

Gene banks work together

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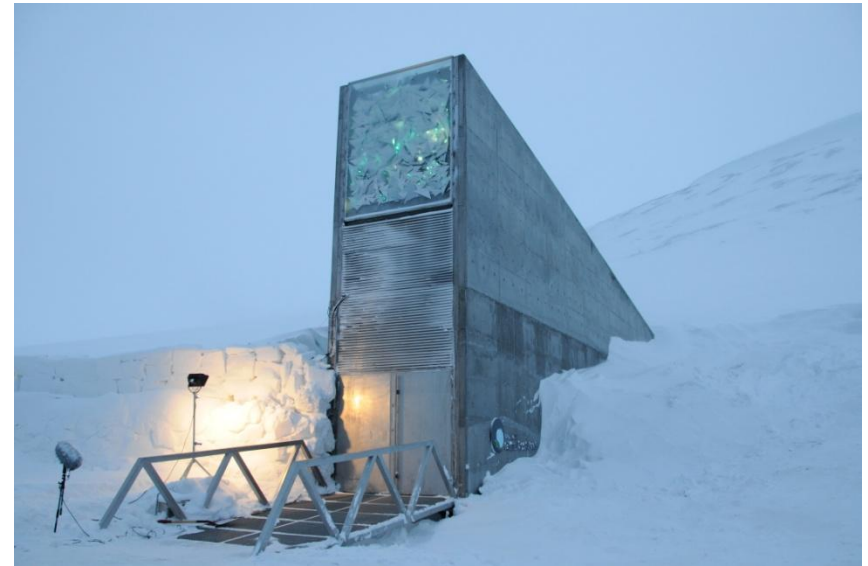
MTT Agrifood Research Finland

National Program for PGR

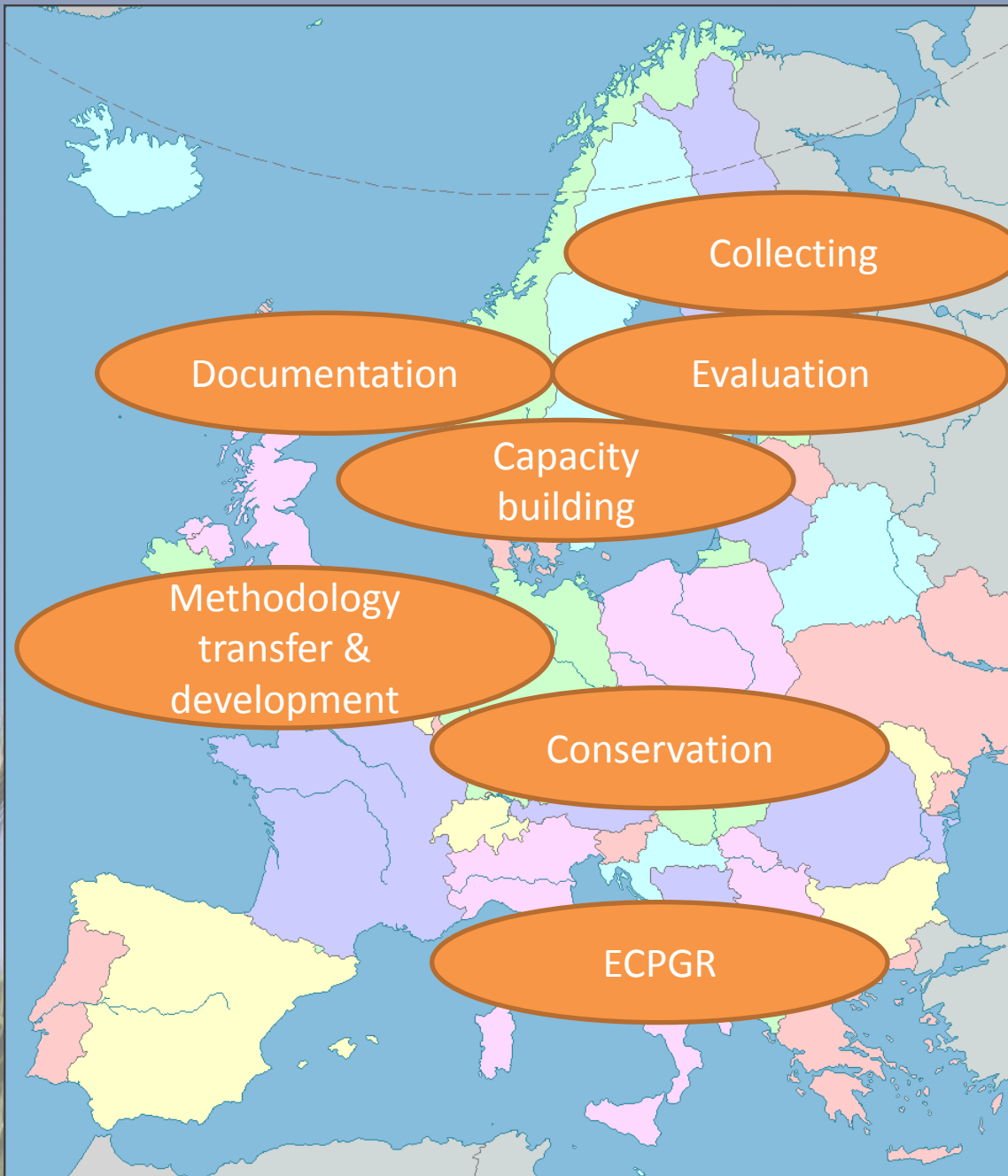


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- Co-operation:
Yesterday, today and
tomorrow
- Driving forces
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The Svalbard Global Seed Vault - established in the permafrost in the mountains of Svalbard, is designed to store duplicates of seeds from seed collections around the globe.



Collecting

Evaluation

Documentation

Capacity
building

Methodology
transfer &
development

Conservation

ECPGR

Collection & Conservation

- Collecting together:
Expertise, increasing collection diversity
- Conservation: *Expertise, task sharing, resource use*
 - *The Svalbard Global Seed Vault*
 - *The CGIAR center collections*
 - *Dutch-German potato collection, Allium collection at Olomouc*



Crop conservation strategies?

Crop conservation strategies

- Identifying important collections and gaps
 - ⇐ Avoid duplicate work, capture the diversity
- Linking *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation
- Rational, secure and good quality conservation



Characterization and evaluation

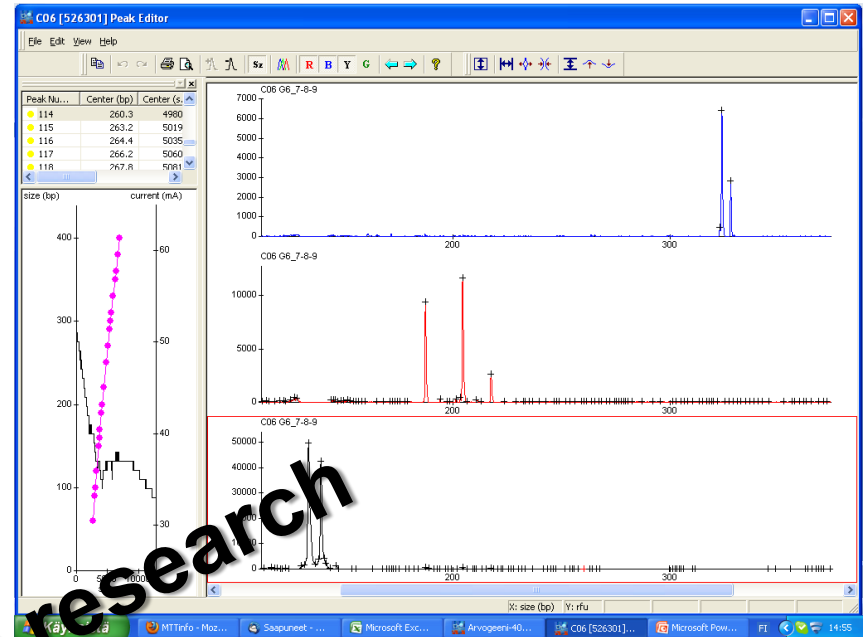
- Regional and international collaboration – EU support
- Important traits?
- Data availability in the information systems?
- Progress?



How can we serve you?

Methodology development

- Project based activities e.g.
 - Conservation methods
 - Regeneration methods
 - Molecular methods
 - Diversity analyses
- Etc.



**Common
agenda?**

Common Research Strategy

- A tool to prioritize the work and avoid overlapping
- A tool to communicate with the funding agencies
 - Urgent needs
 - Support to national and common EU policies



Capacity building from the Nordic perspective

- Nordic - Baltic Cooperation on Plant Genetic Resources
- SADC Programme for Conservation of Plant Genetic resources in Southern Africa
- South East European Development Network on Plant Genetic Resources (SEEDNET)



Capacity building benefits

Direct benefits

- Technical facilities
- Human resources
- Funding

Indirect benefits

- Future collaboration partnerships: “We know already each other”
- New perspectives on genetic resources – utilization
- Cultural knowledge
- Tradition and means for co-operation



Co-ordination

Regionally

- Bilateral arrangements
 - The Dutch - German Potato Collection
- Regional gene banks
 - The Nordic model
 - Establishment support
- Continent wide collaboration
 - ECPGR and AEGIS



Globally

- IPGRI/Biodiversity International
- CGIAR
- FAO -SoW



What should we know of each other?

- Tasks and scopes of different gene banks
- Research and innovations
- Human and technical capacities
- Services provided: users, other gene banks
- Policies



Driving forces

- Biodiversity loss
 - Uniform agricultural systems
 - In situ conservation of CWRs
- Climate change
 - Regional in situ & ex situ plans
- Nutrition and food security
 - Plant breeding
- Political and economical changes
 - Public awareness
- Changes in PGR user community



What should Gene Banks should do?

- Intensify co-operation in order to carry out their basic task in most rational and cost-effective way
- Take care of the interests of all the PGR users including the coming generations
- Work for global “gene bank information centre”?

Conclusions

- Gene banks have a long tradition for collaboration at technical level
- A clear co-ordination body would benefit the overall progress in PGR conservation and use





Thank you!

