

# Work plan for the ECPGR WG on Forages (2015 – 2018) – progress and future plans

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# Task specified under the headings:

- Establishing the European Forage Collection (EFC) in line with the goals of AEGIS
- Quantity and quality of data in EURISCO
- Characterization and evaluation (C&E) data
- *In situ* conservation of forage crops



# 2015 - 2016

- Many tasks have been done (Forages 2020 project)
- Many tasks have been initiated
  - Forage Data Access project
  - Crop-specific genebank standards
  - Priority descriptor list for forages
  - Marie Curie application for a PhD project:  
“Improving the use of forage CWR diversity in cultivar production”

# Future tasks 2017 - 2018

Activity (AEGIS and EURISCO)	Carried out by (leader <u>underlined</u> )	Time frame
Targeted activities aimed at increasing the number of <b><u>forage accessions in the EFC</u></b> . Exact plans made after evaluation described above.	<u>Anna Palmé</u> , Petter Marum, Merja Veteläinen, Evelin Willner, Aurélia Priet	2017-2018
<b><u>EFC flagging of perennial ryegrass</u></b> accessions identified as representative of European diversity in the GrassLandscape project	<u>Jean-Paul Sompoux</u> , Evelin Willner, An Ghesquiere, Anna Palmé, Maria Stamatova, Ian D. Thomas	2017-2018
Evaluate the possibility to flag several <b><u>different levels of core collections in EURISCO</u></b> , based on different phenotypic and genotypic traits. Data from the GrassLandscape project would be used to define core collection in perennial ryegrass as a first step.	<u>Jean-Paul Sompoux</u> , Evelin Willner, Stephan Weise, Maria Stamatova, Ian D. Thomas	2017-2018

# Future tasks 2017 – 2018, continued

Activity ( <i>In situ</i> conservation of forage crops)	Carried out by (leader <u>underlined</u> )	Time frame
Put together an <b><u>application</u></b> on practical <i>in situ</i> management problem resolution	<u>Susanne Barth</u> , Anna Palmé, Maria Stamatova	2016-2018
Grassland ecotype diversity assessment. <b><u>Inventory</u></b> of different types and locations of grasslands in Europe	<u>Anna Palmé</u> , Juozas Labokas, Valerijus Rasomavicius, Egle Norkeviciene, Susanne Barth, Maria Stamatova	2017-2018
Drafting and developing of <b><u>policy and practical standards</u></b> for <i>in situ</i> management of forages. Forages are different from many CWRs since many species can be conserved on managed grassland.	<u>Susanne Barth</u> , Anna Palmé	2016-2018

# Future tasks 2017 - 2018, continued

Activity ( <i>In situ</i> conservation of forage crops )	Carried out by (leader <u>underlined</u> )	Time frame
In cooperation with the GrassLandscape project, develop a number of <b><u>genetic pools adapted to future climatic conditions</u></b> in different regions of Europe according to several climate change scenarios. The aim would be to make these seeds available for reseeded meadows damaged by climate change.	<u>Jean-Paul Sampaoux</u> , Evelin Willner, Maria Stamatova, Ian D. Thomas, Dionysia Fasoula	2017-2018
<b><u>Joint workshop</u></b> between the ECPGR WG on Forages and the WG on Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves	<u>Nigel Maxted and Anna Palmé</u>	2018

# What tasks would be most important to prioritise 2018? Additional tasks 2017?

- Follow up activities from the ForageDataAccess project?
- Focus on *in situ* conservation?
- Other issues?




# Future plans listed in the work plan to be done after 2018

- Conduct a **gap analysis on the EFC** and evaluate what actions are needed to fill the gaps (after most countries have gone through the process of flagging AEGIS accessions).
- Apply for funding for **collecting missions** to fill gaps in the AEGIS collection (identified in the task above).
- **Evaluate the conservation standards** (for example duplication), regeneration standards and availability of accessions in the EFC.
- Arrange a **workshop on quality assurance** in PGR conservation in cooperation with other ECPGR WGs.
- Collect information on **species-specific *ex situ* management protocols for forage CWRs**.



# Future plans listed in the work plan to be done after 2018, continued

- **Evaluate what traits that would be most central to evaluate** in the EFC accessions. Contact breeders and pre-breeders to collect this information. Focus on traits of importance for agriculture and breeding.
- Apply for external funding for **evaluation of accessions in the EFC** of a certain species. Focus on agriculturally relevant traits. Start with a survey on what traits are of interest in the focus species.
- **Grassland ecotype reference sites:** establishment of a range of provenance sites for grassland ecotypes, within country and regionally across Europe.
- Forage threat and **threat assessment:** estimation of levels of threat to distinct ecotypes identified using ELC maps and genetic diversity and distance analysis; likely threats are grazing intensification (necessitating reseeding) and land abandonment.

A photograph of a field of tall, green grass, possibly a meadow or pasture. The grass is dense and reaches a significant height. In the foreground, there is a dirt path or a cleared area with some sparse grass and small plants. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky.

**What tasks would be most important to prioritise 2018?  
Additional tasks 2017?**