



## Joining forces for Genetic Resources and biodiversity management

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# ECPGR LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE

Stakeholders in Europe collaboratively, rationally and effectively conserve *ex situ* and *in situ* PGRFA, provide access and increase sustainable use.



# What are the genetic resources in this domain?

- ✓ European Crops' genetic resources (ex situ and on-farm)
- ✓ European Crops' wild relatives (ex situ and in situ)

E.g.:

- ✓ 2 Million genebank accessions recorded in the EURISCO database
- ✓ Partially inventoried (at national level) CWRs inside and outside genetic reserves
- ✓ Partially inventoried (at national level) landraces and other genetic resources in fields and home gardens

# Organization of work – national, European, global



# Political commitments and relevant framework

- FAO Global Plan of Action on PGRFA
- FAO International Treaty on PGRFA (MoU)
  - SDG 15.6
- The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2020
  - Council regulations / Preparatory Actions / Horizon 2020
  - EU Habitats Directive concerns the protection of some CWR
  - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
- EU Biodiversity Strategy Action 10: Conserve and support genetic diversity in Europe's agriculture

## Who are the actors in the domain?

**Local:** Genebank curators, Crop specialists, Plant breeders, Information/Documentation experts, NGOs, Botanic Gardens

**National:** National Coordinators, National Inventory Focal Points, Implementing Agencies (Ministries)

**Regional:** EURISCO Coordination, ESA, EUCARPIA, NordGen, NGOs, ECPGR Steering Committee and ExCo

**Global:** FAO, Bioversity, Svalbard Seed Vault

# Conservation of genetic resources

## Ex situ:

- orthodox seeds at -20°C in genebanks (ca. 400 collections)
- Vegetatively propagated crops in field genebanks and/or in vitro or under cryopreservation
- Safety duplication possibly in a different country

**In situ:** crop wild relatives in genetic reserves (e.g. wild celery in Germany)

**On-farm management:** landraces and other traditional varieties grown by farmers with self-produced seed/propagules (e. g. leafy kales in home gardens)

## Use of genetic resources

**On-farm management:** Promote good practices and adding value

**Facilitating access** of genebank (and in situ?)  
material: AEGIS approach

**EVA Network:** Evaluation Network involving private  
– public partnerships to evaluate PGRFA



# Information systems, databases and information tools

## What is already available?

EURISCO: central catalogue of ex situ PGRFA  
(standardized passport and non-standardized phenotypic  
data – Data flow mechanism of proven effect from 43  
National Inventories)

## What are the needs ahead?

- Extend quality and quantity of EURISCO data and its features
- Inclusion of in situ CWR data
- Regional inventory of on-farm landraces

# Existing strategies in the domain

## Roadmaps

AEGIS (ex situ); CWR and On-farm 'concepts' (in situ)

EURISCO (documentation); EVA Network (use)

## Priorities and perspectives

Renewed every five years in the form of ECPGR objectives

## “Useful practices”

Consensus building within the ECPGR Steering Committee;  
Technical operation via Crop and Thematic Working Groups

## Key take-''to the workshop'' messages

- ECPGR as a long-standing existing structure to formalize and mobilize consensus on regional collaboration
- Reasonably well defined strategies/roadmaps (ex situ, in situ, documentation, use)
- Current sustainability of the Network depends on variable National Commitments (limited progress can be made)

# Expectations for the workshop

What would you want to achieve for yourselves/for your domain/for collaboration?

- Identification of main areas of joint cooperation: Communication; Documentation; Lobbying; Other?
- Consensus on items for a strategy as precursor to formal commitment for implementation (legislation?)

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