

Lessons learned from the 2010 ECPGR review

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ECPGR Independent External review

- In July 2010, at Bioversity HQ, Rome/Maccarese
- Preceded by ECPGR Working Group meeting on *Brassica* in March 2010, in Catania
- Members of the review team
 - Thomas Gass
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Rationale for securing genetic diversity

Genetic resources, both *in situ* and *ex situ* represent a valuable source and reservoir of genetic diversity, which has played and will continue to play a crucial role in current and future plant breeding,

..... to secure an ongoing annual genetic yield increase of 1%

Lessons learned (1)

- EGPGR has 43 members
- Together they manage 625 collections

Observation

- Integration and consolidation is badly needed to create more efficiency in management and access

Lessons learned (2)

- *In situ* and *ex situ* genetic diversity is a continuum
- Currently far more attention for *ex situ* than *in situ*

Observation

- National Coordinators should take responsibility for the entire continuum

Lessons learned (3)

- Crop wild relatives are of increasing interest for plant breeders
- However, crop wild relatives are underrepresented in *ex situ* collections, and
- Are at serious risk of being lost

Observation

- Urgent need to pay far more attention on securing and collecting crop wild relatives

Lessons learned (4)

- Overall the focus of genebank curators is on conservation rather than on utilization
- Plant breeders value access to genetic diversity

Observations

- A better balance is needed between conservation and utilization

Lessons learned (5)

Utilization can be improved by

1. Better core collections
2. Consolidation of crop data bases
3. Uploading such information from national to regional and global crop data bases
4. In one standardized format (EURISCO, GENESYS, GRIN)
5. By engaging users (scientist and breeders) in designing this standardized format

Lessons learned (6)

- ECPGR should get engaged in a process of ongoing institutionalization

Observation

- To become the highly respected European Authority taking responsibility for all genetic diversity of Europe
- In close collaboration with EUCARPIA and ESA

Lessons learned (7)

- ECPGR should also engage in European policy making related to
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - International Treaty on PGRFA (IT)

Observation

- Include policy making in the ECPGR mandate

Overall Recommendation

By gradually adopting the recommendations of the external review, ECPGR will present itself as

**The European Authority
for securing, managing and utilizing
crop genetic diversity**

THANK YOU