVA network: what does it make possible and what it entails to forages working group
- 2) Circulate potential project outline in a 1-page format before the executive meeting in Georgia in June 2026 to see if there would be interest from the ECPGR executive committee in a minor species project to be submitted.
- 3) Plan a second online working group meeting for the autumn 2- or 3 weeks after the next ECPGR call announcement to coordinate application for in person meeting and project application.