

## ForEVA – Towards the implementation of a European Evaluation Network for Legumes

Rome, 03 May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you today to inquire about your interest in participating in a **European Evaluation (EVA) Network for Legumes**, developed in collaboration with the Grain Legumes Working Group of the [European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources](#) (ECPGR) through its activity '*Fostering the need of implementation of the ECPGR European Evaluation Network (EVA) on Grain legumes*' (**ForEVA**).

The intention of this network is of making available and multiplying grain legume accessions from European genebanks and providing this germplasm to European breeding companies and research institutions that would be interested to evaluate the material in their environments. All accessions will be evaluated for traits of interest for breeders and genotyped to allow the development of molecular breeding tools. The evaluation data gathered from field tests in multiple locations in Europe will be centrally collected and made available to all partners with privileged access for three years before becoming fully public via the [EURISCO](#) database. The material will be exchanged through the FAO-ITPGRFA [Standard Material Transfer Agreement](#).

Five currently operational [EVA networks](#) (on carrot, lettuce, pepper, maize and wheat/barley), established in cooperation with the European Seed Association (ESA/Euroseeds, see [here](#)) have demonstrated the usefulness of such private-public partnerships in collaborative efforts to make available genetic diversity for breeding programmes to address current and future needs in agriculture. We would welcome your participation in this initiative and are especially interested in including smaller breeding companies in the network, which stand to benefit substantially from the collaboration.

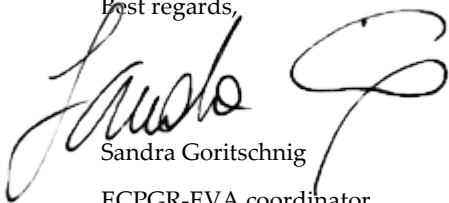
A meeting of the **ForEVA** project in September/October 2023 will gather interested stakeholders from the public and private sectors to discuss a suitable framework and work plan for this new EVA Legumes network as well as potential funding sources, which should include in-kind contributions towards evaluation trials, especially from private breeding companies.

Should you be interested in getting involved in this initiative, and participating in the **ForEVA** meeting, we invite you to complete the **ForEVA-Letter of Commitment** in Annex, providing information on your expertise, interests and possible contributions to an EVA Legumes network and return a signed copy to the ECPGR Secretariat at [s.goritschnig@cgiar.org](mailto:s.goritschnig@cgiar.org). A specific Letter of Commitment and Cooperation agreement outlining the EVA network activities and partners' rights and responsibilities, based on a document endorsed by the ECPGR Steering Committee, will be jointly drafted, agreed and signed by the network partners after the establishment of the EVA Legumes network.

Please don't hesitate to request further information from us.

We are looking forward to collaborating with you.

Best regards,



Sandra Goritschnig  
ECPGR-EVA coordinator