

New organization about plant genetic resources conservation in France



Plant genetic resources conservation in France

1983 - Creation by the French Government of the **Bureau of Genetic Resources (BRG)**

- ✓ to develop and implement a national policy on animal, plant and microorganism genetic resources,
- ✓ to bring together stakeholders (project leaders, producers, researchers and breeders)
- ✓ to harmonize their work.

BRG had many achievements

- ✓ 1988 - National Charter for the management of genetic resources in France,
- ✓ Establishment of around 27 public-private networks to manage plant genetic resources *maize, cereals, forage,...*



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2008 – Disappearance of BRG

But !

French stakeholders have still be involved and very active in PGR conservation

- ✓ Some networks still going on
- ✓ National charter still use by network an a review was made in 2016
- ✓ Definition of French national collections by the conservation networks
- ✓ 4 French national are submitted to the MLS (ITPGRFA)
Forage, Maize, Potatoes, Wheat



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- ✓ Participation of ECPGR working groups and projects
- ✓ Update of EURISCO Database in 2016 by INRA
- ✓ Many others stakeholders (voluntary sector, regional genetic resources centres, ...) organized themselves

Nevertheless ... Without national coordination

- ✓ France was less present at European and International level
- ✓ No identified structure to support stakeholders and to make links with Ministries
- ✓ No clear overview available on PGR conservation's situation in France

And so what's new ...



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New regulation

August 2016 - **French “Biodiversity law”** with key measures as:

- Creation of the French Agency dedicated to biodiversity (AFB)
- Regulation on ABS which allows Nagoya Protocol ratification
- Patenting products obtained essentially by biological means is prohibited
- Farmers and hobby gardeners can exchange seed varieties in the public domain if there is no payment involved
- Diffusion for food and agriculture of annex I and non-annex I species with sMTA (ruling in process)



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Two new organizations in close interactions

- A section of the Technical committee for plant breeding (CTPS) related to plant genetic resources conservation

CTPS is a consultative instance providing advices and technical supports to Agricultural Ministry to allow it to define, set up and review its policy for “variety, seed & young plants”

- A national coordination structure for plant genetic resources conservation (SCN)

Scope : All cultivated species and their crop wild relatives except forest species



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CTPS Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) section

- Setting up by national decree in November 2015
- Composition of this section:
 - 7 representatives of 5 Ministries
Agriculture, Culture, Environment, Overseas & Research
 - 7 representatives of foundation or national institutions



CTPS Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) section

- 43 members selected for their expertise's on conservation, characterization and valorization of PGR
 - ✓ Breeders, producers of seed and young plant or Public-Private PGR conservation networks
 - ✓ Voluntary sector
 - ✓ National and regional PGR centres
 - ✓ Peoples involved in PGR promotion



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CTPS Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) section

Mains objectives

- To give a regulatory visibility to PGR national collections and to collection's holders by national official recognition
- To define priorities and validate actions on PGR without collection (nonexistent or unknown) or without organized conservation network called "orphan species". A priority focus will be made on ITPGRFA appendix I
- To set-up technical working group about PGR

CTPS Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) section

Mains objectives

- To provide temporary supporting action for PGR collections
- To contribute to the implementation of international agreement related to PGR

Schedule

- First meeting: 30/09/2016
- First official recognition of collection and holder: expected for spring 2017



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National coordination structure (SCN)

Establishment in GEVES organization by the Ministry of Agriculture in January 2016

Human resources: 2.5 FTE

Objectives

- To take an inventory and support collection's holders and collection's of domesticated PGR and their crop wild relatives conserved *ex situ*, *in situ* and on farm
 - To meet the recognition criteria for holders and collection defined by the PGR CTPS Section
 - temporary supporting actions for threatened collections

National coordination structure (SCN)

Objectives

- To handle technical secretariat and organization of PGR CTPS Section
- To set up outline for the conservation and the diffusion of “orphan” PGR of cultivated species, in priority from the annex I of ITPGRFA
 - ✓ Inventory (collections, stakeholders, ...)
 - ✓ Development or setting up of networks with partners involved in conservation, utilization or promotion of PGR,
- To create a framework for exchange around collection’s holders issues (organizational, regulatory or technical)



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National coordination structure (SCN)

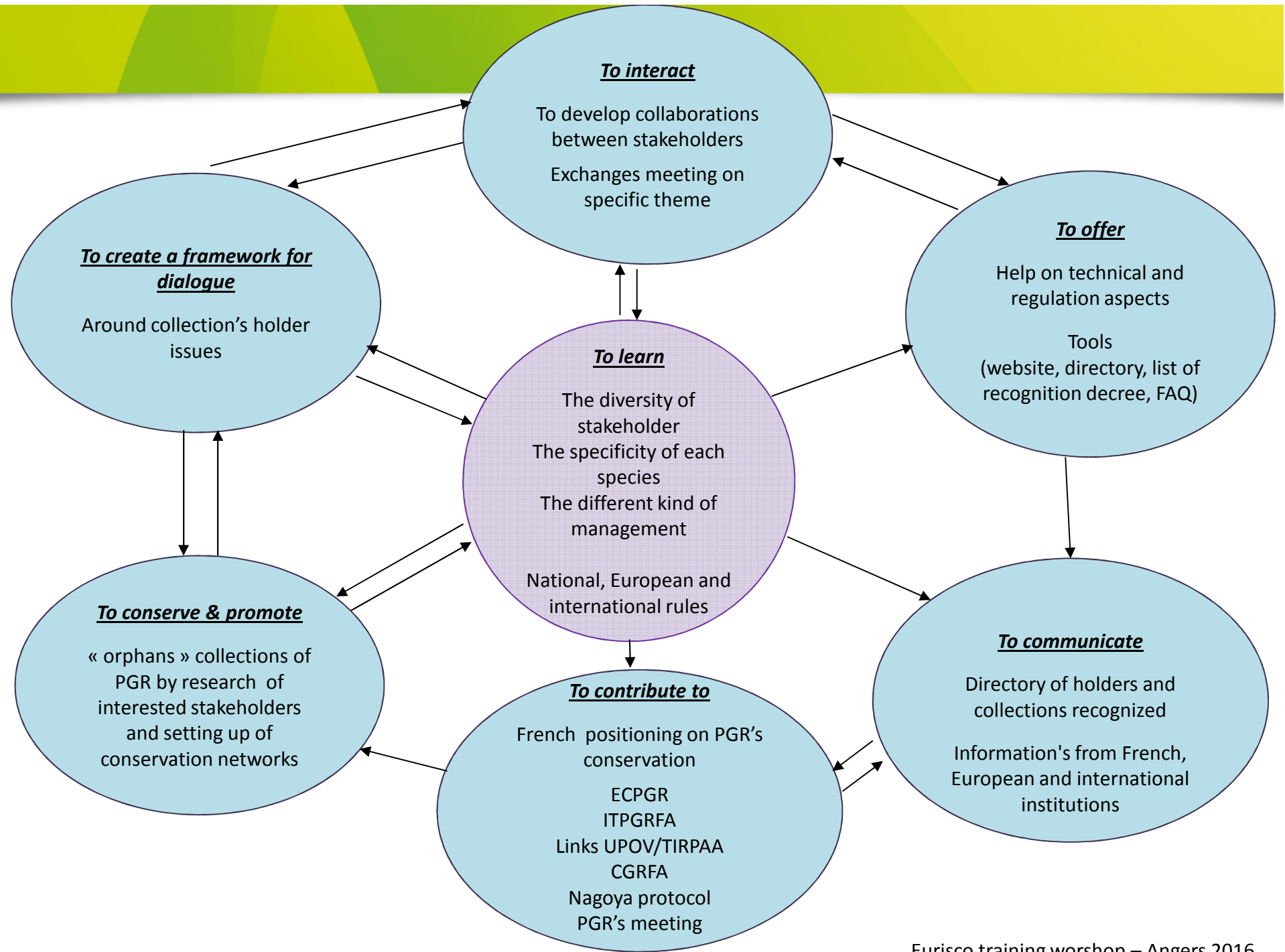
Missions :

- To support stakeholders on national, European and international regulations
- To contribute to the French positioning by following:
 - ITPGRFA meeting (FAO)
 - potentials links between ITPGRFA and UPOV convention
 - the commission on genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA - FAO)
 - The setting up of Nagoya protocol for PGR of cultivated species
- To be French representative for ECPGR
 - National coordinator
 - EURISCO focal point



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National coordination structure (SCN)

Human resources: 3 persons (2.5 FTE)

Technician on PGR collection (Brion Unit)

- ✓ Inventory and management of orphan collection
- ✓ Contribution to the development of potential or existing conservation networks
- ✓ Support of partners involved in conservation network

National coordinator

- ✓ Technical secretariat of PGR CTPS Section
- ✓ Lead of coordination structure
- ✓ ECPGR national coordinator
- ✓ Contribution to international meeting

Administrative assistant (0.5 FTE, to recruit)

- ✓ Management of application file for holder and collection recognition
- ✓ Administrative support of coordination structure (website, directory, ...)
- ✓ EURISCO focal point



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**Thanks
for
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attention**