

ECPGR Networks & Working Groups



ECPGR Structure



The responsibilities of the Network Coordinating Groups

- **To formulate proposals**, in consultation with WGs, or in the case of thematic networks, with other active groups, for the attention of the SC on **WG priorities and activities**, following the planning and prioritizing mechanism established by the SC;
- To define the **WGs to remain prioritized** during the 5-year Phase, according to the planning and prioritizing mechanism established by the SC.



- NCG of the Documentation and Information Network has the responsibility to act as **specific advisory body** with the function to **monitor progress** in the **development and maintenance of EURISCO**, as well as to provide advice to Bioversity International acting on behalf of the ECPGR Secretariat, for the further **development of EURISCO**.
- Provide progress reports and set clear targets of WGs



Working Groups

- Focus their activity on specific crops, crop groups or thematic areas
- Members represent the country's interest in the genetic resources activities that the WG focuses on
- Groups' activities are based on crop-specific European databases
- The databases have the dual role: (1) **information on the germplasm maintained in Europe**, (2) and providing the Groups with a **tool allowing them to take informed decisions and make recommendations regarding the management of national collections** (priority setting, rationalization, safety-duplication, etc.)



ECPGR priorities for Phase VIII

- Task sharing and capacity building;
- Characterization and evaluation (including use of modern technologies);
- In situ and On-farm conservation and management;
- Documentation and Information.



Issues to be discussed

- Is the present structure of networks and working groups effective to achieve goals based on AEGIS (ECPGR objectives)?
 - Resources used vs. outputs? See evaluation
- Which type of expertise is needed?
 - Is this the right question to be asked?
 - Thematic expertise (information management, conservation methodology...)?
 - Crop expertise (promotion of use)?



Some options

1. No changes in WG and NCG structure and decision process
2. No changes in structure, but tasks and goals defined more strictly according to new ECPGR goals
3. Minor changes in structure (e.g. NCG?) and tasks and goals defined more strictly according to new ECPGR goals
4. Adjustment of the structure and decision process to serve the new ECPGR goals
 - WGs: Cropwise, thematic or both or only task forces

More to consider

- Funding mechanism of the groups
- Number of groups
- Nomination of experts
- Number of experts in each group
- Creation of own arenas for breeders and pure gene bank technical issues? (*The present WGs discuss too broad range of issues to be interesting for e.g. plant breeders*)