

Working Group 1

How can we collaborate more efficiently?

Specialisation

- GBs can be more successful if specialization occurs
 - The crops conserved is a form
 - In specific areas of research such as cryo and in vitro conservation
- One GB could provide service to another for technical skills
- Funding for collaboration may be difficult to obtain since this would need to flow over national borders
- Too much might have a negative impact where minor/niche crops would fall through the cracks
- More cooperation for larger crops feasible but other strategies would be needed for the minor ones
- Working groups would be needed to rationalize extent and forms of collaboration/cooperation
- Funding from GCDT may require this rationalization and cooperation to happen

Centralized Authority

- This might be the wrong forum to discuss this issue
- ECPGR might be the approach
- User community such as this one has the possibility to use existing networks in collaboration with breeding and research
- Needs strong leadership and coordination or it will fail
- Different aspects must be considered
 - Those appropriate at country level
 - vs. platforms and networks
- Adding a central authority would be a big leap with many issues that would require resolution
- Having it in place could influence breeding and research strategies
- Better to use existing mechanisms more effectively and adapt these to work better
- At the EC level, might be difficult to install since funding requires N to work with S – a task difficult to rationalize for genetic resources that are environment specific

- A central PGR authority would be needed to have an impact in Brussels
 - With a dedicated lobbyist
- PGR need to work with environment domain in order to open more doors to funding